



arts&faith

ST. LOUIS

**Thirteenth Annual
Interfaith Concert**

“Living Peace”

October 15, 2023

4:30 pm

Sheldon Concert Hall

artsfaithstlouis.org

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 13 th annual Interfaith Concert of Arts & Faith St. Louis. Each year our concert serves as renewal of our mission to bring people of many faiths together so that we may experience the unique power of the arts to inspire thoughtful conversation, recognize our shared values and bridge divides in our community.

Our concert theme this year is “Living Peace.” As all people of faith understand, it is often hard to move beyond believing in something to living a life that fulfills those beliefs. Today, we ask each of you to think about what it means to live peace every day in our families, in our places of work, in our houses of worship and in our community. Perhaps the greatest challenge is to be a peacemaker in a world that so often values confrontation, conflict and even violence. No matter the difficulty, we are called to seek peace as means of valuing every human being. We hope today’s music inspires your journey as a peacemaker.

We are happy to have you with us here today as we experience a new beginning of sorts. We have become an independent nonprofit. We thank The Sheldon for its collaboration for so many years and are excited to continue pursuing our mission with all of you as our partners, supporting us in whatever way you can.

Please enjoy our musical guests and join me in thanking them for sharing their talents with us. May this music of many faiths remind us of our common values and our shared humanity.

Peace be with you,



Laura Arnold
President
Board of Directors

Thirteenth Annual Interfaith Concert “Living Peace”

PROGRAM

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

St. Louis Fire Department Honor Guard

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sydnee Lovett, soprano

WELCOME

Laura Arnold
President, Arts & Faith St. Louis

CONCERT PERFORMANCES

Ensembles and soloists of many faiths
Christine Brewer, soprano
Angel Love, soprano
Interfaith Youth Chorus

CLOSING

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

AFTER THE CONCERT

Following the concert, all are invited to join us outside on Steward Family Plaza, on the west side of The Sheldon, to meet the musicians and your fellow audience members, receive free bookmarks with quotes about peace from each faith community, and enjoy small Dove chocolate bars in celebration of our theme “Living Peace.”

Christine Brewer, soprano, with The Sheldon's All-Star Chorus,
Maria A. Ellis, Director, and Timothy Clark, pianist
and for the second song, Alla Voskoboynikova, pianist

“Peace Prayer Of St. Francis”

Music by Paul Reuter – premiere performance

Make me an instrument of peace, O Lord,
Make me an instrument of peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love.
Where there is injury, pardon, O Lord.
Where there is doubt, let me sow faith.
Where there's despair, let me bring hope.
And where there's darkness light.
And where there's sadness joy. (refrain)

O Lord, please grant that I may not seek
So much to be consoled, as to console,
To be understood, as to understand,
To be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
And in pardoning that we are pardoned too.
And in dying we are born to eternal life. (refrain)

“It Is Well With My Soul”

Based on Ville du Havre by Philip P. Bliss; Setting by John Ness Beck

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

My sin – O the joy of this glorious thought –
My sin, not in part, but the whole
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more:
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll:
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend,
Even so – it is well with my soul.

Protestant Faith

Ensemble from Webster Hills United Methodist Church
Andy Waggoner, Director of Worship Arts

“I Choose Love”

Text by Lindy Thompson, music by Mark Miller

This soulful anthem, written in response to the tragic events that occurred at Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015, is a testament to the power of forgiveness and peace.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

In the midst of war, I choose peace.
In the midst of war, hate and anger keeping score,
I will seek the good once more, I choose peace.

When my world falls down, I will rise.
When my world falls down, explanations can't be found,
I will climb to holy ground, I will rise.

In the midst of pain, I choose love.
In the midst of pain, sorrow falling down like rain,
I await the sun again, I choose love.

