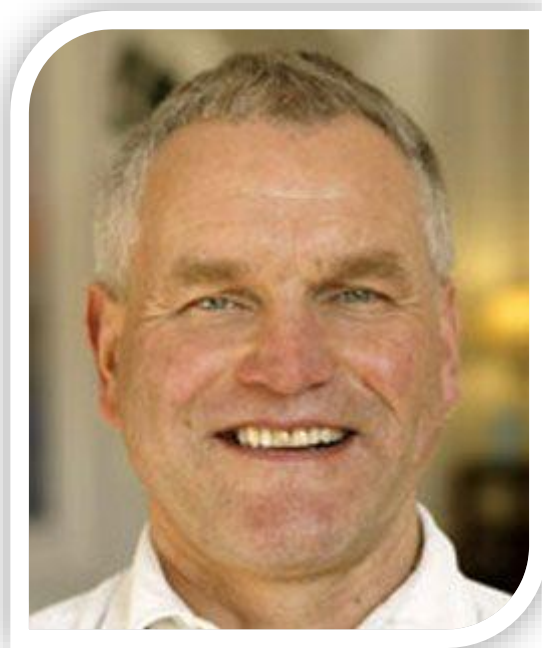


## Two Great Entertainers fly to Baba Brother Matthew Stephenson of GRC and Brother Tony Wong of GCH



**Brother Matthew**, of the Global Retreat Centre (GRC), Oxford, UK, left his body suddenly early in the morning on Sunday 25th February. He was aged 68. He had been a pillar of GRC service since the centre opened 25 years ago and was known to many within the BK family for his musical abilities, and great good humour. He loved the Murlī, having studied it intensely for more than 30 years, from his earliest days in gyan. He was a great teacher, and also an entertainer. Thousands of GRC's guests benefited from his classes over the years, and he was famous for hosting a Saturday night "cultural programme" for retreat participants. Often hilarious, it provided a refreshing break from the serious work of spiritual study and meditation.

His father was in the Royal Air Force and Matthew went to boarding school from a young age, an experience that made him both self-sufficient with regard to other people, and very open to God's love and wisdom when he first met the Brahma Kumaris in Bournemouth, a seaside town in the south of England, in the 1980s. He began teaching Raja Yoga almost immediately and after moving to GRC as a full-time volunteer when it opened in 1993, continued to visit the town periodically to sustain students there.

He had been thinking of moving back to Bournemouth during a forthcoming period of refurbishment of GRC, and had cleared his room and sold off much of his musical equipment before his sudden departure on Sunday, when he was found in his room just after 8am. He was half out of bed and paramedics who attended said his death would have been instantaneous. There was a slight smile on his face and he looked completely at peace. He had done some office work and also had been playing his guitar in his room the previous evening.

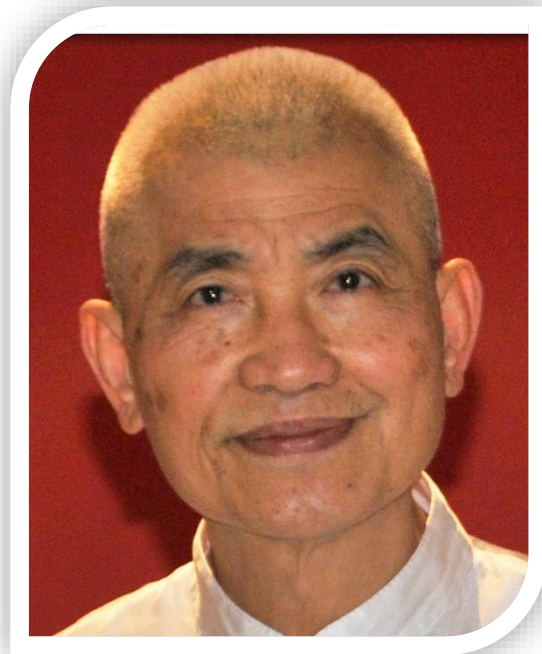
Just two weeks earlier, he enjoyed a day-long visit to GRC by his brother, sister, niece and nephew, who all loved and appreciated him.

Matthew was familiar to many BKs internationally, not just through his dedicated contribution to the retreat centre but also, previously, for his impromptu concerts in

Madhuban, when a sing-a-long would suddenly form around him. He also recorded many CDs of music for meditation under his own "EyeSee" label.

Matthew was known to some of his close friends as The Colonel, not just because of the precision with which he performed his duties, but also because he once famously and brilliantly played the part of a Colonel Mustard in a Christmas sketch at GRC.

He moves on having earned a great spiritual fortune, and huge blessings from all.



**Brother Tony Wong** had a cardiac arrest during the Murli Class at Global Co-operation House on Friday 9th February. Paramedics came almost immediately and did their best to resuscitate Tony and about an hour later, he was taken to hospital. For several days, Tony was kept on almost 100% life support. On the afternoon of the 13<sup>th</sup> February the doctors found that there was no brain activity and so decided best to let nature take its course rather than prolong Tony's stay here. At around 9.30 pm, with several Brahmins around him, the soul flew to Baba. It was as though Tony was waiting for something. As soon as we played "Ab ghar jaana hai", (Didi's song - reminding us that it is now time to go home) to have some meditation, the soul flew home to Baba. It was apt that Tony flew to Baba on the day of Shiv Jayanti - total surrender to Baba.

The final farewell for Tony took place on Friday the 23<sup>rd</sup> February with tributes from his family and the BK family in Malaysia, Madhuban and UK.

Tony was born in Malaysia where he came to Baba. He later moved to Switzerland and then to London. He was always happy and smiling, famous for his colourful dancing and creative meditation and movement workshops.

Tony spent some time helping with night security at GCH. Lately he lived in the brothers house, Shanti Bhawan and helped with day security and caretaking. He was accurate in everything he did. He is a very beautiful example of someone who settled everything and just wanted to be happy and make others happy, without taking anything from anyone, or being a burden on anyone.