

Interfaith Concert for Peace at The Chicago Temple

2 p.m. on Sunday, March 16, 2008

The Chicago Temple
77 W. Washington Ave.
Chicago, IL

first set

The Chicago Temple Handbell Ensemble performs "Transformation" and "Circle Bell Mantra" by Australian composer Sarah Hopkins. Erik Nussbaum, who is The Chicago Temple's Director of Music and the Arts, leads the Handbell Ensemble.

Buddhist monks from Wat Dhammaram read verses of the Dhammapada and give blessing chants.

Wat Dhammaram and the Vipassana Meditation Center, originated from the Thai Buddhist Center of Illinois founded in 1974 under the laws of the State of Illinois by the Illinois and Midwestern Thai community. At that time, the status of the Center was raised to that of the Thai Buddhist Temple of Chicago, and the new name "Wat Dhammaram", was given by the Supreme Patriarch of the Thai Sangha. The objectives of the temple are to maintain, promote, and support Buddhist teaching and Thai culture, and to organize and unite Buddhist followers for religious worship and charitable activities.

The Pan-African Junior Dance Troupe performs.
The Pan-African Junior Dance Troupe is part of the Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries' Youth Program.

"Four Poets Engage the Divine" - Nina Corwin, Judy Valente, Kent Foreman, and Larry Janowski

Consider the story of the blind men and the elephant. As each approaches the oversized beast, s/he describes, in his/her turn: religion, spirit, faith, moral dogma, utopia,

oppressive institution, an answer to the universal question. One grows up in its shadow, another goes searching for it. One spars with it, another dances with it. At some point, we take up our pens and attempt to share the encounter. In a time when discord abounds in the world, often surrounding this very issue, we offer a chorus of poems assembled in something like harmony.

Sonic Healing Ministries' Music Collective perform
Pharoah Sanders' "The Creator Has a Master Plan" –
Dan Godston – trumpet
David Boykin – drums
Jon Godston – soprano saxophone
Jayve Montgomery – saxophones
Alex Wing – upright bass

intermission

During the intermission, images from Snow City Arts Foundations' *Saving Ourselves* exhibit are shown.

Each of these pictures was taken by a hospitalized child. Over 500 pediatric patients from the United States, Italy, Pakistan, Ghana, and Australia learned the art of photography from the artists of the Snow City Arts Foundation. Then they turned cameras digital and disposable on those worlds most familiar to them, near and far.

Every Day, Snow City Arts Foundation teaches hospitalized children the art of creative writing, music, painting, drawing, photography, and filmmaking. To find

out more about these programs and the children they serve, go to www.snowcityarts.com or call 312.942.6991.

second set

"Living Sculptures" is a performance art piece choreographed by Shanti Foundation for Peace lead artist Alpha Bruton, with music by the Ancestral Resurrection Ensemble. The living sculptures and dancer dramatize, through improvisation, a metamorphosis that symbolizes Christianity, Judaism, and Islam, and the spiritual "CRY" for world peace. This is a cry of pain, of love, and of joy. It is not just the physical act of crying, but an inner psychic cry, the longing and hoping, and the giving of all you have.

Eleni Vryza – dancer
Jazmin Bruton-Davis, Jazell Smith, Oafrikara Mysheallah
Webber – living sculptures
Ancestral Resurrection Ensemble –
Siddha Webber – vocals & percussion
Ray Mosley – guitar
Ben Montgomery – percussion
Duryving Ternoir – trumpet

The Interfaith All Stars Dance Troupe performs.
The Interfaith All Stars Dance Troupe is part of the Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries' Youth Program.

Al Nogoum (Stars) performs Egyptian and Middle Eastern music –

Osama Zeadan – nay

Josef Hadid – daff

Asafwan Syrian – oud

Andrew Hadid – doumbek

Al Nogoum is managed by Maged Mikhail.

“Four Poets Engage the Divine” -- Nina Corwin, Judy Valente, Kent Foreman, and Larry Janowski

We perform Pauline Oliveros’ composition entitled “The Heart Chant.”

Sonic Healing Ministries’ Music Collective perform Albert Ayler’s “Divine Peacemaker,” Horace Silver’s “Peace,” and Charles Mingus’ “Prayer for Passive Resistance.”

There is a free will offering during this interfaith concert for peace. The proceeds from this event will go to the Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries and the Shanti Foundation for Peace.

Mission Statement

The Mission of Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries, in partnership with congregations, organizations, and others in Illinois, is to provide direct services to refugees and immigrants and to encourage involvement in world and domestic refugee issues and immigration concerns.



Shanti Foundation for Peace was established in Chicago in 1993 to foster greater peace between cultures through the arts, education, and grass roots community development. The Foundation accomplishes its mission by promoting educational peace initiatives through the arts that show people how their individual efforts can help forge lasting peace.

Shanti Foundation for Peace addresses problems of violence, racism and intolerance that undermine families, communities and society in general. Art is the medium we teach with as creativity and the peace process are linked: both require brainstorming, critical thinking and respect for life. When participants experience the power of imagination, are given a safe venue to voice their visions and work collectively to bring these to fruition, there is a palpable change in their level of self-respect and respect for others. They begin to understand their ability and responsibility to affect positive change in their world. These are building blocks for peace.

This event has been presented by the Borderbend Arts Collective, in collaboration with partnering organizations. Thanks to all of the performers, all of the volunteers, the First United Methodist Church, Interfaith Refugee and Immigration Ministries, Shanti Foundation for Peace, and Snow City Arts Foundation. Thanks to everyone who came to this event to celebrate the arts, culture, and peace. May peace prevail.