

## Mela 2005 Visitors

Contributed by Administrator  
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The festival comprised music from many countries, for instance Ethiopian "Queen of Soul" Aster Aweke, Somali artist Maryam Mursal with the international group "Women's Voice", Pakistani pop stars Atif Aslam, Tariq Khan and Najam Sheraz, Bollywood Brass Band from London and international reggae star Apache Indian. This year there were as many as 25 food stalls selling specialities from a great number of countries.

Among the more daring projects was a cooperation between the Pakistani Qawwali ensemble Sher Miandad Khan Qawwal and Spanish-Norwegian Flamenco artist Corinne Campos. Sher Miandad also performed at Mela 2004. At that time he cooperated in concert with the Norwegian experimental group "Transjoik" and demonstrated a rare understanding of both classical qawwali and modern forms of music. The cooperation with Corinne Campos is, as far as we know, the first time ever that traditional Sufi music has been combined with Spanish Flamenco and was a huge success among the public.

The organizers of Mela also try to invite as many Norwegian artists with a minority background as possible. Thus, there were Afro-Norwegian singers performing with a famous blues guitarist, percussionists with a variety of ethnic backgrounds playing together, Norwegian youths with minority backgrounds showing their abilities as actors and dancers and so on. Altogether more than 200 artists performed during Oslo Mela 2005.

The festival opened at City Hall on Friday 19th August with His Majesty King Harald V of Norway present, together with ambassadors and notables from many countries. Media coverage was extensive and very positive.