

## ***Los Niños Vallenatos del “Turco” Gil***

A band funded and conducted by Andres Gil, is one of the most important *vallenato* culture expositors. Since 1999, they have been sharing from their voices and their accordions the amiable message of Colombia and their cultural and artistic representation for the world, surprising everyone with their talent and happiness.

Their presentation consists in the interpretation of a repertoire, extracted carefully, from the Colombian Caribbean folklore, especially from the traditional and contemporary *vallenato* music, *cumbia*, *porro*, and *salsa*.

The instruments that are used are: the diatonic accordion, the “caja” (a small single-patched drum played with the hands), the guacharaca (a cane with slots that are scraped with a metallic pitchfork), and the electric bass.

They are talented children, with ages between ten and fifteen old, whose international path was enriched notoriously by their memorable interpretations in the White House (Washington D.C.), the *Quinta de los Olivos* (Buenos Aires), the *Casa de la Moneda* (Santiago de Chile), the World Folklore Festival (Amsterdam), the International Meeting of Accordionist Children (Panamá), the Independence Colombian Festival (New York City), the Fight for Children (Washington D.C), the *Jorge Eliécer Gaitán* and *Roberto Arias* theatres (Bogotá), the Contemporary Art Museum (Zulia, Venezuela), the Tokyo Imperial Palace where they had the honor to be received by the princess Hitachi, the Takanagawa Kumin Hall (Tokyo), in Fukuoka City (Japan), the *Tian Qiao* theatre (Beijing), and Quindao and Shanghai cities (China). They have also gone touring in countries such as Ecuador, Russia, Cuba, Costa Rica and Nicaragua.

Other scenarios where they have also been present are: the Miss Colombia Pageant, the Gabriel García Márquez Tribute in Cartagena de Indias, the Arts Festival in Barranquilla, the *Colombia al Parque* Festival in Bogotá, welcoming of different presidents and world leaders, the Summit of the Americas celebrated in Cartagena, Colombia, in 2012, and the most important corporative events such as *Carvajal*, *BBVA*, *Aseguradora Suramericana*, Marriot Hotels, Novartis, Bayer, and the Bogota Chamber of Commerce.

In 2000, they were recognized as Caribbean Figures by the most relevant colombian newspaper, *El Tiempo*.

To be a member of the group is the biggest honor awarded to the best students of the “Turco” Gil *Vallenato Music Academy*. A large part of them are winners of the diverse *vallenato* music festivals held in Colombia.

- **Press Representatives**

If you are bringing members of the press with you from your own country please let us know. **YES (Ms. LOLITA ACOSTA (Journalist))**