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Unifying the World – One Song at a Time

On February 1, 2016, a new signature event was created in the hope that we could continue to build on our vision of unifying the world one song at a time. **Mosaic Harmony & Friends: One Humankind in Music**, was presented as part of the 2016 World Interfaith Harmony Week and continued a dialogue the choir began back in 1993 – bringing together people of different faiths and cultures through the universal language of music. Inviting various choirs from the Washington metropolitan area, a representative from the Interfaith Council of Washington and members of the community, **Mosaic Harmony** hosted the special concert featuring music from the **Hindu, Baha'i, Muslim, Jewish and Christian** faiths at Unity of Fairfax church in Oakton, Virginia with portions of the program broadcast on Kurdistan 24 television. The program goal was to show that while we may have different names for God through worship service and in faith ideologies, we have more in common than is different and, that our bridge of commonality is music. Mosaic Harmony director, David K. North, invited the participants and without hesitation, each responded quickly to be a part of the special evening. The program opened with a praise song from the Washington area based All Dulles Area Muslim Society Youth Choir.



Ridwah Ullah, Faateha Syed, David K North

Ridwa Ullah, Faateha Syed performed the song *Tala'a 'l-badru 'alaynā (Welcoming Song & Praising God)*, whose enthusiastic performance received a standing ovation from the crowd.

Special greetings of welcome from **Rabbi Gerald Serotta**, the Executive Director of the **Interfaith Council of Washington**, noted it was particularly wonderful to see so much support from the community for a program like this one and there is more work to do to build upon the evening's success.



Rabbi Gerald Setorra and David K. North

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Metropolitan Washington Baha'i Chorale

The Metropolitan Washington Baha'i Chorale for over 35 years has shared the Baha'i message of unity with many, performing all types of choir music. Selections from the Chorale with long time director **Ms. Dorie Arbach** included songs from their three January 2016 Martin Luther King Jr. performances, including one with Mosaic Harmony director, David K. North as soloist. Immediately following the rousing performance from Washington Baha'i, came **Arun Mukherjee** and **Misti Acharyya**, who brought Hindu messages, music and poems of peace in their performance.



Arun Mukherjee and Misti Acharyya



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The Olam Tikvah Chorale

The **Olam Tikvah Chorale** based in Northern Virginia and directed by **Carol Boyd Leon**, focuses on contemporary liturgical music but include a smattering of Israeli songs, holiday songs, “traditional” tunes, and more performed two songs of peace and harmony. Closing out the program was **Mosaic Harmony** with three choir favorites that directly speak to their mission and vision. Mosaic Harmony is an award winning, multicultural, interfaith choir offering a message of encouragement, inspiration and hope that continually seeks to bring unity through the rich heritage of African-American inspirational music. Founded in 1993, Mosaic Harmony sings for diverse audiences and social service organizations providing “Service through Song” throughout the Washington metropolitan area. The first selection, “*I Need You to Survive*” written by Hezekiah Walker, became an anthem for the choir after hearing it performed by the Bolling AFB Gospel Choir back in 2002, who added sign translation to the second verse, which delivered a powerful visual with the lyrics. Soloist **Nikki Barnett Harrell** and song composer, **David North**, performed what has become a second theme song for the choir, “*One Humankind*”. The program finale featured the up-tempo “*I See a World*”, with soloist Kala Payne followed by Mosaic Harmony’s theme song, “*Make Us One*”.



Mosaic Harmony

Mosaic Harmony and its guests dedicated a love offering in support of Syrian Refugee children, which was collected and yielded \$750, and was forwarded to UNICEF on behalf of the event. Mosaic Harmony has committed to hosting the “One Humankind in Music” event annually going forward. The 2017 event will be held in the Washington metropolitan area at a yet to be determined location.

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