



UN

DAY CONCERT



23 OCTOBER 2009

GENERAL ASSEMBLY HALL
UNITED NATIONS • NEW YORK

A Tribute to

PEACEKEEPING





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A TRIBUTE TO PEACEKEEPING

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General Assembly Hall

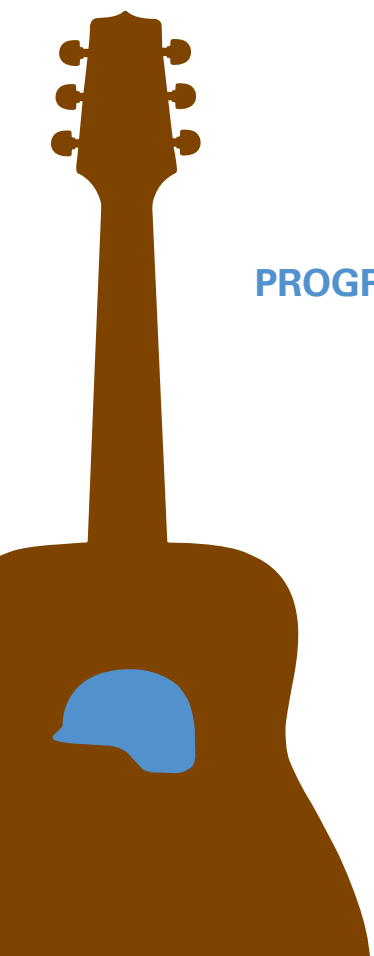
H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki

President of the sixty-fourth session of
the United Nations General Assembly

Mr. Eric Falt, Officer-in-Charge, Department
of Public Information, will introduce the
programme and speakers



PROGRAMME

UN DAY CONCERT 2009

A TRIBUTE TO PEACEKEEPING

PROGRAMME

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon

H.E. Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki

Isha Sesay

Roberta Flack

The War Against War segment #1

Emmanuel Jal with DJ Silvastone

Harry Belafonte

Lang Lang

Salman Ahmad and Samir Chatterjee

The War Against War segment #2

Remember Shakti with John McLaughlin
and Zahir Hussain

The War Against War segment #3

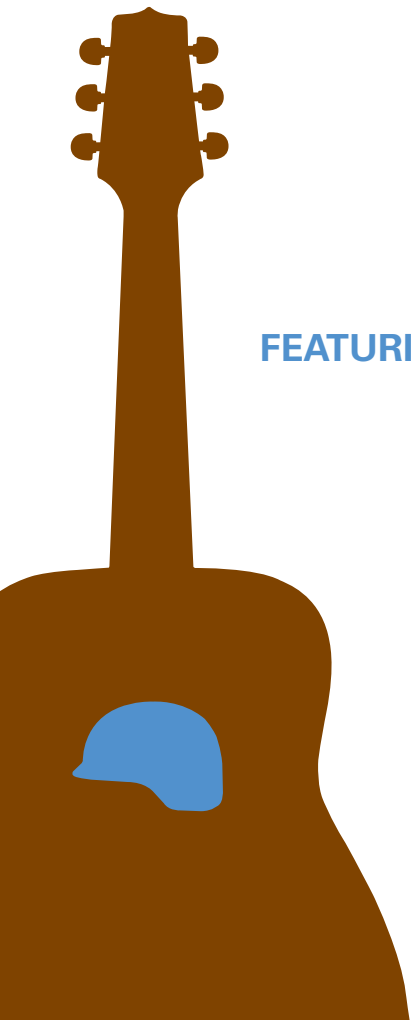
Sister Fa

The War Against War segment #4

Angelique Kidjo

The War Against War segment #5

Aterciopelados



FEATURING

Master of Ceremonies

Isha Sesay, Sierra Leone

Isha Sesay is an anchor and reporter for CNN International. She anchors the noon ET edition of International Desk, and hosts and reports for *Inside Africa*. While on assignment in South Africa in 2007, she covered the launch of 'The Elders'- an initiative founded by Nelson Mandela to tackle the world's intractable problems. Sesay has interviewed various newsmakers, including former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker; Arab League Secretary-General Amre Moussa; former Iraqi hostage Giuliana Sgrena; Gloria Estefan; and acclaimed author Khaled Hosseini.

