

UNITED NATIONS DAY CONCERT: *A Tribute to Peacekeeping*



The anniversary of the establishment of the United Nations Charter on 24 October 1945 has been celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948. It has traditionally been marked throughout the world by meetings, discussions and exhibits on the achievements and goals of the Organization. In 1971, the General Assembly recommended that Member States observe it as a public holiday. Traditionally, UN Day is marked by an international concert in the General Assembly Hall.

EVENT DETAILS

Friday, 23 October 2009

Time: 7:30 p.m. Curtain

Venue: UN General Assembly Hall

UN PRODUCING PARTNER

Culture Project

MEDIA PARTNER

Link TV

PARTICIPATING ARTISTS

Salman Ahmad, *Pakistan*

with Samir Chatterjee, *India*

Aterciopelados, *Colombia*

Harry Belafonte, *USA*

Roberta Flack, *USA*

Emmanuel Jal, *Sudan*

Angelique Kidjo, *Benin*

Lian Ensemble, *Iran/Turkey*

John McLaughlin, *UK*

with Zakir Hussain, *India*

and Remember Shakti, *India*

Rasha, *Sudan*

Nile Rodgers, *USA* Music Director

Sister Fa, *Senegal*

Stevie Wonder, *USA* [TBC]

MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES

CNN's Isha Sesay, *Sierra Leone*

VIDEO MESSAGES

George Clooney, *USA*

MUSICAL DIRECTORS

John McLaughlin, *UK*

Nile Rodgers, *USA*

DOCUMENTARY FILM DIRECTOR

Fisher Stevens, *USA*

UN Day Concert 2009 will take place on Friday 23 October 2009, in the General Assembly Hall at United Nations Headquarters, from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

For the first time since its inception, the concert this year has a theme, "*A Tribute to Peacekeeping*" and is being organized in cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Public Information (DPI). The outside producing partner is Culture Project; an NGO dedicated to addressing critical human rights issues by creating and supporting artistic work that focuses on social justice issues.

The concert will include **musical performances** by artists representing many of the countries committed to peacekeeping, **spoken word presentations** by public figures and members of the diplomatic community, and **documentary film clips** highlighting the faces and stories of the people in the field, the concert will underscore the centrality of peacekeeping missions to the work of the international community promoting global peace and security.

Schedule

Thursday, 22 October 2009

7:00 p.m. Dinner for performers

Friday, 23 October 2009

1:00 p.m. Press Conference

6:00 p.m. VIP Reception

7:30 p.m. Curtain

For further information please contact Ms. Einat Temkin, temkin@un.org, tel. 917-367-5841.

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PRODUCING PARTNER – CULTURE PROJECT

Mr. Allan Buchman is the Founder and Artistic Director of Culture Project. Heralded as a champion of political stagecraft by the New York Times, Mr. Buchman has received awards from major theater, human rights and legal organizations, including the Drama Desk, Lucille Lortel and the Champion of Justice Award from the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Buchman found his true calling in 2002 with the production of *The Exonerated*, a critically acclaimed play that told the eye-opening and ultimately life-enforcing stories of wrongly convicted people on death row. He has consistently supported work that addresses humanitarian and political concerns - whether they originate from inside the domestic prison system, the oil fields of Nigeria or the battlegrounds of war in the Middle East - to illuminate injustice, and inspire public dialogue and policy.

MUSICAL DIRECTORS - NILE RODGERS (USA) & JOHN MCLAUGHLIN (UK)

Mr. Nile Rodgers' signature is scrawled across an amazing array of music-from Madonna to Diana Ross, from David Bowie to Eric Clapton. In 1996, he was selected as Billboard magazine's Top Producer in the World. He has been awarded numerous Grammys and The National Association of Recording Arts and Sciences gave him both a Lifetime Achievement Award and the New York Chapter's Heroes Award. Rodgers created the "We Are Family Foundation" in 2002 to promote tolerance and multiculturalism education.

Mr. John McLaughlin started his 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 also formed his own seminal fusion group, Mahavishnu Orchestra. He played jazz-infused Indian classical music with his band Shakti. In subsequent years he has revisited that group with the Remember Shakti tour.

DOCUMENTARY FILM DIRECTOR - FISHER STEVENS (USA)

Mr. Fisher Stevens is an actor, director and a producer. He has appeared in over 40 stage productions including the Tony Award-winning *Torch Song Trilogy*, *Brighton Beach Memoirs* and *Carousel*. He has appeared in over 50 Motion Picture and Television programs, including "The Flamingo Kid", "Reversal of Fortune", "Awake" and "Gringos in Rio". He co-founded GreeneStreet Films in 1996, where he directed "Just a Kiss" and produced/executive-produced over 15 films including 5-time Academy Award nominated "In the Bedroom", "A Prairie Home Companion", "Tenderness with Russell" Crowe and the acclaimed documentary "Once in a Lifetime". Last year he produced and co-directed the Independent Spirit Award winner for best documentary "Crazy Love", and recently produced the acclaimed documentary "The Cove" that won the audience award at The Sundance Film Festival and Hot Docs.

EMCEE - Ms. 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 "African Voices", a weekly news magazine focusing on issues and stories about the African continent.

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