Hindu Faith

Maitreem Bhajata - by His Holiness Chandrasekhara Saraswati Swami,
known as Kanchi Paramacharya

Performed by the Hindu Faith Choir, Balachandran Anantharama,
Leader; Vidya Anand, vocal lead. Other vocalists: Saivi Gadi,
Soham Gadi, Arushi Agarwal, Avyutkth Raghuraman, Krish Sayeeganesh,
Ipsita Bhogaraju, and children. Ramesh Cherupalla, violin.
Subbaraman Kameswaran, mridangam.

“Maithreem Bhajatha”

Akila Hrith Jeththreem
Atmavat Eva Paraan api pashyata
Yuddham Tyajata
Spardhaam Tyajata
Tyajata Pareshwa akrama aakramanam
Jananee Prthivee Kaamadughaastey
JanakO Deva: Sakala Dayaalu
Daamyata
Datta
Dayathvam
Janathaa
Sreyo Bhooyaath Sakala Janaanaam

(translation)

“Serve with Friendship and Humility”

Which will conquer the Hearts of Everyone.
Look upon others similar to yourself.
Renounce War.
Renounce unnecessary competition for Power.
Give up Aggression on other’s properties.
Mother Earth is wide enough and ready to give us all that we desire.
God, our Father, is very compassionate to All.
So, Restrain yourself.
So, Donate your wealth to others.
So, Be Kind to others.
Oh People of the World.
May All People of this World be Happy and Prosperous.

Catholic Faith

St. Francis Xavier (College) Church Choir
Ray Sherrock, Choir Director
Susan Martin, piano

“Let Justice Roll Like a River”

by Marty Haugen

Refrain: Let justice roll like a river,
and wash all oppression away;
Come, O God, and take us,
move and shake us,
Come now, and make us anew,
that we might live justly like you.

Verses: How long shall we wait, O God,
for the day of your mercy to dawn,
the day we beat our swords into ploughs,
when your peace reigns over the earth?

Hear this, all of you who use the poor
in your thirst of power and riches:
the Lord will turn your laughter to tears,
on the wondrous Day of our God.

Even now return to me,
let your hearts be broken and humble,
for I am gracious, gen’rous and kind;
come and seek the mercies of God.

You have been told the way of life,
the way of justice and peace;
to act justly, to love gently,
and walk humbly with God.

Muslim Faith

Lead singer Haya Hussain and a Muslim Vocal Ensemble
“Kya Khayal Hai” by Zeb and Haniya encourages living a life filled
with peace, harmony and love.

“Kya Khayaal Hai”

Dhadkano ki taal baaje Saanson ka iktara
Aangan mein sajaye baithein Sooraj chanda taara
Dhadkano ki taal baaje Deeshab ke tu az mehr ba baam
Mehr baam aamada boody aamada boody
Saanson ka iktara Aangan mein sajaye baithein
Sooraj chanda taara
Chalo baant lein hum zindagi Zara aaj yun kar lein
Kaho kya khayal hai
Ik jahan chota sa apna Ik jahan tumhara
Muskaan chahe meethi ho Ya aansoon ik khara
Chalo baant lein ghum aur khushi
Thodi guftagoo kar lein Kaho kya khayaal hai
Aap se do baat kar lein Yaadon ko jebon mein bhar lein
Aaye hain hum kuch dino ke baad
Yaaron ki saubat mein aake Dheere se kuch gunguna ke
Yuhin kat jaate hain din aur raat
Muthi mein tum bheench lana sawan hara
Ek dhanak tum bhi tod lana falak se zara
Muthi muthi baant lenge kiranon ka katra
Ik sikka dhoop humse lena gar kam laga
Betuk hi Be matlab hans le hum
Kyun na is lamhe mein Haan jee lein hum
Chalo baant lein hum zindagi Zara aaj yun kar lein
Kaho kya khayaal hai
Aap se do baat kar lein Yaadon ko jebon mein bhar lein
Aaye hain hum kuch dino ke baad
Yaaron ki saubat mein aake Dheere se kuch gunguna ke
Yuhin kat jaate hain din aur raat

“What Do You Think?”

