

"...these fruitless strifes,  
these ruinous wars shall pass away,  
and the most

*great peace*

shall come" - Baha'i writings

PEACE  
PLANET DREAMS

Proudly presented by the Baha'i community of Adelaide

The Baha'i Faith celebrates the unity and diversity of the human family,  
the essential harmony of all religions and the oneness of the Universal Creator

Web: [www.bahai.org.au](http://www.bahai.org.au)  
E-mail: [adelaide@sa.bahai.org.au](mailto:adelaide@sa.bahai.org.au)  
Phone: 8267 4407 / 0434 094170

This program is dedicated to United Nations  
"International Day of Peace" (September 21st)

## *Opening Music*

# PEACE: PLANET DREAMS

O Lord God! Make us as waves of the sea, as flowers of the garden, united, agreed through the bounties of Thy love. O Lord! Dilate the breasts through the signs of Thy oneness, and make all mankind as stars shining from the same height of glory, as perfect fruits growing upon Thy tree of life. Verily, Thou art the Almighty, the Self-Subsistent, the Giver, the Forgiving, the Pardonner, the Omniscient, the One Creator.

–*Abdu'l-Baha, from the Baha'i writings*

In today's highly interdependent world, individuals and nations can no longer resolve many of their problems by themselves. We need one another. We must therefore develop a sense of universal responsibility . . . It is our collective and individual responsibility to protect and nurture the global family, to support its weaker members, and to preserve and tend to the environment in which we all live.

– *The Dalai Lama*

I've been lying in bed all morning playing with our 18-month old moppet who is laughing at me; her world is a new and exciting place. I watch her in the garden chasing butterflies, eating flowers. She holds no fears. She does not know the injustices of the world we brought her into. Nor does she know that somewhere there are powerful men who would kill her without batting an eyelid, in the name of peace. And how can I explain it to her, sensibly, when it makes no sense to me.

– *Ralph C Marks*

Several hundred amputees of the war live in a refugee camp in the capital city, Freetown. I went there with a colleague to speak with them, and many told us they were ready to forgive. When we asked about the amnesty written into the new peace accord, they said, "Well, you know, we're not entirely happy with the amnesty, but if that's what's necessary for peace, then we support it." When we asked about their ability to forgive after such horrendous atrocities, they pointed out that many of the perpetrators were their own relatives forced into the war. "These are our brothers and our cousins," one man said. "We want them to come home." I was still skeptical until another man said, "You know, just yesterday, one of the rebels came into the camp, and he told us what he had done, and we all talked about it, and at the end of the conversation, I took the shirt off my own back and gave it to him as a gift of acknowledgment."

– *From an interview with Priscilla Hayner*

## *Musical Reflection*

# INSPIRATION

It is not enough to say we must not wage war. It is necessary to love peace and sacrifice for it. We must concentrate not merely on the negative expulsion of war, but on the positive affirmation of peace. In short, we must shift the arms race into the peace race.

Some years ago a novelist died. Among his papers was found a list of suggested plots for further stories, the most prominently underscored being this one:

A widely separated family inherits a house in which they have to live together. This is a great new problem of mankind. We have inherited a big house, a great world house in which we have to live together, black men and white men, easterners and westerners, gentiles and Jews, Catholics and Protestants, Muslims and Hindus. A family unduly separated in ideas, culture, and interest, who, because we can never again live without each other, must learn somehow, in this one big world house, to live with each other.

And this is our great challenge. This means that more and more, our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. We must now give an overriding loyalty to mankind as a whole in order to preserve the best in our individual societies. This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one's tribe, race, class and nation is in reality a call for an all embracing, an unconditional love for all men. I'm not speaking of some sentimental and weak response which is little more than emotional bosh. I'm speaking of that force which all of the great religions have seen as a supreme unifying principle of life.

– *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

When our darkness is repelled by the light of the soul, the Truth is manifested, splendid and clear, as if the Sun of Wisdom had ascended to shed Its rays at dawn . . . The world is overcome by such as fix their faith on Unity. The perfect Creator dwells in Unity and they in the Creator.

