

Genesis at the Crossroads'  
**SOUNDS OF HEALING™**

*Live, in-person performance*



Rayburn House Office Building  
Capitol Hill – Washington, DC  
June 21, 2023

# About Genesis at the Crossroads

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## **OUR MISSION:**

Genesis at the Crossroads builds peaceful communities at the intersection of social justice, education, and the arts to foster healing.

## **OUR VISION:**

A world where cross-cultural artistic expression and collaboration serve as a catalyst for interethnic dialogue and innovation, global understanding, healing, and world peace. Education and humanitarian-centric business initiatives sustain and further those bridges while nurturing global leadership. Together, we foster a just world for all, honoring our collective humanity.

We are a Chicago-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization.

## **OUR VALUES:**

We believe that everyone has a voice in world peace, and that in order for true peace to be achieved, every voice needs a safe place for expression and communal comprehension.

We believe that the arts transcend cultural differences and barriers to understanding.

We believe that the arts offer immediate and enduring access to our shared humanity, providing opportunities to heal deep divides.

We believe that effective arts-integrated education can equip young people with communication, critical thinking, and conflict resolution skills.

We believe that creative self-expression is vital to the intellectual and emotional growth of all people.

We believe in both the creation of opportunities and infrastructures for the development of new work, and the presentation and preservation of existing artistic product.

We believe that active participation in philanthropy is not only essential to being a well-rounded citizen locally, but also critical to positive forward momentum in the peace process globally.

We believe in the cultivation of equitable social impact business development to ensure sustainable local and global community transformation. (With the community, by the community, for the community.)



# The Sounds of Healing Line-up

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## Opening Remarks:

Wendy Sternberg, MD – Genesis' Founder & Executive/Artistic Director

## Sounds of Healing:

### **L'CHA DODI**

- \* Composition and Arrangement - Aaron Bensoussan
- \* Performers - Saffron Caravan (Badi Assad, Aaron Bensoussan, and Javier Saume Mazzei)

### **I WILL NOT DANCE TO YOUR WAR DRUM**

- \* Composition & Arrangement – Badi Assad & 2016 Genesis Academy Summer Institute
- \* Performers – Badi Assad, Javier Saume Mazzei, Andrea Valentina Perez, Roheena Madni, Muhammad Faran, and Diego Madriz

### **ES TIEMPO DE SANAR**

- \* Lyrics - Andrea Valentina Perez and Roheena Madni
- \* Composition and Arrangement - Andrea Valentina Perez, Badi Assad, and Carlinhos Antunes
- \* Performers - Andrea Valentina Perez, Roheena Madni, Badi Assad, Javier Saume Mazzei, and Jack Zara
- \* Spoken Word - Diego Madriz, Muhammad Faran, Victor Angel Araque Rangel, Aaron Bensoussan, Javier Saume Mazzei, Haytham Safia, and Wendy Sternberg

### **A HOUSE CALLED TOMORROW**

- \* Poem by Alberto Alvaro Rios, PhD
- \* Recitation - Actor Stacy Keach
- \* Oud Improvisation - Haytham Safia

### **O BARCO DAQUI DE DENTRO**

- \* Lyrics, Composition, and Arrangement - Badi Assad
- \* Performers - Badi Assad, Haytham Safia, and Javier Saume Mazzei

### **HELD IN THE LIGHT**

- \* Poem by the late Mark C. Johnson, PhD
- \* Recitation - Wendy Sternberg, MD

# The Sounds of Healing Line-up (cont.)

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## **MOTHER**

- \* Lyrics - Diego Madriz, Roheena Madni, and Andrea Valentina Perez
- \* Composition & Arrangement - Badi Assad, Carlinhos Antunes, and Andrea Valentina Perez
- \* Performers - Diego Madriz, Roheena Madni, Andrea Valentina Perez, Safiyah Simpkins, Badi Assad, Javier Saume Mazzei and Jack Zara

