

Małgorzata Zwierzchowska
International Students House, London
Music with No Borders
Warsaw, Poland

Detailed description of the project

I believe that making music in a group brings people together and is a truly social experience. People have always needed to communicate and mingle with other cultures to create and develop something new. The project, which will take place in the second weekend of July 2019, will feature performances of ensembles formed of musicians of different nationalities. It will be open to the public and free of charge. During rehearsals, concerts and other activities, musicians and speakers will have the chance to exchange views, learn about other cultures and make friendships across difference. The concerts will be valuable for the audience - people of different ages will get to know different musical styles, notice the differences and appreciate them. For many, this could be a starting point for further research, discussion and reflection.

In order to foster international diplomacy and complement the musical performances, the event will also feature discussion platforms. This part of the project will have different forms: a lecture, a discussion panel and an experience sharing platform. Each will be held in English (translated simultaneously to Polish) and will involve people of different nationalities, cultures and professions. Finding shared attributes and noticing differences will help to develop better understanding and create bonds between seemingly isolated or opposed cultures. As communication is crucial for collaboration, speakers will cover topics such as tolerance, diversity and mutual kindness, which can be supported with stories of individual experience. Participants will discuss current issues, such as nationalism and xenophobia and find new solutions through collaboration, mutual help and understanding.

The musicians and the speakers have already been suggested by NGOs, such as: Jeunesses Musicales International, Euro-Arab Youth Music Centre, International Students House, as well as the Royal Academy of Music in London. All the participants will be hosted by Polish families in Warsaw with food and travel costs covered by the grant. Different activities will take place in the centre of Warsaw, on Krakowskie Przedmieście Street - in Warsaw University facilities, in Tyszkiewicz Palace and Harenda Club so that the participants and the audience won't have to commute far between venues. Thanks to collaboration with the University of Warsaw Choir, the venues will be rented at reasonable prices. In order to provide a fee for all the musicians and develop the project I will apply for additional grants, announced by the City of Warsaw in the cultural sector.

Several NGOs, inspired by the idea of my project, are ready to get involved and support it. JM Poland (part of JM International - the largest youth music NGO), sharing my concept of creating peace through music, is willing to develop my project, enriching the program with additional events. 'Cantica' Foundation will assist in acquiring additional financial support. 'Klamra' Foundation and 'FCWW' Foundation will provide volunteers and promote the event within the international communities in Warsaw. 'Muzyka jest dla Wszystkich' Foundation will assist in recruiting international musicians and speakers. Moreover, the content of the discussions and all printed materials (programs, flyers, posters) will be discussed with the authorities in the field, such as Witek Hebanowski from "Inna Przestrzeń" Foundation and Wojciech Walczak from JM Poland. Additionally, Orit Wolf - an acclaimed international concert pianist and senior lecturer and consultant in innovative thinking, agreed to be project champion and provide advice. Having experience in lecturing in platforms such as TED, she will also host the discussion panel.

Indicators of success

Promotion will be a crucial part of the project and will involve a video, posters, leaflets, social media posts and newsletters. Collaborating NGOs will also help promote the project using their channels. Good attendance and positive reviews will indicate the success of my project. To gather feedback from participants, I will collect their email addresses and conduct an online survey after the project. Ultimately, I would like 'Music with No Borders' to become an established annual event, collaborating with more and more musicians and speakers.

Goals

For my project I distinguish short-term goals such as developing a platform for young people of different nationalities in order to provoke discussion on the important issues they are facing in the modern world. Using creative ways of bringing people together, such as group music making and improvisation, the participants will have a chance to express themselves in various ways and therefore draw conclusions about the benefits of intercultural collaboration in building peace in the world. Moreover, based on the knowledge they acquired during the project, young people will continue to share the idea of peace and influence their peers. In the long term the project will also give a chance to build mutual understanding and lead to finding ways of preventing conflict and sustaining peace.

Proposed Activities

Activity	Description	People involved
13th July 10am Experience Sharing Platform	Each person will have 10 min to share a personal experience which will introduce the issues to be discussed. Audience participation encouraged.	6 people of different nationalities, ages and professions suggested by the collaborating NGOs
13th July 2pm Lecture	The speaker will outline the turbulent history of South Africa, presenting the ideas of Frantz Fanon, a major political figure in this country.	Alexander Pennington - South African researcher, MPhil in Politics (specialising in Justice and Transformation); MSc in Global Health and Development
13th July 4pm Vocal Concert	Two vocal ensembles will present the repertoire of different styles. The concert program will consist of pieces written in different languages showing a huge variety in the vocal compositions.	EMotivo - a Polish professional vocal ensemble which performs in festivals, competitions, and original projects. Kamene Babe - a Croatian, vocal-instrumental group of 6 people, who perform traditional songs from Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Bulgaria.
13th July 9pm JAM Session	Musicians of different cultural backgrounds will improvise together using ethnic instruments and singing in their own languages.	Members of Euro-Arab Youth Music Centre and Jeunesses Musicales International: Majd Khnouf – Jordan, Wael Malaeb – Lebanon Bashar Khries – Jordan, Maria Casado – Spain Espen Meisfjord - Norway
14th July 10am Discussion	Panel discussion on diplomacy, conflict prevention, tolerance and mutual understanding.	6 people of different nationalities, ages and professions suggested by the collaborating NGOs. Hosted by Orit Wolf (see page 1).
13th July 4pm Orchestra Concert	The concert program will contain pieces of different styles, written by composers of different nationalities.	Kameralna N-Harmonia - a group of musicians, visionary leaders and enthusiastic young Polish people who study in various European conservatoires. The ensemble will be joined by 6 Royal Academy of Music students of different nationalities

‘Music with No Borders’ will be a life-changing experience for its participants, staff, as well as the audience – they will have the chance to learn about other nationalities, views, religions and cultures and therefore appreciate difference. Using arts and speech, the project will promote the important role of intercultural collaboration and mutual kindness in conflict prevention and building international peace. ~Make Music, Not War