– *Bhagavad Gita, from the Hindu writings*

Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets.”

– *Matthew, from the Christian writings*

O God, thou art peace. From thee is peace and unto thee is peace. Let us live, our Lord, in peace and receive us in thy paradise, the abode of peace. Thine is the majesty and the praise. We hear and obey. Grant us thy forgiveness, Lord and unto thee be our becoming.

– *Prayer at the close of Salat, from the Islamic writings*

Just as with her own life a mother shields from hurt her own, her only child, let all-embracing thoughts for all that live be thine – an all-embracing love for all the universe, in all its heights and depths and breadth, unstinted love, unmarred by hate within, not rousing enmity.

– *Sutta-nipata, from the Buddhist writings*

Peace comes within the souls of men when they realize their relationship, their oneness, with the universe with all its powers, and when they realize that at the centre of the Universe dwells Wakan Tanka, and that this centre is really everywhere, it is within each of us.

– *Native American tradition: Black Elk*

Consider the flowers of a garden: though differing in kind, colour, form and shape, yet, inasmuch as they are refreshed by the waters of one spring, revived by the breath of one wind, invigorated by the rays of one sun, this diversity increaseth their charm, and addeth unto their beauty. Thus when that unifying force, the penetrating influence of the Word of God, taketh effect, the difference of customs, manners, habits, ideas, opinions and dispositions embellisheth the world of humanity.

– *Abdu'l-Baha, from the Baha'i writings*

“Tell me the weight of a snowflake,” a robin asked a wild dove.

“Nothing more than nothing,” was the answer.

“In that case I must tell you a story,” the robin said.

“I sat on the branch of a fir, close to its trunk, when it began to snow-not heavily, not in a raging blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn’t have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch-nothing more than nothing, as you say-the branch broke off.” Having said that the robin flew away.

The dove, since Noah’s time an authority on the matter, thought about the story for a while and finally said to herself: “Perhaps there is only one person’s voice lacking for peace to come in the world.”

## *Musical Reflection*

# PEACE TAPESTRY

World peace is not only possible, but inevitable. It is the next stage in the evolution of the planet. The Baha’i Faith regards the current world confusion and calamitous condition in human affairs as a natural phase in an organic process leading ultimately and irresistibly to the unification of the human race.

Whether peace is to be reached only after unimaginable horrors or is to be embraced now by an act of consultative will, is the choice before all who inhabit the earth.

That materialistic ideals have failed to satisfy the needs of mankind calls for an honest acknowledgment that a fresh effort must now be made to find the solutions to the agonizing problems of the planet.

Banning nuclear weapons, prohibiting the use of poison gases, or outlawing germ warfare will not remove the root causes of war. People are ingenious enough to invent yet other forms of warfare and to use food, raw materials, finance, industrial power, ideology and terrorism to subvert one another in an endless quest for supremacy and dominion.

The abolition of war is a complex task requiring a new level of commitment to resolving issues not customarily associated with the pursuit of peace.

Racism, one of the most baneful and persistent evils, is a major barrier to peace. It retards the unfoldment of the boundless potentialities of its victims, corrupts its perpetrators and blights human progress.

The emancipation of women, the achievement of full equality between the sexes, is one of the most important prerequisites of peace. There are no grounds, moral, practical, or biological, upon which denial of equality can be justified.

The inordinate disparity between rich and poor keeps the world in a state of instability.

Acceptance of the oneness of mankind is the first fundamental prerequisite for reorganization and administration of the world as one country, the home of humankind.

No serious attempt to set human affairs aright, to achieve world peace, can ignore religion. "Religion is the greatest of all means for the establishment of order in the world and for the peaceful contentment of all that dwell therein." Had humanity seen the Educators of its collective childhood in their true character, as agents of one civilizing process, it would no doubt have reaped incalculably greater benefits from the cumulative effects of their successive missions.

