

The Event

Canadian & Turkish Women's Association of Ottawa

A Bouquet of Holiday Celebrations

VENUE: Library and Archives Canada Auditorium

DATE: Friday, December 15, 2006

Dear CATWAO Members,

Our "Bouquet of Holiday Celebrations" that took place last Friday evening in the auditorium of the Library and Archives Canada was, as expected, very successful – another event confirming the importance of building bridges that bring cultures closer together.

The auditorium lights were dimmed as the impressive number of young performers of all ages followed the beautiful "Lucia" with the candles on her head to the stage. The Lucia procession, all with little lights in their hands, sang harmoniously in English and Swedish, welcoming Christmas. We thank the Canadian Nordic Society and the parents of all the children for including us in their long list of commitments during the busy holiday season.

This was followed by a delightful performance by Seda Güvener, mezzo-soprano, with Paula Lin at the piano, as she sang an aria from the Marriage of Figaro and "EFEM" a moving song from the Aegean coast of Turkey. Then as we listened to the beautiful melodies Mahir Güçlü played on the "Bağlama", we enjoyed a short video of Istanbul and the Marmara Region.

In closing were the talented young singers of the MayaMuzic School of Voice & Guitar under the direction of Maya Ethier. The two songs they sang reflected the ideals of CATWAO: the "HUG Song", written by Maya Ethier and "What the World Needs Now is Love"!

After the performances, we gathered at the foyer for a reception and enjoyed wine and cheese (selection of red & white wine was the courtesy of the Turkish Embassy), and traditional delicacies like Christmas fruit cake, Swedish Ginger cookies, Swedish Glogg (warm, spiced wine prepared to perfection by Gunilla and Larry Wade) and the Turkish baklava.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the participants who made this event unique and special.

Best regards and "Happy Holidays"!

CATWAO Executive Committee