## **MILLIONS OF HEARTS**

- \* Lyrics – Victor Angel Araque Rangel
- \* Composition & Arrangement – Victor Angel Araque Rangel, Badi Assad, and Carlinhos Antunes
- \* Performers – Victor Angel Araque Rangel, Badi Assad, Javier Saume Mazzei, and Jack Zara

## **RHYTHMS OF THE WORLD**

- \* Lyrics and Composition - Badi Assad and Jeff Young
- \* Arrangement - Badi Assad
- \* Performers - Saffron Caravan

## **HOUSE OF HEALING**

- \* Lyrics - Muhammad Faran
- \* Composition & Arrangement - Badi Assad and Carlinhos Antunes
- \* Performers - Muhammad Faran (Rebab), Roheena Madni, Badi Assad, Haytham Safia, Javier Saume Mazzei, Diego Madriz, Andrea Valentina Perez, Victor Angel Araque Rangel, and Jack Zara

## **CD Sales**

The Sounds of Healing CD is available online for sale. All proceeds from the Sounds of Healing CD sales help to support future Sounds of Healing programs and the Genesis Peace Hub's music and peacebuilding performances and educational initiatives.

(For sales and updates: [www.gatc.org](http://www.gatc.org))

Please consider an individual purchase or for your company or foundation's holiday and thank-you gifts.

# Genesis at the Crossroads & Our Legacy: The Genesis Peace Hub

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At the intersection of social justice, education, and the arts, Genesis at the Crossroads works to build peaceful communities that foster healing. Our non-profit organization fully recognizes that healing our fractured world is indeed a precondition for building peace anywhere and everywhere, locally, and globally.

We engage our audiences, participants, and artists with the arts, deepen that work through experiential education, and put it into community within a social justice framework. With 23 years of history since our founding in 1999, our cross-cultural collaborative performances and artistic presentations, educational, and humanitarian work creatively engage community members of all ages in a context of shared purpose. In this way, they become deeply involved with us for the betterment of their own surrounding communities.

Genesis at the Crossroads' peacebuilding programs, models, places, and spaces work together in an integrated fashion honoring diversity as our greatest asset. With a track record of over 150 programs to date, we have begun to institutionalize our model with our legacy piece, the Genesis Peace Hub. As a physical convener, it is mindfully designed to serve as an incubator, catalyst, and accelerator for creating peaceful communities nationally, and around the world. Sounds of Healing is the first program out of the Genesis Peace Hub.

The Genesis Peace Hub's virtual and in-person programs will add to our existing array of vibrant arts and cultural initiatives and educational offerings. This includes a Social Entrepreneurship Center to grow businesses aimed at re-imagining transformative solutions to remedy social justice issues - an economic engine for social good. The Genesis Peace Hub will also feature a teaching farm to innovate in the agricultural space as we source the needs of the Peace Hub itself and areas surrounding it. Its Sports and Social Change program, to be added in Phase 1B, will engage youth in active programs to augment leadership and teamwork alongside physical health and well-being. Our university partners will help Genesis study creativity and leadership on the Peace Hub to effect massive change at the policy level to support equitable funding that has the capacity to expand and scale this kind of work.

In the face of COVID's staggering impact and our work in 2021 helping to evacuate people from Afghanistan, including our 2016 Genesis Academy Summer Institute graduate and others, what has emerged is the need for a re-imagined Genesis Peace Hub writ large.

Though we have begun with the US, our current strategic plan includes opening a collaborating array of Genesis Peace Hubs on three other continents over the next three to seven years to fulfill this expanded vision. (Normandy, France; in residence at HTW Berlin, Germany; and Ghana are already in development with Oceania to follow.) As issues reverberate around the world, we have opportunities to learn so much from one another and combine our collective strength for global good.

We invite you to journey forward with Genesis at the Crossroads with passion and purpose towards an equitable planet that advocates for and shares prosperity and peace with all.