Premiere of the documentary film *The War Against War*

Directed by Fisher Stevens, USA

Actor and filmmaker Fisher Stevens, producer of this year's multi-award-winning documentary *The Cove*, is directing a film on UN Peacekeeping, *The War Against War*, which highlights the historic creation of the UN Peacekeeping forces and the challenges of fighting "the war against war". Stevens' film will give the audience one-of-a-kind access and insight into the formidable challenges facing peacekeepers and the committed individuals who serve some of the most victimized and vulnerable populations on earth.

Musical Performances

Salman Ahmad, Pakistan

Salman Ahmad is a musician and United Nations Goodwill Ambassador known for popularizing a blend of Western rock music and Eastern/Islamic music called 'Sufi rock', which has been hailed as a cultural bridge within South Asia and between the East and West. Ahmad founded Junoon in 1990, which has sold over 25 million albums worldwide and has shared the stage with artists such as Melissa Etheridge, Alicia Keys, Sting, Earth Wind and Fire, and Wyclef Jean. With his wife, Samina, he launched an NGO called the Salman & Samina Global Wellness Initiative, focused on interfaith and cross-cultural dialogue, global health and wellness, and music education.

Aterciopelados, Colombia

Colombian music icons Aterciopelados aggressively build upon the creative momentum of their last album “Oye” with their latest critically-acclaimed new work, “Rio.” Essentially a collaboration between vocalist/guitarist Andrea Echeverri and bassist/arranger Hector Buitrago, Aterciopelados, (The Velvety Ones), has recorded eight albums since they originally teamed up in the early ‘90s, touring the globe and garnering 2 Grammy awards. The band also recently joined with Amnesty International to mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, creating a new version of the song “Cancion Protesta”.

Harry Belafonte, USA

The acknowledged ‘King of Calypso’, Harry Belafonte, is well known for his artful assimilation of jazz, folk and world music traditions. He has easily become one of the most successful African American pop stars in history, and was a mainstream catalyst during the civil rights movement. In the 1970s and 1980s he became an increasingly dedicated humanitarian and played a key role in the USA for Africa effort, singing on the 1985 single “We Are the World.” A year later, he became a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.

Samir Chatterjee, India

Samir Chatterjee is a virtuoso tabla player of India. He travels widely throughout the year and performed at the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo, Norway. Chatterjee is a firm believer in the transforming effect of music on society. Since June 2008, Samir has been working relentlessly towards the musical revival of Afghanistan, making several trips to the country and working with all levels of society. Samir is the founder-director of Chhandayan, an organization of Indian music, teaches at several reputed institutions and has authored two major books on Indian music.

Roberta Flack, USA

Six-time Grammy-Award winning singer, songwriter and musician, Roberta Flack spent her early years in a nightclub on Capitol Hill where she shared her piano stool with the likes of Burt Bacharach, Eddie Harris, Woody Allen, Bill Cosby, and even Liberace. Since then Ms. Flack has toured internationally, performing with Eddie Harris, Carlos Santana, Miles Davis, Donny Hathaway, Alicia Keys, and India Arie. She has gained worldwide fame for hits such as “The First Time Ever” and “Killing Me Softly”. In response to 9/11, she participated in Nile Rodgers’ “We Are Family” single.

Accompanying Ms. Flack is producer, songwriter, musician, and vocalist, [Russell Graham](#). Most recently, he collaborated with Ray Chew & The Groove. In addition, Mr. Graham has written music and lyrics for ballet and musical theater, and has worked with artists including Shaggy, RikRok, Prince Mydas, Freddie McGregor, and Maxi Priest.

Emmanuel Jal, Sudan

Emmanuel Jal has won worldwide acclaim for his unique style of hip hop with its message of peace and reconciliation born out of his experiences as a child soldier in Sudan. His music can be heard alongside Coldplay, Gorillaz, and Radiohead on the fundraising “War Child - Help a Day in the Life” album, as well as in three ER episodes, the National Geographic documentary *God Grew Tired of Us*, and in the feature film *Blood Diamond* starring Leonardo DiCaprio. Emmanuel spoke at TED Global, rang the bell at the NY Stock Exchange, and released his autobiography “War Child” all in 2009.

Emmanuel Jal will be accompanied by [DJ Silvastone Beats](#), a producer, songwriter and DJ from South London, who has produced a number of artists including Sway, BlakTwang, and 2Face Idibia to name

a few. In 2005 Silvestone began to tour overseas with Emmanuel Jal doing shows such as the African Hip Hop Summit and the MTV EMAs.

