

MANIFESTO

Performance Note (PN): Unless otherwise noted, all texts will be spoken by me (Jessica Karraker) a role I have come to see as “The Messenger”.

PN: Throughout the script, I have used a handful of well-known spiritual words or phrases to represent the major religious traditions... as well as one beautiful phrase (mitakuye oyas'in) from a Native American tribe, the Lakota (aka the Sioux) to represent all Indigenous (aka primal) spiritualities... I always include the English translations when I (first) use these words in their original languages.

I open and close the concert with the well-known “Shalom Aleichem”. I deliberately chose the Jewish spelling and Ashkenazi (because of their prominence in the US) pronunciation of the phrase to represent that major world religion. But the Israeli/Hamas war has made me uncomfortable with using a Jewish greeting (blessing) of PEACE?! On the one hand, it seems absolutely perfect... but on the other hand, it seems beyond irony and downright offensive... all depending on how one interprets its use here. Therefore, I feel this is one decision for which I definitely need help ~ especially from the ethnic groups directly involved ~ to decide how to best support both religions (Jewish and Muslim) and both ethnicities (Israeli and Palestinian) in seeking peace between them.

So! Once we assemble the band and supporting crews, I believe the best way to resolve this dilemma is to practice what we will be “preaching” in this concert... which is, coming together as a community to respectfully share everyone’s thoughts and feelings on a thorny subject and then TOGETHER to come up with a solution inspired by the Sacred. I have some questions AND ideas to share with everyone on how to resolve this, and I will want your feedback and input... but here and now is not the time for that discussion!

ALSO I’d love to know how such groups as PeaceNow, Jewish Voice for Peace, IfNotNowMovement, Alliance for Middle East Peace ~ and other Israeli, Palestinian, Jewish and Muslim activists who are working for peace in the Middle East ~ would recommend we resolve this issue?!

[All Musicians]

Shalom Aleichem

Shalom Aleichem
(Peace Be With You)

[All Musicians]

Namaste

Namaste
(I Bow To The Divine In Each Of You!)

Now before we get started
it's really important
that you first understand this...

We are NOT here to start some
brand-spankin' new religion
OR to revive an ancient, primeval one

We're ALSO not here to criticize
ANY of the world's major religions
ALL of which are beautifully based on

[All Musicians]

LOVE!! COMPASSION!! COMMUNITY!!

That's right... all the world's major religions are beautifully based on
LOVE!! COMPASSION!! COMMUNITY!!

But as we've seen down through the ages
and up to this very moment, far too many
of all their professed believers have
tragically and callously or apathetically
failed to live up to these lofty ideals

Then too there's all the cruelty and brutality and apathy
that we've seen throughout history and still today
being perpetrated by far too many of those
who DON'T check any of the religious boxes

And for that matter, who among us
can seriously claim to be a saint?
Not I, that's for sure!

I mean, it's not for lack of trying, mind you, but
I'm still very much just a work-in-progress!
How about YOU???

SO NOW! With all that in mind... What we ARE here to do

[All Musicians]

Inshallah

Inshallah

(God Willing)

!! and with YOUR help !!

is to

[All Musicians]

!! START A REVOLUTION !!

Yup!

!! START A REVOLUTION !!

Or some might say really more of an

?? EVOLUTION ??

Either way... What we're DEFINITELY here to do is to

[All Musicians]

BREAK DOWN ALL THE UGLY WALLS

That's right!

BREAK DOWN ALL THE UGLY WALLS

that separate any "**US**" from any "**THEM**"

Yup, that's the FIRST HALF of the "*EVOLUTIONARY revolution*"

that our world is desperately crying out for!

(Whether everyone realizes it or not)

And just what ugly walls that separate some "*us*" from some "*them*"
might we be talking about?

Well, I'm glad you asked!

[Call & Response]

Such as...

... all the world's major religions
! from each other !

Break 'em down!

Such as...

... the righteously religious
from the sublimely spiritual
from the no-nonsense nonbelievers

That's right!

Such as...

... nation from nation
ethnicity from ethnicity
culture from culture

!! ONE WORLD, ONE TRIBE !!

That's right...

!! ONE WORLD, ONE TRIBE !!

And more...

[Ideally each color to be spoken by a musician of that race]

... "Black" from "Brown" from "Yellow" from "Red"

! from "White" !

Break 'em down!

... the conservatives from the liberals

That's right!

... the privileged from the disadvantaged

Break 'em down!

... straight and "cis" from LGBTQIA+

That's right!

...country folk from city dwellers

Break 'em down!

... immigrants and refugees feeling
frightened and desperate
from a citizenry feeling
angry and threatened

That's right!

... humans from Mother Earth
and all her OTHER children

!! ONE WORLD, ONE TRIBE !!

Oh yeah! What we're DEFINITELY all about is breaking down and

[All Musicians]

!! BREAKING F-R-E-E !!

That's right! Breaking free of all these, and so many OTHER, ugly walls...

!!!!!!!

... and in their places...

!!!!!!!

***** ***** ***** *****

[All Musicians]

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL BRIDGES

That's right!

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL BRIDGES
between ALL forms of **US-vs-THEM**

Yup, that's the **SECOND HALF** of the "*EVOLUTIONARY revolution*"
that our world is desperately in need of!