# Genesis At The Crossroads' History

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## Performance: The Birth of Hamsa-Fest, Saffron Caravan & The Arts

Created in 1999, Genesis at the Crossroads made history by creating Chicago's first cross-cultural Middle Eastern-North African (ME-NA) performing arts program in 2000, 2001 and 2003 followed by Chicago's and the US' first cross-cultural ME-NA outdoor festival in 2004, 2005 and 2007. In 2004 & 2005 Genesis took our cross-cultural Moroccan, Israeli and Israeli-Palestinian Geshar-Jisr Building Bridges performances, respectively to The Kennedy Center in DC, NYC, and LA. The latter performance was showcased at the United Nation's 60th Anniversary celebration.

Founded in 2007, Saffron Caravan, our professional world music ensemble exemplifies Genesis work of arts diplomacy by uniting artists from Iran, Afghanistan, Cuba, Morocco, India, the Middle East, Europe, Brazil, Venezuela, and the US for cross-cultural collaborative performances, music education, and roundtables on music and peacebuilding. Their 2011 multi-city tour of Israel/Palestine included five performances and over 1500 student-hours of music education, including the Bedouin youth in the Negev. (The nucleus of a Junior Saffron Caravan Ensemble was created in 2011.)

Continuing our international Universal Love tour in Bosnia, Saffron Caravan performed and held music education classes in Bosnia in 2015, the 20th anniversary year of the genocide in the former Yugoslavia and across the US, (Chicago & DC) ending as the Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, Art of Peace global conference's opening performance (included roundtables). In 2017-19 their extended artist-in-residencies impacted over 1000 youth including at-risk Chicago Public School (CPS) and refugee youth. The 2018 world premiere of Journeys showcased interdisciplinary work with refugee youth dancers. In 2019, they performed in conjunction with the Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Forum on Global Cities at Chicago's historic Mayne Stage; the program at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History was featured as part of WBEZ Worldview's 25th Anniversary. (WBEZ is Chicago's local NPR station.)

Begun in 2020 as the first program out of the Genesis Peace Hub, Sounds of Healing, our participatory development musical experience focuses on arts, trauma, and healing. We pivoted to deliver it initially in 2020 on a virtual platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic and had the World Premiere live, in-person at Chicago's Adler Planetarium in June 2022. (Please see below for details.)

## The Human Component- Reaching The World

Arm Them with Instruments, Genesis' current humanitarian initiative brings gently used instruments to children living through conflict and pairs them with local conservatories and musicians for subsidized music education. A large quantity of instruments is being directed to Chicago's at-risk and refugee youth. Genesis has forged community partnerships with local and international schools and conservatories in Morocco, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Latin America, and the United States.

# Genesis At The Crossroads' History (cont.)

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One Peace at a Time Children's Peace Quilt Workshops/Exhibitions enabled 400+ Chicago-area / 150+ LA children to design quilts with their images for world peace for Iraqi children abroad. It was featured in an extended exhibition at the Chicago Children's Museum and at LA's Museum of Tolerance. Our earlier Iraqi Plastics Art Gallery Exhibition was created and configured as a social impact silent auction to benefit the cooperative of Baghdadi visual artists.

## Educational Initiatives

Genesis' Love the Questions, inquiry-based salon programs examine the intersection of human rights/development and the role of the arts to help shape and inform a humanistic society. An annual one focuses on women's leadership to shape the 21st century.

Genesis has over twenty years of Art of Peace arts-education programs exploring personal and cultural identity through narration, script writing, and performance and a Chicago Children's Humanities Festival commission promoting cross-cultural understanding. Components of this work were also utilized for university and MBA programs for the same purpose.