The rhythm of heart is being played
by a breathing star has decorated its veranda
with sun and moon, that star
The rhythm of heart is being played
last night, love you came over the roof
love over the roof you came, you came
a breathing star has decorated its veranda
with sun and moon, that star
Let's share life, let's do this today
Tell, what do you think
A small world belonging to us
A small world belonging to you
Let the smile be sweet
or let tears be salty
Let's share grief and happiness
Let's talk for a while
Tell, what do you think
Let's talk for a while
Let's fill our pockets with memories
as we have met after a long
Coming in the company of friends
while singing something slowly
the days and nights pass by
Do bring a handful of green spring
Do pluck a beat from the sky
we will share between us handful of sea shore
Take a coin equal sunshine from us if you need
without any reason, let's laugh
why not in this moment. Yes, Let's live
Let's share life, let's do this today
Tell, what do you think
Let's talk for a while
Let's fill our pockets with memories
as we have met after a long
Coming in the company of friends
while singing something slowly
the days and nights pass by

Angel Love, soprano
Alla Voskoboynikova, piano

“Don't Feel No Ways Tired”

Spiritual arranged by Jacqueline Hairston

I am seeking for a city, Alleluia,
I am seeking for a city, Alleluia.
For a city into the kingdom, Alleluia,
For a city into the kingdom, Alleluia.

There's a better day a-comin', Alleluia,
There's a better day a-comin', Alleluia.
When I leave this world of sorrow, Alleluia,
For to join the holy number, Alleluia.

I don't feel no ways tired,
Come too far from where I started from.
Nobody told me that the road would be easy,
I don't believe he brought me here this far to leave me.

O Lord, I don't feel no ways tired,
Children, Oh Glory, Alleluia.
For I hope to shout Glory when this world is on fire,
Oh Glory, Alleluia.

O Lord, I don't feel no ways tired,
Children, Oh Glory, Alleluia.
For I hope to shout Glory when this world is on fire,
Oh Glory, Alleluia.

I don't believe he brought me this far,
I won't believe he brought me this far,
No I can't believe he brought me this far to leave me.

Sikh Faith

Sikh Study Circle of St. Louis
Soohee Mehlaa Panjvaa - A Hymn by Guru Arjun Dev Ji
A Shabad in Raag Soohee from the Fifth Guru

Gur Parmesar Karnaihaar
Sagal Shrist Ka-u De Aadhaar
Gur Ke Charan Kamal Man Dhiaai
Dookh Darad Is Tan Te Jai (Rahao)
Bhavjal Doobat Satgur Kaadhai
Janam Janam Kaa TooTaa Gaadhai
Gur Kee Seva Karahu Din Raat
Sookh Sahaj Man Aavai Shaant
Satgur Kee Ren Vadbhaagee Paavai
Nanak Gur Ka-u Sadh Bal Jaavai

(translation)

The True Guru is the Transcendent Lord, the Creator.
He gives His Support to the entire Universe.
Meditate within your mind on the Lotus Feet of the Guru.
Pain and suffering shall leave this body. (Pause)
The True Guru saves the drowning being from the terrifying world-ocean.
He reunites those who were separated for countless incarnations.
Serve the Guru, day and night.
Your mind shall come to have peace, pleasure and poise.
By great good fortune, one obtains the dust of the feet of the True Guru.
Nanak is forever a sacrifice to the True Guru.

Jewish Faith

Rabbi Cantor Ron Eichaker, vocals and guitar
David Cohen, piano
United Hebrew Congregation

“Shalom Rav”

by Ben Steinberg
From the Sabbath evening and weekday evening liturgy

בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ יְיָ

מְלֹועַל מִישֵׁת דְּמַעַ לְאַרְשֵׁי לַע בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ
מִלְּשָׁה לְכָל וְדוּדָא דְּלִמָּן אוּה הַתָּא יְיָ
לְאַרְשֵׁי דְּמַעַ תָּא דְּרַבְּלָ דְּיִנְיַעַב בּוּטָן
דְּמִלְּשָׁבָה הַעֵשׂ לְכַבּוּ תַעַ לְכַבּוּ
מִלְּשָׁבָה לְאַרְשֵׁי וּמַעַ תָּא דְּרַבְּמָה 'ה הַתָּא דְּוִרְבָּ

(translation)

Abundant Peace

Grant abundant peace over Israel, Your people, forever.
For You are the sovereign source of all peace.
So may it be good in Your eyes to bless Your people Israel
In every season and in every hour with Your peace.
Blessed are You, Adonai, Who blesses His people Israel with peace.

