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Day 6 Highlights of the 13th Festival of Pacific Arts & Culture



On the sixth day of the Festival of Pacific Arts and Culture (FestPAC), the Amerika Samoa choir performed at the Choral concert at Kawaiaha'o Church. Other highlights included the First Lady Jamie Kanani Green's Roundtable Discussions and the American Samoa dance group's performance at Waikiki Beach walk.

Choral Concert, Contemporary Music - Kawaiaha'o Church

The thirty-two-member choir performed at the Choral Concert, held at the historic Kawaiaha'o Church on Wednesday, June 12, 2024. Led by Mr. Pati Pati, the choir delivered a captivating performance featuring a diverse mix of eight beloved selections, including religious, traditional, and international music. Among them were the following:

1. *Tatalo a le Alii* - by Dr. Robert Engle
2. *Fonuea* - arranged by Ueta Solomona
3. *Fatu se Pese* - by Namulauulu Dr. Paul Pouesi
4. *Pusi Nofo* - arranged by Christopher Marshall
5. *O oe o le Rosa* - arranged by Pati Pati
Male soloist: Emanuel Paulo Junior Laina
6. Dance a Cachuca (from "The Gondoliers") - arranged by Henry Clough-Leigher
7. *O oe o Amerika Samoa* - Lyrics by Fofu Iiga I. F. Sunia; Melody composed by Tauese Vaaomala Sunia
Female Soloist: Sekai Teletolio-Fau'o
Male Soloist: Palemene Fagaima
8. *Le Alii e ua ou faalogo* - Samoan Methodist Hymnal #65 arranged by Talalelei Mata'u

The choral concert program opened with a short performance of "Kristo Ka Pohaku Kihī - Christ the Cornerstone," composed by Reverend Dr. Abraham Akaka in 1970 to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of Kawaiaha'o Church.

The two choirs featured that evening were from American Samoa and Fiji. The Amerika Samoa choir performed first, introduced by the Deputy Secretary of Samoan Affairs, Tauese Vaaomala K. Sunia, who set the stage for their musical selections. With each song, choir director Mr. Pati Pati shared key details about each piece.

The program concluded with the choirs and audience singing the "Hawaii Aloha - Ku'u One Hanau," conducted by Nola A. Nāhulu. This selection was performed by the American Samoa Choir at the Ecumenical service on Sunday.

First Lady Jamie Kanani Green's Roundtable Discussions

First Lady Jaime Kanani Green hosted an afternoon tea at the Washington Place on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, inviting women representatives from Island nations. The Wahine Wellness Panel provided a platform for women to discuss pressing issues affecting Pacific region women including Healthcare, Climate Change, and Community and Cultural Resilience.

The two representatives from American Samoa were renowned poet, Samoan language advocate, and current Executive Director of the Samoan Language commission, Pesetā Tia Seloti, along with the newly crowned Miss American Samoa Incorporated, Pauliana Angelfromheaven Felise-Vitale. They had the opportunity to share their unique perspectives on various topics discussed.

One of the questions asked was about thoughts and experiences as a young woman regarding the importance of self-care. Ms. Vitale responded by expressing how she felt out of place trying to articulate the importance of self-care for Samoan women.

"Self-care is often looked down upon in my culture, as the primary focus is on taking care of our families. In a Samoan home, women are expected to be caretakers, prioritizing the needs of others above our own. The prevalent belief is that by caring for others, we are inherently caring for ourselves," she explained.

This powerful statement shifted the anticipated direction of the discussion. Other Island nations echoed the sentiment, recognizing that the concept of self-care is often viewed as influenced by Western practices, with the belief that for women in Oceania, self-care begins with caring for others.

Heritage Dance Group takes it to the streets of Waikiki Beach

The Amerika Samoa dance group performed a mesmerizing blend of traditional and contemporary dance forms at Waikiki Beach, captivating both locals and tourists alike.

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