Angelique Kidjo, Benin

The four-time Grammy-nominated and 2008 Grammy-winning, much-celebrated singer, composer and performer began in the Beninese port village of Cotonou, where she launched her career at the age of six. The political turmoil in her country led her to relocate to Paris, the capital of world music, and then ultimately to New York City, where she now resides. Her striking voice, stage presence and her fluency in multiple cultures and languages won respect from her peers and expanded her following across national borders. It also earned her access to humanitarians who sensed the passion in the words of her songs, resulting in her long-term dedication to global charity work.

Lang Lang, China

Appearing on behalf of Music Unites. Heralded as the “hottest artist on the classical music planet” by the New York Times, 27-year-old Lang Lang has played sold-out recitals and concerts in every major city in the world and is the first Chinese pianist to be engaged by the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic and the top American orchestras. Testimony to his success, Lang Lang recently appeared in the 2009 Time 100—Time magazine’s annual list of the 100 Most Influential People in the World. Lang Lang has been a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2004.

John McLaughlin, UK & Remember Shakti, India

McLaughlin began his celebrated career in the early 1960s as the electric guitarist for Georgie Fame’s rocking Blue Flames. In the late ‘60s and early ‘70s, he explored electric guitar jazz-rock fusion with Tony

Williams's Lifetime and Miles Davis' Bitches Brew, On the Corner and Live at the Cellar Door bands. McLaughlin toured with Spanish flamenco guitarist Paco de Lucia, composed two critically acclaimed concertos for classical guitar and orchestra, and developed a unique style of jazz-infused Indian classical music with his band Shakti.

Remember Shakti is an Indi-jazz fusion quintet, composed of legendary English guitarists John Mahavishnu McLaughlin, Grammy-winning Indian tabla player, Zakir Hussain, and Indian musicians, Shrinivas Uppalapu on mandolin, Selvaganesh Vinayakaram playing the kanjira, ghatam, and mridangam and singer Shankhar Mahadevan. The musicians' union symbolizes a union between east and west, as well as a fusion between the Hindustani and Carnatic musical traditions, represented by the band's northern and southern Indian members.

Sister Fa, Senegal

Sister Fa first came on the Senegalese rap scene in 2000. She has since won over the public of Senegal, and was awarded the Senegalese Hip Hop Awards' Best Newcomer of the Year (2005). She moved to Berlin the following year, performing with her band at the Moods-Club in Zurich, at the Cross Culture Festival in Poland and at the Jazz-Club A-Trane in Berlin. Propelled by her own personal experience, she traveled on a self-organized tour last year, "Education sans mutilation," to sensitize the public to the issue of female genital mutilation.

Special Appearance by the Xian Song & Dance Troupe of China

PRODUCED BY

The Department of
Public Information

and

The Department of
Peacekeeping Operations

In partnership with

Culture Project

Producer | Allan Buchman

Film Director | Fisher Stevens

Music Director | Nile Rodgers

Television Consultants | Steven Lawrence

Line Producer | Michael Owen

Co-Producer | Jayashri Wyatt

Talent Coordinator | Julianne Hoffenberg

Film Editor | Lauren Saffa

Public Relations | Two Sheps that Pass



Culture Project

Culture Project has been hailed as New York City's premiere political and social performing arts organization, illuminating and championing the most pressing human rights issues of our time. Providing a creative home to dynamic artists who share its passion for challenging injustice, embracing diversity and affecting social change. Culture Project has been awarded the New York Times No.1 Play of the Year (2003), an Amnesty International Freedom of Expression Award (2005), a Drama Desk (2003), the Outer Critics Circle Award (2003), and a Lucille Lortel Award (2003, 2008).

Culture Project is deeply honoured to collaborate with the United Nations on this evening's special concert to commemorate United Nations Day and pay tribute to Peacekeepers around the world.

To learn more, please visit

www.cultureproject.org

Culture Project Staff

Allan Buchman, Founder and Artistic Director | **David Friedman**, General Manager | **Julianne Hoffenberg**, Talent Coordinator | **Manda Martin**, Associate Producer | **Jayashri Wyatt**, Director of Productions | **Elizabeth Murphy**, Executive Assistant | **Amy Paul**, Director of Development | **Therese Barbato**, Development Assistant | **Joi Sears**, Assistant to the Artistic Director | **Culture Project Interns** Feliz-Aurora Gonzales, Elisa Lavery, Katherine Bequary, Jessica Carvo, Christina Fleuron Dahl, Christine D'Aguillo

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Amnesty International

CNN International

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Link TV

Music Unites

Music Unites aims to heighten the appreciation of music across all genres and raises awareness for established musicians and emerging talent, as well as support music education programs and bring music into the lives of people in under-served communities.

For more information, please go to www.musicunites.org.