Will humanity continue in its waywardness, holding to outworn concepts and unworkable assumptions? Or will its leaders, regardless of ideology, step forth and, with resolute will consult together in a united search for appropriate solutions?

All the forces of history impel the human race towards this act which will mark for all time the dawn of its long-awaited maturity. Let women, youth and children everywhere lift up their voices in willing assent.

"These fruitless strifes, these ruinous wars shall pass away, and the 'Most Great Peace' shall come".

– woven from 'The Peace Message', 1986, from the Baha'i writings

## *Musical Reflection*

# NO FRAMES NO BOUNDARIES

BUT UP THERE you go around every hour and a half, time after time after time. You wake up usually in the mornings, over the Middle East and over North Africa. As you eat breakfast you look out the window and there's the Mediterranean area, Greece and Rome and North Africa and the Sinai, that whole area. And you realize that in one glance what you're seeing is what was the whole history of humankind for years - the cradle of civilization. And you go down across North Africa and out over the Indian Ocean and you look up at that great subcontinent of India, Ceylon off to the side, then Burma, Southeast Asia, out over the Philippines and up across that monstrous Pacific Ocean, that vast body of water - you've never realized how big that is before. And you finally come up across the coast of California, and you look for those friendly things, Los Angeles and Phoenix, and on across to El Paso. And there's Houston, there's home, you know, and you look out, and you identify with it... And you go out across the Atlantic Ocean and back across Africa, and you do it again and again and again... And it all becomes friendly to you.

YOU LOOK DOWN there and you can't imagine how many borders and boundaries you cross, again and again and again, and you don't even see them. There you are - hundreds of people in the Middle East killing each other over some imaginary line that you're not even aware of, that you can't see. And from where you see it, the thing is a whole, the earth is a whole, and it's so beautiful. You wish you could take a person in each hand, one from each side in the various conflicts, and say, "Look. Look at it from this perspective. Look at that. What's important?"

AND YOU REALIZE that on that small spot, that little blue and white thing, is everything that means anything to you - all love, tears, joy, games, all of it on that little spot out there.

YOU LOOK DOWN and see the surface of that globe you've lived on all this time, and you know all those people down there and they are like you, they are you - and somehow you represent them...And that becomes a rather special responsibility and it tells you something about your relationship with this thing we call life.

And that's a change. That's something new. And when you come back there's a difference in that world now. There's a difference in that relationship between you and that planet, and you and all those other forms of life on that planet, because you've had that kind of experience. It's a difference and it's so precious.

– *Russell Schweickart, Astronaut*

No man is an island, entire of itself;  
every man is a piece of the continent,  
a part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less,  
as well as if a promontory were,  
as well as if a manor of thy friend's  
or of thine own were:  
any man's death diminishes me,  
because I am involved in mankind.  
and therefore never send to know  
for whom the bell tolls  
It tolls for thee.

– *John Donne*

The person who doesn't fit in with our notions of who is worthy of our love—the bag lady at the corner, the strange old man who rides through town on a three-wheel bike all strung up with flags—is just the person who, by not fitting into our patterns, insists that we expand not only our views but also our capacity to love. Today, see if you can stretch your heart and expand your love so that it touches not only those to whom you can give it easily, but also to those who need it so much.

– *Daphne Rose Kingman*

O Children of Men!

Know ye not why We created you all from the same dust? That no one should exalt himself over the other. Ponder at all times in your hearts how ye were created. Since We have created you all from one same substance it is incumbent on you to be even as one soul, to walk with the same feet, eat with the same mouth and dwell in the same land, that from your inmost being, by your deeds and actions, the signs of oneness and the essence of detachment may be manifest. Such is my counsel to you, O concourse of light! Heed ye this counsel that ye may obtain the fruit of holiness from the tree of wondrous glory.

*—Bahá'u'lláh, from the Bahá'í writings*

*Musical Finale*

*join us* for the next program

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of every month**  
**Sunday October 19th, 11am**  
*Radford Auditorium,*  
*Art Gallery of South Australia*