Pre-COVID, Genesis worked on developing an academically rigorous boarding high school, The Genesis Academy for Global Leadership nested in the middle of a campus peace hub to capacity build young peacebuilders. Begun in 2015 as its proof-of-concept, the Chicago-based Genesis Academy Summer Institute continues to educate students from conflict and post-conflict regions in Heroes and Human Rights, Music and Peacebuilding, Environmental Sustainability, and Peace Journalism. In four years, Genesis quintupled its applicant pool for this annual program, and is currently drawing next-generation talent from 34 countries as well as refugee and Native communities, (Standing Rock's Sioux Tribe and New Mexico's Pueblo community). This program enabled us to expand the Genesis ecosystem to well over 65 community partnerships that we have linked to the Genesis Peace Hub. In this way, the Genesis Peace Hub can function like a tech hub, only for peacebuilding.

Though COVID rendered the boarding school untenable, The Genesis Peace Hub offers ample opportunities for our educational, vocational, and leadership training initiatives.

For further details, please see the expanded timeline at [www.gatc.org](http://www.gatc.org)

# Sounds Of Healing

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Our musical experience focused on arts, trauma, and healing was re-tooled from our 2006 Art of Healing program to open up space for dialogue for and about healing of all kinds at the individual and collective levels, and also that which is needed for our planet. Saffron Caravan professional artists and Genesis Academy Summer Institute graduates collaboratively created original lyrics and music for the program. It shares the behind-the-scenes process as it traces the narrative of 37 people representing Chicago/US and 16 other countries during the pandemic working together across all divides, including culture, race, ethnicity, religion, language, and geography to create music and explore healing for both themselves, and their communities.

The world premiere, presented virtually in December 2020, and re-broadcast in May 2021, reached thousands around the world in over 33 countries. To put healing into the universe, the live, in-person world premiere was held at Chicago's Adler Planetarium in June 2022 with another program in Jackson Park, Chicago for at-risk, refugee, and Native youth. The programs continue throughout the US and the world with this one today on Capitol Hill in Washington, DC for the US Congress, and another tomorrow in Chicago. Multi-segmented, post-performance roundtables conducted live with the artists in intimate sized groups deepen both the conversations for healing and the entire experience. Programs will take place in Mauritius, Africa in Dec. 2023 and in Berlin, Germany and Normandy, France in June 2024, the latter for the 80th Anniversary D-Day celebrations. Our year-long program brings together and engages Chicago and other American youth across the socioeconomic spectrum to explore collaboratively healing people, our communities, and our physical planet.

## The Lyrics Competition

All performance attendees and roundtable participants are allowed to enter our lyrics competition, so we can continue an independent, creative writing process centered on healing. Genesis will format the best 30-50 submissions into a digital and printed Sounds of Healing Songbook. The top three submissions will be transformed into songs that are performed at future live, in-person Sounds of Healing performances and the winners will take home professional equipment to record more of their creations.

## Sounds Of Healing Artists

Sounds of Healing is a collaboration between Saffron Caravan with Genesis Academy Summer Institute graduates and other guest artists.

Saffron Caravan, Genesis' professional world music ensemble exemplifies our work of arts diplomacy by uniting artists from Iran, Afghanistan, Cuba, Morocco, India, the Middle East, Europe, Brazil, Venezuela, and the US for cross-cultural collaborative performances, music education, and roundtables on music and peacebuilding.



# Sounds Of Healing (cont.)

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## **Saffron Caravan:**

- \* Badi Assad - Vocals & Guitar (Lebanese-Brazilian)
- \* Aaron Bensoussan - Vocals & Oud (Moroccan)
- \* Haytham Safia - Oud (Middle Eastern-European)
- \* Javier Saume Mazzei - Percussion (Venezuelan)
- \* Wendy Sternberg, MD - Founder & Artistic Director (Chicago, USA)

## **Genesis Academy Summer Institute Graduates:**

- \* Victor Angel Araque Rangel - Colombia, 2016
- \* Muhammad Faran - Pakistan, 2016
- \* Roheena Madni - Pakistan, 2015
- \* Diego Madriz - Venezuela, 2018
- \* Andrea Valentina Perez - Venezuela, 2018
- \* Safiyah Simpkins - USA (Chicago), 2019
- \* Patrick Reponse - DR Congo/USA (Chicago), 2018
- \* Azar - Afghanistan, 2016