Buddhist Faith

Fo Guang Shan St.Louis Buddhist Center

Choreographer: Lisa Hu

Dancers: Chun Yu Hu, Qing Peng, and Wenzheng Du

蓮花團扇舞 Lotus Dance

The lotus is one of the most recognizable symbols in Buddhism. It represents purity and enlightenment as the lotus is a beautiful flower that grows out from muddy ponds. Like the world, a muddy pond provides the ground and nutrients, from which the flower can blossom. Without the pond, there is no lotus and so too, without challenges there can be no transformation. Just like the lotus, we can manifest the fruit of enlightenment in this world.

入画江南

我有一段情 入画后 归旧梦 故里
我有一段爱 落款上 将前世印记
一城天晴一城雨 引我入戏
平添着醉意
豫园一抹香茗 酌一杯飘逸

看江南朝夕 望天色如玉 几番琉璃
驾与鸯梳羽 听桥面眷侣 细声如雨
风追杨柳絮 孩童正嬉戏
货郎叫卖声 淹没了马蹄
谁家良人又来浣衣

我有一段情 入画后 归旧梦 故里
我有一段爱 落款上 将前世印记
一城天晴一城雨 引我入戏
平添着醉意
豫园一抹香茗 酌一杯飘逸

Drawing the River South

A story of love painted on canvas
Drew back my home town dream
A story of love signed on canvas
Imprinted my life long memory

The sunshine in one city and rain in another
Opened up shows of life
Having a tipsy mind with a touch of fragrant
tea in Yuyuan and an elegant drink

The morning and evening in the south of the
Yangtze River Sky as clear as jade,
with several waves like colored glass
Mandarin ducks pluming feathers
Voices of couples on the bridge
Drizzled softly in the air

The wind chases the catkin
So does the children's play
The hawker's street cries silenced out
Clatter of horses' hooves
Who would make a romance
While washing clothes on the river bank

Baha'i Faith

Mitch and Saba Brady, vocals
Wallace Pryor, guitar

"I Charge You All" by Grant Hindin Miller

I charge you all that each one of you
concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity.
When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought
of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more
powerful thought of love.

To teach is to learn,
to learn is to work,
to work is to serve,
to serve is to love,
to love is to die,
to die is to live,
to live is to strive,
and to strive is to rise above all earthly limitations
and enter the eternal realm.
The eternal realm.

I charge you all that each one of you
concentrate all the thoughts of your heart on love and unity.
When a thought of war comes, oppose it by a stronger thought
of peace. A thought of hatred must be destroyed by a more
powerful thought of love.

By a more powerful thought of love.
By a more powerful thought of love.

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Rising Generation Youth Chorus
Kevin Lake, Director
Scott Cannon, Accompanist

“How Can I Keep from Singing” (with “Amazing Grace”)

By Robert Lowry/arr. Tom Fettke

My life flows on in endless song, above Earth's lamentation,
I hear the clear, though far-off hymn, that hails a new creation.
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and Earth, how can I keep from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.
It sounds and echoes in my soul, how can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and Earth, how can I keep from singing?

Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart - a fountain ever springing.
All things are mind, since truth I've found, how can I keep from singing?
No storm can shake my inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and Earth, how can I keep from singing?

When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise, than when we first begun.

How can we keep from singing? Alleluia!

Interfaith Youth Chorus

Marie A. Ellis, Director
Tim Clark, piano

“Peace Song” (with “We Shall Overcome”)

by Greg Gilpin

Peace in our hearts, peace in our hands,
Peace in our lives, peace in our lands.
Peace unto you, peace unto me,
Peace unto all the world's family.

