

WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK REPORT

Concert of Three Cultures

5TH EDITION

BARCELONA (08.02.2018) | MADRID (10.02.2018 - 11.02.2018)

Starting from 2014, every year Arco Forum in partnership with [a dozen of other organizations](#) has been organizing a series of Concerts of Three Cultures in the framework of the World Interfaith Harmony Week declared as such by the United Nations since 2010. They were held in a number of cities throughout Spain like [Madrid](#), [Barcelona](#), [Toledo](#), [Alcalá de Henares](#), [Getafe](#), Alicante.

The concerts include performances by groups representing Christian, Muslim and Jewish cultures. Concert of Three Cultures is an approach to three abrahamic religions, i.e. Judaism, Christianity and Islam through a universal language, the music.

By organizing this event we want to contribute in the promotion of values like respect, tolerance and dialogue through the creation of ties between different cultures and communities, facilitating their mutual recognition and offering three different visions of sound art throughout history.

We hope that this idea facilitates knowledge and contributes to the approach of a large audience to the three religious traditions through the interpretation of Christian, Muslim and Jewish-Sephardic musical styles in an environment of mutual respect, fraternity and collaboration.

It is for this reason that, once again, we wanted to bring together different artists to interpret the music of the three monotheistic religions so that the attendees can enjoy and share this manifestation of joy and harmony.

The photos of the concerts could be consulted in [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) using the [#Concierto3Culturas](#) (Three Cultures Concert) and/or [#ArmoníaInterconfesional](#) (Interfaith Harmony). The full videos of both concerts held in [Eduardo Urculo Cultural Center](#) and [Basilica La Milagrosa](#) as well as the video of each song could be watched separately in the [Youtube channel of Arco Forum](#). Besides, the reflections and testimonials of some guests are present in the same youtube channel with English subtitle.

It is worth to mention that the announcement of the concert has had a great impact in Social Media, especially in facebook (statistics uploaded), with hundreds of likes and shares and achieving more than 20.000 interactions both in Madrid and Barcelona.

BARCELONA

Thursday, 08.02.2018, 20:00 hrs

Church Nuestra Señora de la Victoria | Calle Ataülf, 4,08002, Barcelona, Spain

On Thursday, February 8th, we celebrated the third edition in Barcelona of the Concert of Three Cultures, an initiative developed by Arco Forum and in collaboration with Casa Turca de Barcelona and the Migra Studium Foundation, on the occasion of the World Interfaith Harmony Week. This year we had the pleasure of hosting the magnificent performance of the Interfaith Peace Choir (Coral Interreligiosa per la Pau), a project of the UNESCO Association for Interreligious Dialogue (AUDIR).

The repertoire included the following pieces:

- Hashivenu - Jewish
- Musica Dei - Christian
- Ya Baha 'u' l-Abha - Bahai
- Tege Moem - Orthodox
- Om Mani Padme Hum - Buddhist
- Siyahamba - Animist
- Sol Cennet'in - Islamic
- Ishq Allah - Islamic
- Àngel de la Son - Christian
- Precious Lord / This Little Light of Mine - Gospel Christian

The choir not only represented Jewish, Christian and Muslim cultures, but also unveiled its interreligious repertoire and included pieces such as Om Mani Padme Hum (Buddhist), Siyahamba (animist) and Tege Moem (Orthodox), among others. The goal was to get closer to other cultures through music as those religions are very well represented in our city, Barcelona.

The event was welcomed by the attendees, almost 100 people, with warmth, praising the fantastic organisation, the harmonious atmosphere in such a beautiful church and the energy of all the members of the choir (25 people). It was a very cold night that became very special thanks to all those who joined us.

This concert has been possible thanks to the invaluable support, effort, enthusiasm and dedication of the Interfaith Peace Choir, the UNESCO Association for Interreligious Dialogue (AUDIR), the Society of Jesus in Catalonia and the [Migra Studium Foundation](#).

Information about the [Interfaith Peace Choir \(Coral Interreligiosa per la Pau\)](#):

The choir was created on 2007 as a project of the [UNESCO Association for Interreligious Dialogue \(AUDIR\)](#), with the desire in mind of showing today's society, so multicultural and multi religious, that the Culture of Dialogue and Peace is an urgent and valuable challenge.

This interreligious choir, currently formed by more than 50 singers belonging to different religious traditions, beliefs and convictions is intended to become:

- A meeting point of coexistence and friendship.
- A path that leads to a conversational and listening experience with “who is different”.
- A way to develop an ability to express through songs the experience of the human and the sacred within the culture of peace.
- A means for musical training and personal enrichment by learning vocal techniques and learning musical pieces that belong to different cultures and religions.

MADRID

This year Madrid has hosted two concerts in two different places with different audience: the first concert directed to the people of Tetuan District Madrid which is characterized to be one of the multicultural districts of our city. The other concert was held inside the catholic church which is located in the center of Madrid in a prestigious neighborhood of Chamberi District.

