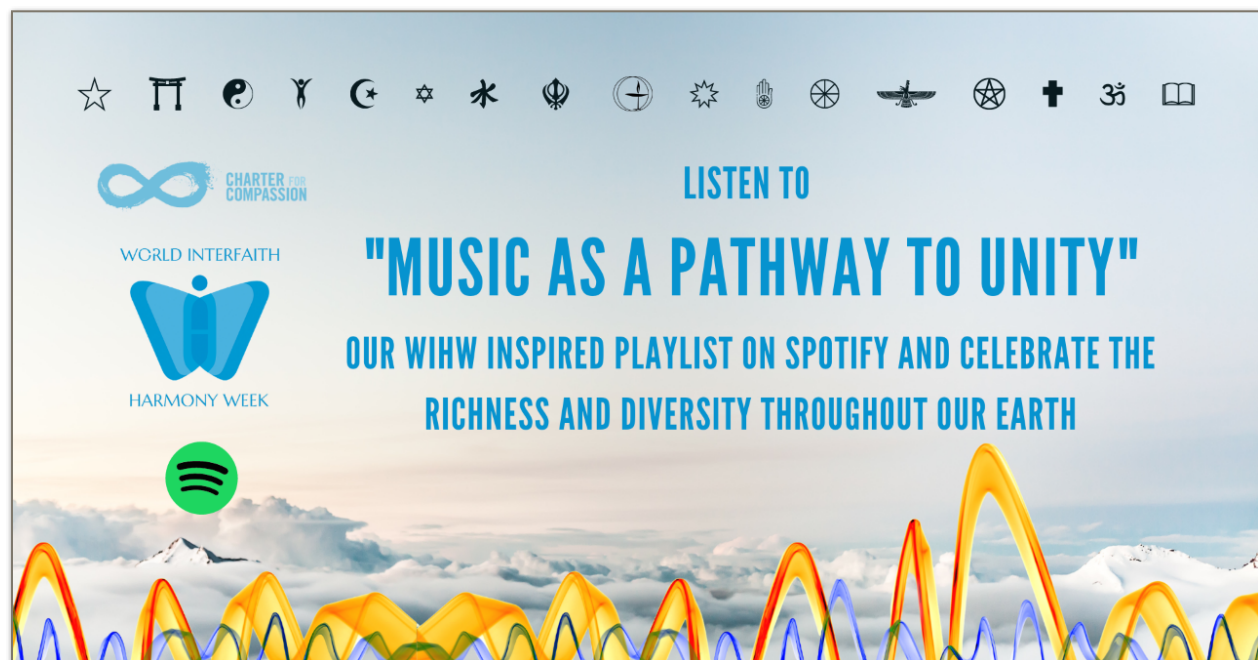


Music as a Pathway to Unity

The Charter for Compassion decided for this year's celebration of World Interfaith Harmony Week to offer the sounds of interfaith, reflection and calm to a global community that has suffered intense collected trauma over the last several years. This gift of music, has been created as a playlist on Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/0EBY6t7wqnPLht20MZ1Ptt>. It consists of 52 songs that amounts to almost four hours of playing time. It was launched on February 6 and we continued to announce it's existence through our Charter for Compassion newsletters and social media. We reinitiated the availability of the playlist on the last day of WIHW, March 3.



The intent of creating the playlist was to have it extend beyond a week, a month or even a year. We referred to its existence throughout our 40 Days of Peace Campaign to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin King, Jr. and the challenges he put before citizens of the world to form a “Beloved Community”: <https://charterforcompassion.org/40-days-of-peace-archived-events>. During those 40 days we reached an audience of over 50,000.

In addition to designing the playlist we wanted to give those who came to learn more about the music, its origins and artists. Here is the description on Spotify which encourages the listener to visit descriptions for each song:

This compilation is primarily a blend of global religious, interfaith and secular music. It has been designed to bring forth moments that support reflection, prayer and emotional release. These are sounds of hope assembled for World Interfaith Harmony Week. Visit: <https://bit.ly/325br39>.



A sampling of explanation of just two songs of the 52, are provided below. In many cases, music was illustrated with pictures of performers, along with details of the songs. It was decided not to categorize the songs into types or styles, religious traditions, geographic areas of the world, but rather to adhere to the true spirit of interfaith. The offerings were blended, moving from hymn to chant, individual artists to chorale renditions and offered in 22 different languages.

Sample Explanations of Two Songs

In Gratitude—Plum Village Ensemble

Plum Village, near Bordeaux in southwest France, is the largest international practice center in the Plum Village tradition, and the first monastic community founded by Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh (Thay) in the West. Plum Village is where Thay has realized his dream of building a Beloved Community: creating a healthy, nourishing environment where people can learn the art of living in harmony with one another and with the Earth.

Aar Nanak Paar Nanak—Diljit Dosanjh

“Aar Nanak Paar Nanak” is a Shabad, literally meaning the Word. In Sikh thought it is a vehicle which allows us to cross the ocean of existence, the ups and downs of this world that we inhabit, attain sovereign experience, and become sovereign beings.

Diljit Dosanjh is an Indian singer-songwriter, actor, film producer and television presenter who works in Punjabi and Hindi cinema.