So many people have helped shape our lives,
Striving for truth, they have lived and died.
We remember their faces, we remember their names.
We strive to continue what they strived to gain.

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday!
Deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome someday!

We shall live in peace, we shall live in peace,
We shall live in peace someday!
Deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall live in peace someday!

We shall overcome, we shall overcome,
We shall overcome someday!
Peace unto you, peace unto me,
Peace unto all the world's family.

“We Are the World”

by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie; Arr. Maria A. Ellis

The song was inspired by Harry Belafonte to raise money for famine relief in Africa and was recorded in 1985 by a host of music stars, including Lionel Richie, Michael Jackson, Stevie Wonder, Paul Simon, Kenny Rogers, Tina Turner, Billy Joel, Dionne Warwick, Willie Nelson, Al Jarreau, Bruce Springsteen, Kenny Loggins, Huey Lewis, Cyndi Lauper, Bob Dylan, Ray Charles, Harry Belafonte, Waylon Jennings, Bette Midler, and Smokey Robinson.

Artist Biographies

Closing Music

Everyone is invited to sing together

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”

by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller

Written in 1955 for the International Children’s Choir in California, and sung by many artists including Mahalia Jackson, Vince Gill, and the Harlem Boys Choir

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let There Be Peace on Earth
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now.
With ev’ry step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment and live
Each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

Christine Brewer, soprano

Grammy Award-winning soprano Christine Brewer’s appearances in opera, concert, and recital are marked by her own unique timbre, warm and brilliant, combined with a vibrant personality and emotional honesty reminiscent of the great sopranos of the past. Named one of the top 20 sopranos of all time by BBC Music, she began her career at Opera Theatre of St. Louis and has gone on to sing with the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, Paris Opera, Santa Fe Opera, the St. Louis Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and many other opera companies and orchestras around the world. Her discography includes over 25 recordings and she has appeared locally several times with Union Avenue Opera. This is her twelfth appearance in the annual Interfaith Concert presented by Arts & Faith St. Louis.

Alla Voskoboynikova, pianist

Pianist Alla Voskoboynikova performs extensively as a soloist and a collaborator, regularly accompanying members of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra and coaching for the Union Avenue Opera Company as well as the Opera Theatre of St. Louis. Since 2004, she has held the position of Director of Keyboard Studies at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Angel Love (formerly Angel Riley), soprano

A native of Belleville, Illinois, soprano Angel Love attended DePauw University and received a Master of Music in vocal performance from UCLA. In spring 2022 she sang the role of Papagena in Mozart’s “The Magic Flute” at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis.

Artist Biographies

Maria A. Ellis, choral conductor, Interfaith Youth Chorus

A passionate music educator and conductor, Maria A. Ellis received a B.M. in Music Education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis where she conducts the gospel choir, The Voices of Jubilation. She is currently pursuing a Masters of Arts degree with an emphasis on choral conducting at Webster University. She is the owner of Girl Conductor LLC, which specializes in diverse music education resources, and is a highly sought after clinician and presenter throughout the United States and abroad. She is the founding conductor of The Sheldon's All-Star Chorus and this past June, made her Carnegie Hall debut, conducting that chorus in Robert Ray's Gospel Mass. Maria is also the host of "Bach and Beyoncé" and "American Gospel with Maria A. Ellis" on Classic 107.3.

Sydnee Lovett, soprano, National Anthem vocalist

A senior at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School, Sydnee Lovett is in Advanced Treble and Advanced Mixed Choir. She is in the Opera Theatre of St. Louis Artist-in-Training Program, has sung the National Anthem at a Blues game, and plans to attend college to further her career as a singer.

The Sheldon's All-Star Chorus

Showcasing talented high school singers from throughout St. Louis City and County, The Sheldon's All-Star Chorus, led by Maria A. Ellis, provides students with invaluable skills that prepare them for their futures—no matter what their dreams may be. The ensemble generally performs twice-yearly at The Sheldon, as well as throughout the school year at special events and for community partners. Rehearsals take place on Monday nights at The Sheldon with dinner and transportation provided to participating students.