The organizations of both concerts was possible thanks to the invaluable support of Arco Forum, UNESCO Center Getafe-Madrid, the Tetuan District Town Council (Madrid), Centro Sefarad Israel, Casa Turca, The Nuestra Señora del Buen Suceso Church, la Basílica of La Milagrosa, Jewish Community Masorti Bet-El Madrid and Foro Abraham.

For this fifth edition, we had a pleasure to host during two days four musicians and singers from the city of Barcelona: Rosa Zaragoza, Joan Miró, Nuria Cervera and Adil Amrani. The brief artistic [biography](#) of the authors can be consulted in our [website](#).

The [repertoire](#), which was printed and delivered to all the guests before the concerts start, consisted of ancient and modern songs of jewish sephardic tradition, as well as christian and islamic songs in different languages:

- Shalom Aleijem (Shabbat liturgy) - Jewish
- Adhan (The call for prayer) - Islamic
- Regina coeli (Gregorian Antiphon) - Christian

- Por la tu puerta (sephardic, Marocco) - Jewish
- Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim (sufi dhikr) - Islamic
- Rosa das Rosas (Cantiga of Alfonso X) - Christian
- Si verias a la rana (sephardic, Turkey) - Jewish
- Misericordia para los mundos (sufi dhikr) - Islamic
- Satisfacció (Cantiga of Alfonso X) - Christian
- Ierusalaim (sephardic paraliturgy) - Jewish
- Lamma Bada (song of Al-Andalus) - Islamic
- La fuente (Text by S. Juan de la Cruz) - Christian
- Para que quero (Eastern Sephardim) - Jewish
- Si el amor (Text of St. Teresa of Jesus) - Christian
- La ilaha illa-Allah (sufi dhikr) - Islamic

Saturday, 10.02.2018, 18:00 hrs

Eduardo Úrculo Cultural Center | Plaza de Donoso, 5, 28029, Madrid, Spain

People of the District of Tetuan, almost 430, could enjoy, for 5th year consequently, the concert which lasted almost one hour and a half. The event, which was attended by different personalities from the political, cultural and religious, began with the projection of the World Interfaith Harmony Anthem, #TheGiftOfLove. The hymn, interpreted by Sami Yusuf conveys a message of love for God and humanity, from respect, towards tolerance and dialog between cultures. After watching the videoclip, with Spanish subtitles (previously prepared by the Arco Forum team), we proceeded with the opening speech held by the president of Arco Forum, Temirkhon Temirzoda Naziri, who thanked the sponsors of the event for their support and introduced the invited artists.

Afterwards, Alberto Guerrero Fernández, president of the UNESCO Center Getafe-Madrid, intervened, emphasizing the importance of the World Interfaith Harmony Week and highlighted the role of the United Nations as a promoter of this initiative through its resolution 65/5 of 20th October 2010.

After the great performance of the invited musicians, and because of the extended applause from the delighted audience they performed two more pieces: Intelligimus (mantra inspired by Ramon Llull) and Buena semana nos dé Dio (Sephardic song of Tetuan, Morocco).

Once the spectacular performance had finished and after a standing ovation by the audience toward the artists, the organization gave some plaques of appreciation to the partner organizations, Foro Abraham and UNESCO Center Getafe-Madrid for their support and collaboration. At the end, a family photo was taken with the musicians, organizers, sponsors and the audience.

Sunday, 11.02.2018, 17:00 hrs

Basilica-Parish La Milagrosa | Calle de García de Paredes, 45, 28010, Madrid, Spain

In the afternoon of wonderful Sunday, February 11th, the Basilica-Parish La Milarosa, for the second time since February 2015, hosted again the Concert of Three Cultures. The event began with an opening speech held by the president of Arco Forum, Temirkhon Temirzoda Naziri, who thanked the sponsors of the event for their support and also all the guests, around 500 who filled the Basilica.

Afterwards, Alberto Guerrero Fernández, president of the UNESCO Center Getafe-Madrid, intervened, emphasizing the importance of the World Interfaith Harmony Week and highlighted the role of the United Nations as a promoter of this initiative through its resolution 65/5 of 20th October 2010.

The invited artists were presented one by one so that the audience could be familiarized with the artistic trajectory of each musician. During the concert, before performing each song, the artists gave interesting details about the meaning and history of each song to be performed. The attendees, which were comprised of different religious backgrounds also took part singing, meditating and clapping together with the artists in a very joyful manner.

After the great performance of the invited musicians, and, again, because of the extended applause from the pleased audience they performed one more piece wishing all the guests a “blessed week”, that is what the name of their encore means: Buena semana nos dé Dio (Sephardic song of Tetuan, Morocco).

Once the spectacular performance had finished and after a standing ovation by the audience toward the artists, the organization gave some plaques of appreciation to the artist Rosa Zaragoza and to Nuria Cervera, which received the plaque in the name of the musical formation AIRUN, as a gratitude for their participation and a fantastic performance. The organization also thanked and gave the plaques of gratitude for two churches that support this beautiful initiative for the last four years: Basílica-Parish La Milagrosa and the Parish Church “Nuestra Señora del Buen Suceso”.

After the event, the guests and artists were invited to have some cocktail where they could continue their dialogue and peaceful engagement, making new friendships and contacts.