



WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK



The Official UN Observance in the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of February

## **Concierto Debut JOIRE | Harmony CommUnity | 21.02.2021, 17:00 hrs**

In the context of the Harmony CommUnity campaign, which is part of the European project CommUnity, ARCO FORUM will create an interfaith music choir in Madrid, Spain. For this reason the Joven Ensemble Interreligioso Español (JOIRE) was created. In this ensemble young musicians from three different abrahamic religions come together to rehearse their songs with the aim to present them at concerts all around Spain and at the Youth Creative Festival in Brussels, Belgium on the first weekend of July 2021.

### **About the CommUnity project**

The CommUnity project, co-funded by the European Commission, involves 11 public and private institutions from 7 EU countries. The CommUnity project aims to address drivers of radicalisation, such as marginalisation, inequality, discrimination and denial of rights. It seeks to create new opportunities to promote peace and shared values through artistic and cultural expression. By giving a voice to young people who feel marginalised or unfairly treated, we can build powerful communities with a greater sense of belonging, well-being and self-esteem.

### **About the Harmony CommUnity Campaign**

The Harmony CommUnity is a Campaign within the CommUnity project whose aim is to enhance intergenerational, intercultural and interfaith dialogue through the creation of music groups that will meet to play together and share the passion for music without boundaries of culture, religion or age. The objectives of this activity are building communities of people who share their passion for music; improving social cohesion and inclusion through musical activities; fostering diversity and harmonious (peaceful) coexistence between generations, cultures and religions; and guiding people towards a peaceful expression of their identity and beliefs.

### **About the Joven Ensemble Interreligioso Español (JOIRE)**

JOIRE was created with the influence of the concept “Concierto de Tres Culturas”. For eight years, during the World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW), these concerts have been held in Madrid with the participation of musicians from the three main monoteistic religions. Since then, numerous concerts have been held in Spain and also abroad, and “Concierto de Tres Culturas” has gathered huge success and fame. ARCO FORUM had been organizing these concerts with external entities and

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musicians. The freshness arriving with the creation of JOIRE as an interfaith ensemble

lies in the fact that ARCO FORUM now has created its own choir. Which means that JOIRE counts with the experience of ARCO FORUM while enjoying that key difference of being a self-created choir.

### **About the first “Concert of Three Cultures” performed by JOIRE**

The debut concert of the newly created *Joven Ensemble Interreligioso Español* (Spanish Youth Interfaith Ensemble) took place on the 21st of February 2021 at 17:00hrs as part of the Harmony CommUnity Campaign of the European CommUnity Project. The activity took place in the Parish “Basilica La Milagrosa” located in Madrid, Spain with the participation of young muslim, christian and jewish musicians. Despite the fact that the musicians started rehearsing in the morning the same day the concert was a big success! There were more than 120 spectators and the ensemble got “standing ovations” and long-lasting applause.

The event focused on approaching different religions, their musical traditions, beliefs, praying traditions, among the participants and assistants with the aim to get to know each other's religion better, eliminating prejudices and learning about peace and respect.

On the morning of that 21st of February the musicians met in the parish and started the day with a big and delicious Turkish breakfast. The breakfast was followed by a rehearsal, which ARCO FORUM shared live via different social media channels. After that, the musicians and the staff of ARCO FORUM had lunch together and continued with the rehearsals once finished. The day concluded with an open door show at 5 pm. at the same location (Basilica La Milagrosa), which was also shared live via ARCO FORUM's social media channels. The show began with a warm welcome from the parish of the Basilica La Milagrosa, Juan José González, who reminded the audience of the message that this ensemble wants to transmit and also referred to the concerts that have been organised over the last 8 years within the framework of the WIHW week.

### **About obstacles due to the Covid-19 pandemic**

The Covid19 pandemic had and still has a big effect on Spain. Therefore, it is difficult



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and rare to carry out offline activities with a large number of people. Because of this, ARCO FORUM got in contact with the Parish “Basilica La Milagrosa” in Madrid, Spain where activities with a high hygiene measure status can still be conducted. (In Spain holy places can carry out events with a reduced number of participants when they follow high hygiene standards). That's why in this JOIRE debut concert it was compulsory to wear a face mask at all times (even for the musicians and singers if it was possible). The safety distance of (1.5 metres) has to be ensured during the whole activity and the participants had to wash their hands with soap and water or use hydroalcoholic gel when entering the parrish.

### **About JOIRE’s activities on social media**

For JOIRE specific social media channels have been created on the platforms of Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and some also on LinkedIn. On these platforms every activity will be announced, during the activity live streams are done and the outcome of each activity is published so that followers and the audience is always updated on the activities occurring. These posts are always linked with the corresponding Hashtags of the Community project (#CommunityProyectEurope and #HarmonyCommunityEurope), the World Interfaith Harmony Week (#WIHW and #WIHW2021) and the “Concierto de Tres Culturas” (#Concierto3culturas) as well as the corresponding pages tagged. All these posts are then also reposted on ARCO FORUM’s social media channels to reach a bigger audience.