Such as...

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL BRIDGES

with all those **SUPER (DUPER) HEROES** among us
who are already working so hard and
giving so much of themselves to

MAKE THIS WORLD
KINDER

and **SAFER**

and **HEALTHIER**

for some special, vulnerable group or
for ALL living beings and...

BUILDING BEAUTIFUL BRIDGES

with all those who are finally ready to join
that spectacular "**CIRCLE OF HEROES**" and

!! LEAP !!

into the **FIRES of ACTIVISM** to

SEEK ALL JUSTICE
RIGHT ALL WRONGS
PROTECT ALL THE VULNERABLE
RESCUE ALL THE SUFFERING and to...
STOP THE ANNIHILATION OF OUR PRECIOUS HOME
Our Planet Earth, our **!! MOTHER !!**
(for God's sake!)

Oh yeah! What we're DEFINITELY here to do is to...

!! UNITE US A-L-L !!

(Oh! Well now, there's a wild idea, eh?!)

That's right, I'm talking about
ALL LIVING BEINGS in the **!! PLANT !!**
as well as the animal kingdom
including you and me

You know what? Lemme put it this way...

What we are here to do
Inshallah
!! and we simply cannot do it without all of you **!!**
is to

[All Musicians]

!! UNITE US ALL !!

That's right...

!! UNITE US ALL !!
into
ONE WHOLE and "HOLY" FAMILY

[All Musicians]

Mitakuye Oyas'in

(All My Relatives)

[All Musicians]

Mitakuye Oyas'in

(We Are All Related)

[All Musicians]

ONE "HOLY" FAMILY

[All Musicians]

ONE WHOLE and "HOLY" FAMILY

!! AMEN !!
So Be It

***** ***** ***** *****

But that's not all!

What we're ALSO here to do
Inshallah
is to

[All Musicians]

!! WAKE UP !!

Yup, wake up all those who are sleeping...
whether in ignorance
or in willful blindness

[All Musicians]

Nam Myoho Renge Kyo
Nam Myoho Renge Kyo
Nam Myoho Renge Kyo-m-m-m

!! OPEN YOUR EYES !!

Before it's too late
Before it's all gone
Before we humans destroy it all
including ourselves...

Yeah, that's right
including you and me!

***** ***** ***** *****

But that's not all!

What we're ALSO here to do
Inshallah
is to

[All Musicians]

!! IGNITE THE FIRES OF EPIPHANY !!

That's right... **!! IGNITE THE FIRES OF EPIPHANY!!**

in the cold hearts and closed minds
of all those who seek to sustain
the terrible and tragic status quo
of the rich and/or powerful LORDING it
over the poor and/or persecuted...

Oh yeah! What we're DEFINITELY here to do is to...

[All Musicians]

!! INSPIRE !!
and
!! UNLEASH !!

That's right... **!! INSPIRE and UNLEASH !!**

a gobsmacking WONDER
and a flabbergasting AWE
in the mindboggling MIRACLES
of the infinite UNIVERSE
and the breathtaking PRECIOUSNESS
and the mystical magical SACREDNESS
of EACH and EVERY SINGLE LIVING BEING!!

!! OH MY GOD !!

Unleash your Love, Baby
Unleash that Holy Power
Ignite the Fires of Epiphany, Baby
(in every heart and soul)
and

[SUNG by all Singers]

!! UNLEASH the POWER of YOUR HOLY LOVE !!

***** ***** ***** *****

[All Musicians]

Om Mani Padme Hum
Om Mani Padme Hum
Om Mani Padme Hum-m-m

WE ARE HERE NOW to show you how...
and to ask you to join
hands and hearts with us
as KINDRED SPIRITS

[All Musicians]

!! Mitakuye Oyas'in !!

Before our species completely demolishes
our MAGNIFICENT Mother Earth
the WOMB of all BIRTH...

Oh Yeah! WE ARE HERE NOW to show you how...

!! WE... TOGETHER !!

[Half of Musicians]

!! WE... TOGETHER !!

[Other half of Musicians]

!! WE... TOGETHER !!

can make our hearts beat to one rhythm
and our voices rise in one rhyme
and with our singing and drumming
and our working and loving

create the sacred power we need to
clean up the gargantuan messes
we humans have made...

And thus to start over
And thus to START FRESH!!
And thus to start over...

So that our MAJESTIC Mother
and ALL her GLORIOUS children...

[All Musicians]

!! Mitakuye Oyas'in !!

her mountains and valleys
her rivers and oceans
her desert and great plains
all her FABULOUS flora and
all her FANTASTIC fauna...

Yeah, that's right
including you! and YOU! and Y-O-U!!

So that our PRECIOUS Mother and
all her PRECIOUS children in her
ASTONISHNG!!
and BEAUTIFUL!!
and STUNNINGLY WONDROUS!!
SACRED web of life can be...

[SUNG by all Singers]

!! BORN AGAIN !!

!! YEAH !!

[SUNG by all Singers]

!! BORN AGAIN !!

!! YEAH !!

[SUNG by all Singers]

!! BORN AGAIN !!

!! YEAH !!

[SUNG by all Singers]

!! BORN AGAIN !!

!! D-R-U-M R-U-M-B-L-E !!