

Hello everyone and welcome to this Cultural Show! I'm so excited for you all to watch these amazing skaters! To explain a little bit about this show, our performers are each going to be skating to music that relates to their heritage and culture while also showcasing their talents as skaters. I for one feel very connected to Indian culture and traditions and wanted to be able to express that part of myself on the ice, and I'm so glad other skaters felt the same way!

To me, this show demonstrates the power this sport has to bring us together. The performers here come from various backgrounds, they grew up listening to different music, celebrating different holidays, engaging in different traditions, dancing to different tunes—and all these “different” things come together in a poetic expression on the ice. And that is what we hope to demonstrate through this show—different types of music, cultures, and traditions, all expressed through the medium of ice skating!!!

Putting this show together has helped me become more aware and appreciative of the multiple cultures that surround and thrive amongst us. I feel that shows like this are extremely important in promoting diversity and inclusion throughout this community and my hope is that this show serves to help us all learn and immerse ourselves in cultures beyond our own.



Victoria Zhang - Wishes Come True

First up we have Victoria! She is going to be performing a program that showcases the peacock dance, which is the essence of Dai ethnic culture in China. It has more than 2000 years of history. The peacock dance symbolizes beauty, happiness, and luck. Here comes Victoria!!



Fiona Ru - Siu Na

Next we have Fiona! Fiona is going to perform her program to a Chinese song, called 'siu naa' which means accepting something with appreciation. This song combines contemporary melodies with elements of ancient Chinese culture, blending traditional instruments and poetic lyrics to reflect the profound sentiments of love, understanding, and commitment, which invites listeners to experience the depth of these emotions across time and culture. Presenting Fiona!!



Diya Palod - Sooraj Ki Baahon Mein

Our next skater is Diya! Diya feels very connected to her Indian roots. Her favorite thing about visiting Mumbai is seeing her family and this program is actually a family effort. Diya's outfit is from one of her many shopping trips with her chachi(aunt) and bhaiya (cousin brother) chose this music for her! She will be skating to "Sooraj Ki Baahon Mein" which is a song from one of the most famous movies in Bollywood! Here comes Diya!!



Alexa Zhong - The Moon at the End of the Earth

Next is Alexa! Alexa's music is a combination of three melodies that use Di, the Chinese flute and Guzheng, also known as Chinese Zither. All three songs describe young paladins adventuring in all corners of the world and finding true friends. The melodies played by Di represent one paladin, while the Gushing represents another. Melodies by each instrument speak with one another and join as a single song which represents friendship. Alexa wishes to express the carefree spirit and the joy of true friendship through her performance to this beautiful music. Presenting Alexa!!



Zoe Taub - Halo

Next up is Zoe! She will be skating to a song called Halo, by Beyonce. In Jewish culture, Hanukkah reminds us that there is hope when faced with adversity as the temple lantern miraculously burned for 8 days when there was only enough oil for one. She feels that though Halo is a love song, it also speaks about finding hope and light in a dark place, which is an important theme during Hanukkah and in all of Jewish culture. Let's welcome Zoe!!



**Taapti Rana -
Ghoomar, Deewani Mastani,
Nagada Sang Dhol**

Next we have a last minute addition, a girl who swoll her ankle but persevered and is able to perform today: Taapti Rana! She will be skating to a beautiful Bollywood music medley, which is a harmonious combination of tradition and artistry that proudly reflects India's soul on the icy canvas! Her program infuses the rich tapestry of India's cultural heritage into every graceful glide! Here comes Taapti!!



**Natalie Yip -
The Moon Represents My Heart**

Our next skater is Natalie Yip! Her family is from Beijing, China, and she will be skating the Austrian Waltz to The Moon Represents My Heart by Teresa Teng. Teresa Teng pioneered contemporary Chinese pop music and is known as Asia's first musical superstar. The Moon Represents My Heart is her most well known song. Let's welcome Natalie!!



**Shreya Tanna -
Kajra Re, Nagada Sang Dhol**

Now I will be skating a program to two of my favorite Indian songs! I am proud of my Indian roots and culture, and I have felt connected to it since I started learning Bollywood dance at the age of 3. I'll be skating to a program that combines features of Bollywood dance with ice dance and freestyle elements. But before I skate, I'd like to thank everyone for coming this evening to watch this show! The skaters all worked really hard to make this happen and put together this cultural celebration! I hope you enjoyed the show!!