Soprano

Safiya Austin-El
Re'Niyah Elise Bolden
Leila Brown
Nadia Curtiss
Emma Deaton
Samira Gallagher
Priya Gangasingh
Ss'vaya Ann Griffin
London Morrow
Laila Price
Louisa Sullivan

Alto

Elise Boggess
Ariah Dailey
Jasper Hinz
Miyah Riggans
Abigail Seitter
Danielle Singleton
Bra'Nae Stovall
Ameria Turner
Brooke Walker

Tenor

Langston Casey
Sam Kappel
Taylen Laron Riley
Eliza Jane Thompson
Darrius Turner

Bass

Marcus C. Johnson, Jr.
Herman Porter
Noah Southerland

Please Join us for a Free Interfaith Tour of the Saint Louis Art Museum

In a unique collaboration, the Saint Louis Art Museum and Arts & Faith St. Louis offer free Interfaith group tours demonstrating common elements of global faith traditions.

Tours are scheduled at your convenience.

The Arts & Faith St. Louis Interfaith Tours of the Saint Louis Art Museum are led by two volunteer docents of different faiths. The tours demonstrate common elements of global faith traditions in art produced through the ages.

History of the Interfaith Tours:

In 2017, Arts & Faith St. Louis began a focus on Faith and the Visual Arts. Arts & Faith St. Louis began a Community Partnership Initiative (CPI) to bring groups together through artistic expressions that serve as a vehicle for community togetherness and interfaith programs. The CPI, under the guidance of Batya Abramson-Goldstein, initiated a partnership with the Saint Louis Art Museum to create programming using the museum's collection as a guide to interfaith understanding. The Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis has played an invaluable role in developing these tours and working with the docents.

The A&F/SLAM collaboration experienced another success in October 2019 when SLAM docents and staff presented the Interfaith Tour program at the National Docent Symposium in Washington, D.C. with the hope that this approach can be a model for other communities to create partnerships with community organizations. A similar presentation was offered at the Docent Council of Metropolitan St. Louis Symposium for a wide range of St. Louis community museums and organizations.

What participants say:

"Our group thoroughly enjoyed our tour! Docents Barb and Betsy were so knowledgeable and they put together a very informative program."

"I enjoyed the diversity of coverage: Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism."

"We really enjoyed the roving conversations the selected artworks inspired."

"I saw areas of the museum I did not know existed. I learned new ways to understand and appreciate works of art."

To schedule a tour or for more information, contact kbratkowski@artsfaithstlouis.org.

Arts & Faith St. Louis

The Beginning

In 2011, an interfaith group of community leaders, convened by Batya Abramson-Goldstein of the Michael and Barbara Newmark Institute for Human Relations of the Jewish Community Relations Council and Timothy O'Leary, General Director of Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, prepared the St. Louis community for a production of the opera *The Death of Klinghoffer* by creating programs designed to build understanding and bridge divides. Just a few months later, these successful efforts inspired the creation, with the collaboration of Interfaith Partnership of Greater St. Louis and the Sheldon Concert Hall, of an **Interfaith Concert marking the 10th anniversary of 9/11**. Arts & Faith St. Louis became an independent nonprofit organization on July 1, 2023.

Music

The first concert in September 2011 encouraged the organizers to form **Arts & Faith St. Louis with the mission of building a harmonious St. Louis** and to create a Planning Committee chaired by Carolyn Losos. Using the power of the arts to bring people of different faiths together to celebrate common bonds, learn about our differences, and grow together through shared arts experiences, the themes of past concerts have included a call for world peace, racial diversity and inclusion, outreach to young people in our region, welcoming the stranger, hope, and compassion. The concert includes inspiring performances by many diverse faith community ensembles, professional artists such as soprano Christine Brewer, members of the St. Louis Symphony, jazz pianist Peter Martin, vocalist Denise Thimes, as well as an Interfaith Youth Chorus directed by Maria A. Ellis. The annual concert continues to be the crown jewel of Arts & Faith St. Louis. **The theme for 2023-24 is "Living Peace."**

