

United Nations Day Concert 2020

Thursday, 22 October 2020

Reimagine, Rebalance, Restart: recovering together for our shared humanity

Background

United Nations Day, 24 October, marks the anniversary of the day in 1945 when the UN Charter entered into force. Since 1954, with the completion of the General Assembly Hall at UN Headquarters in New York, UN Day has been celebrated with a concert. It is an occasion for renowned musicians to highlight, celebrate and reflect on the UN's work and agenda through the universal language of music.

The 2020 Concert

This year's UN Day marks the 75th anniversary of the entry into force of the UN Charter, presenting an opportunity to call for the strengthening of international cooperation in the interest of both nations and peoples.

The Concert, sponsored by the Mission of Italy, will provide a significant moment to affirm the aspirations at the heart of the Charter, commit to reinvigorating the ideals of multilateralism and remind ourselves of our shared humanity. As a country with a rich artistic tradition and long history as a global cultural center, Italy is keen to offer its contribution to this endeavour through the arts and culture.

The Event

A performance featuring Roberto Bolle, accompanied by other world class etoiles as well as the Orchestra of Teatro alla Scala, will be recorded at La Scala Theater in Milan, and screened on Thursday, 22 October 2020 at 12.00p.m. in the General Assembly Hall of the UN in New York. The performance will include a number of classical, modern and reimagined dances curated specifically for the UN Day Concert.

Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications Melissa Fleming will emcee the in-person remarks in the Hall, which will be delivered by the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly, the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations, and recorded messages from Italy's Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and Roberto Bolle. A livestream of the hour-long performance will be available to viewers around the world across through UN online and digital platforms.

Theme

COVID-19 has exposed just how much our world is interconnected, fragile and unequal. It has heightened pre-existing risks, increased tensions and exacerbated inequalities, and erected

barriers between peoples, friends, family members. Yet, the last few months have also clearly shown that only by working together can we effectively tackle the multidimensional consequences of the pandemic.

This year, to mark the UN's 75th Anniversary, the UN set out to ask the world; 'what are your hopes for your future?' Over 1 million people, from every country in the world, spoke up. Their answers show that we are all united in our hopes and fears, and that there is more that unites than divides us. The vast majority believe that global cooperation is vital for addressing global challenges, especially amid COVID-19. The challenges before us are universal. And we know these challenges demand global solutions.

Art has helped people come together, share their experiences and feel connected despite the physical barriers that separate us. By connecting us and creating common understanding, art and culture create the fertile ground from which genuine solidarity can emerge. In this spirit, music and dance can help bring us together to reimagine a world where the climate crisis is addressed, humanity lives in a sustainable relationship with nature, inequalities are redressed, and access to opportunities is granted to all. A world "rebalanced" to be designed and built together for present and future generations.

Highlighting the significance of the 75th anniversary of the UN and reflecting on the experience of the pandemic, the 2020 UN Day performance will leverage the power of music and dance to capture our collective commitment to cooperation, multilateralism and global solidarity.

The UN Day Concert performance will also be streaming live on: UN Web TV (webtv.un.org), UN Channel on YouTube, Facebook and Twitter.