## **Guest Artists:**

- \* Katherine Davis - Vocals (Chicago, USA)
- \* Tony Milano - Keyboard (Chicago, USA)
- \* Wes Dziedzic - Keyboard (Chicago, USA)

## **Poets:**

- \* Alberto Alvaro Rios, PhD - New Mexico/USA
- \* Mark C. Johnson, PhD - California/USA

## **Sounds of Healing Production Team:**

- \* Carlinhos Antunes - Musical Arrangement; Musician (Brazil)
- \* Felipe Jr - Visual Arts Producer & Director (Brazil)
- \* Vitor Loureiro - Sound Engineer (Brazil)
- \* Badi Assad - Musical Director & Musician (Brazil)
- \* Wendy Sternberg, MD - Founder & Executive/Artistic Director (Chicago/USA)
- \* Shuling Yong, Filmmaker - Media for Social Change (Singapore/USA)

## **Other Musicians/Performers:**

- \* Beto Angerosa - Percussion (Brazil)
- \* Rui Barossi - Bass; Sound engineering collaboration (Brazil)



Please scan this QR code for  
Sounds of Healing artist and production team  
biographies

# With Gratitude

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BCLP Law - Phillip Bartz, Brian Sher, Mark Paskar, Brent Vincent, and Steve Trubac

SHURE - Christine Schyvinck, Dane Roth, Cheryl Jennison-DaProza, Dean Giavaras, Adam Beck, Davida Rochman, and the late Mark Brunner

Anonymous

JLW Instruments - Wayne Fetman

North x South – Stephy Miehle, Robert McFadzean

Inspired Nation – Kara DioGuardi

DC Internationals – Ross Kaplan

Congressman Mike Quigley

Kathleen Nelson

LCA - Jan Feldman

Jonathan Smith

AbbVie - Shawn Parker

PCW- Rafael Smeyers

Dr. Frederick Marshall

John B. Lazar Heaven-on-Earth Trust

The ARVD Foundation - Susan Dolan

Drs. Gunnbjorg Lavoll and Robert Edger

Congressman Joe DioGuardi

Dr. Nina Taft and Misha Weidman

## **Individual VIP Sponsors**

Graham Grady, Esq

Charles Strong

## **The Performers, Composers, Arrangers, Poets, and Producers (as above)**

\* Sounds of Healing/Saffron Caravan Artists

\* Youth Artists / Genesis Academy Summer Institute Graduates

\* Guest Artists & Poets

\* Sounds of Healing Production Team

## With Gratitude (cont.)

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Jean AbiNader

Penny Brown

Larry Lifson

Mo Bah

Paul Marcone

Darra Brim Mims

Senator John Hickenlooper

Senator Michael Bennet

Congresswoman Diana DeGette

Congresswoman Robin Kelly, John Moore,  
and Tony Presta

Potomac Sound - Andy Roberts

Center for Inclusive Policy - Dan Mont

Institute of Public Health

National Institute of Mental Health

Jack Flynn

The Normandy Hotel

Aslan Child Rescue Ministries -  
John Ramey

IXM Corporation – Max Acchione

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Economically Disadvantaged Woman Owned Small Business (EDWOSB)



Building peaceful communities at the intersection of social justice, education, and the arts to foster healing since 1999.

The Genesis Peace Hub, our physical legacy, will convene, incubate, catalyze, and accelerate all of our work in peacebuilding and healing. It will enable us to grow our social impact business development and scale our artistic/cultural and innovative education initiatives locally and globally.

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**Lead-Sponsors:**



***Anonymous***

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**Co-Sponsors:**



**DC Internationals  
MESALI**

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**Supporters:**

**Congressman Mike Quigley  
(5th Congressional District of Illinois)**

**The Normandy Hotel**

**#AmplifySoundsOfHealing**