The Cave Project, a unique and important collaboration in 2017 led by Mont Levy, featured the contemporary music group, Alarm Will Sound, in two performances of a multimedia opera by Steve Reich at John Burroughs School. A stellar committee of St. Louis leaders produced multiple community engagement programs. These included lectures and presentations that amplified the message of the opera, reminding us of the common roots of the three Abrahamic religions of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

Visual Arts

The annual concert has included an opportunity for performers and audience to mingle following the concert and to participate in **art exhibits or sculptural public art** erected on Washington Boulevard. Visual art exhibits derived from these activities have toured to faith communities in the St. Louis region.

Videos to tell the story of interfaith understanding were introduced in 2017 at the annual concert. The first two videos, in collaboration with Interfaith Quest, focused on interfaith youth and their approaches to building a more harmonious St. Louis. These videos showed the power of our youth to engage in and embrace interfaith understanding. Another video in a subsequent year, utilized both drone and traditional techniques and provided the opportunity to visually visit a wide range of houses of worship.

Also in 2017, Arts & Faith St. Louis initiated a **partnership with the Saint Louis Art Museum to create Interfaith Tours** that use the museum's collection as a guide to interfaith understanding. Pairs of docents have designed tours that demonstrate common elements of our world's great religions in art produced throughout the ages. Panel discussions and gallery talks have been presented, and a related initiative involves the scheduling of SLAM's Study Room for groups of up to 15 for a private look at art and objects that are not on active display in the museum's collection. SLAM has taken the Interfaith Tours initiative to national conferences and other major museums around the country are beginning similar programs.

Storytelling

In 2019 Arts & Faith St. Louis began an ongoing **collaboration with the St. Louis Storytelling Festival**, presenting "Stories of Compassion" and "Stories of Hope." Storytelling in the spring and summer of 2020 and spring 2021 were well-attended virtual events.

Poetry and Dance

As part of its 10th anniversary season, **Arts & Faith St. Louis commissioned a young poet, Rachel Aaliyah Jackson**, to write a poem that was choreographed by Arica Brown for both live and videotaped performances in fall 2021 by the **Consuming Kinetics Dance Company**, and later seen on Channel 9's Living St. Louis. Other poetry and rap events, with original music and dance, have been presented in subsequent years.

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Arts & Faith St. Louis thanks Volunteer Lawyers & Accountants for the Arts for their generous support of our successful efforts to become an independent nonprofit organization.

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Vincent Toles, Jr. and Jubilee Brands
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*Thank you so much for attending today's concert
on our 2023-24 theme - "Living Peace."*

We invite you to join us on Steward Family Plaza (to the left of the Concert Hall, as you exit), to meet and converse with members of the faith groups and the concert musicians. As a small memento of the concert, please take home a bookmark with quotes about peace from each faith group. And while mingling, enjoy small Dove chocolate bars, as a symbol of peace!

The mission of Arts & Faith St. Louis is to build a harmonious St. Louis by establishing an ongoing, intentional relationship between the arts and the faith communities. We believe the arts have a unique power to inspire thoughtful discussion among diverse audiences, to bring people together, and to bridge divides through shared arts experiences.

This past July 1st, Arts & Faith St. Louis became an independent nonprofit organization after many years as an LLC of The Sheldon Concert Hall and Galleries. In our early years, administrative services were provided by the Jewish Community Relations Council.

We rely on your ongoing support, as we continue to bring together people from many faiths and cultures through music, visual art and spoken word.

Please note our new address:
Arts & Faith St. Louis
P.O. Box 221025
St. Louis, MO 63122

Contributions can be made by check or through our website artsfaithstlouis.org/contact.

*Many thanks for attending the concert and for making possible
all of the work of Arts & Faith St. Louis!*

Give us your feedback

If you can, please complete a brief survey about your concert experience, along with any suggestions for Arts & Faith St. Louis programming. Scan the QR code below to complete the survey online or take a moment immediately after the concert to fill out a brief questionnaire.



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