



*The Indelible
Future*

PROGRAM

OPENING MUSIC

~ Chakrinri, Sanscrit chant

WITHOUT BEGINNING

~ *from the Bahá'í Writings*

~ *from the Old Testament*

~ *African stories*

~ *Aboriginal Dreaming*

MUSIC

~ Alain Valodoze, guitarist

ORIGINS

~ *from the Bahá'í Writings*

~ *from Jewish Writings*

~ *from Sikh writings*

~ *from Zoroastrian writings*

MUSIC

~ Delia, singer and guitarist

LOVE

- ~ Native American *Iroquois Prayer*
- ~ *Alfred Lord Tennyson*
- ~ *Omar Khayyam*
- ~ *Islam Abul Bakr*
- ~ *'from the Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ *Egyptian 350 BC*
- ~ *An Indian Story*

MUSIC

- ~ Alex Permezel, violinist

PEACE

- ~ *from the Bahá'í Writings*
- ~ *J. A. Mclean, Under the Divine Lote Tree*
- ~ *from the Bible*
- ~ *Henri F. Amiel, Journal*
- ~ *'Abdu'l-Baha, from the Bahá'í Writings*

MUSICAL FINALE

- ~ Alain Valodoze, guitarist

OPENING MUSIC

**Chakrinri,
Sanskrit chant**

Without Beginning
“I am that I am”

We declare that Love is the cause of the existence of all phenomena and the absence of love is the cause of disintegration or non-existence. Love is the conscious bestowal of God, the bond of affiliation in all phenomena.

‘Abdu’l-Baha, from the Bahá’í Writings

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. . . .

And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament: and it was so. And God called the firmament Heaven. . .

And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good.

And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.

And the earth brought forth grass and herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his kind: and God saw that it was good. . .

From the Old Testament

African Bantu Creation Stories

In the beginning there was only darkness, water, and the great god Bumba. One day Bumba, in pain from a stomach ache, vomited up the sun. The sun dried up some of the water, leaving land. Still in pain, Bumba vomited up the moon, the stars, and then some animals: the leopard, the crocodile, the turtle, and, finally, some men, one of whom, Yoko Lima was white like Bumba.

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In the beginning there was nothing but Nzame. This god is really three: Nzame, Mebere, and Nkwa. It was the Nzame part of the god that created the universe and the earth, and brought life to it. While the three parts of Nzame were admiring this creation, it was decided to create a ruler for the earth. So was created the elephant, the leopard, and the monkey, but it was decided that something better had to be created. Between the three of them they made a new creature in their image, and called him Fam (power), and told him to rule the earth. Before long, Fam grew arrogant, he mistreated the animals and stopped worshipping Nzame. Nzame, angered, brought forth thunder and lightning and destroyed everything that was, except Fam, who had been promised immortality. Nzame, in his three aspects, decided to renew the earth and try again. He applied a new layer of earth to the planet, and a tree grew upon it. The tree dropped seeds which grew into more trees. Leaves that dropped from them into the water became fish, those that dropped on land became animals. The old parched earth still lies below this new one, and if one digs deep enough it can be found in the form of coal. Nzame made a new man, one who would know death, and called him Sekume. Sekume fashioned a woman, Mbongwe, from a tree. These people were made with both Gnoul (body) and Nissim (soul). Nissim gives life to Gnoul. When Gnoul dies, Nissim lives on.

Aboriginal Creation Dreaming

In the beginning the earth was a bare plain. All was dark. There was no life, no death. The sun, the moon, and the stars slept beneath the earth. All the eternal ancestors slept there, too, until at last they woke themselves out of their own eternity and broke through to the surface.

When the eternal ancestors arose, in the Dreamtime, they wandered the earth, sometimes in animal form -- as kangaroos, or emus, or lizards -- sometimes in human shape, sometimes part animal and human, sometimes as part human and plant.

Two such beings, self-created out of nothing, were the Ungambikula. Wandering the world, they found half-made human beings. They were made of animals and plants, but were shapeless bundles, lying higgledy-piggledy, near where water holes and salt lakes could be created. The people were all doubled over into balls, vague and unfinished, without limbs or features.

With their great stone knives, the Ungambikula carved heads, bodies, legs, and arms out of the bundles. They made the faces, and the hands and feet. At last the human beings were finished.

Thus every man and woman was transformed from nature and owes allegiance to the totem of the animal or the plant that made the bundle they were created from -- such as the plum tree, the grass seed, the large and small lizards, the parakeet, or the rat.

This work done, the ancestors went back to sleep. Some of them returned to underground homes, others became rocks and trees. The trails the ancestors walked in the Dreamtime are holy trails. Everywhere the ancestors went, they left sacred traces of their presence -- a rock, a waterhole, a tree.

For the Dreamtime does not merely lie in the distant past, the Dreamtime is the eternal Now. Between heartbeat and heartbeat, the Dreamtime can come again.

MUSIC

Alain Valodoze, guitarist

Origins

*“The heart benevolent and kind, the most resembles
God”*

Robert Burns

Before the soul is given residence in the body of a
child
about to be born, the kernel of the body is brought to
the

Heavenly Tribunal, where it receives its fate:
whether the child will enjoy riches or poverty;
whether it be male or female, heroic or cowardly,
tall or short, handsome or homely, fat or thin,
respected or ignored.

One thing, however, is not subject to predestination,
namely whether the child will be good or bad,
since it must have freedom of will.

A soul is given residence despite any protestations
in the body to be born. It is given over to an angel
who endows it with the capacity of learning the whole
Torah,

and of performing all the Mitzwot.

It is taken to Paradise, and the angel says
“These were souls with bodies like yours,
and because they did well in life,
they are now enjoying their reward.”

Next it is taken to Gehenna, and the angel declares:

“These were like you, and they did evil.
Do not imitate them.”

Then the soul is returned to the womb.

Judaism Tantuma to Tazria

THE UNIVERSE IS WITHOUT BEGINNING

Know that it is one of the most abstruse spiritual truths that the world of existence—that is to say, this endless universe—has no beginning.

The names and attributes of the Divinity themselves require the existence of beings. . . . Therefore, as the Essence of Unity (that is, the existence of God) is everlasting and eternal—that is to say, it has neither beginning nor end—it is certain that this world of existence, this endless universe, has neither beginning nor end. Yes, it may be that one of the parts of the universe, one of the globes, for example, may come into existence, or may be disintegrated, but the other endless globes are still existing; the universe would not be disordered nor destroyed. On the contrary, existence is eternal and perpetual.

Baha'u'llah, from the Bahá'í Writings

Know thou of certainty that love is the secret of God's holy dispensation, the manifestation of the All-Merciful, the fountain of spiritual outpourings. Love is heaven's kindly light, the Holy Spirit's eternal breath that vivifieth the human soul. Love is the cause of God's revelation unto man, the vital bond inherent, in accordance with the divine creation, in the realities of things. Love is the one means that ensureth true felicity both in this world and the next. Love is the light that guideth in darkness, the living link that uniteth God with man that assureth the progress of every illumined soul. Love is the most great law that ruleth this mighty and heavenly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power the mysteries latent in the universe. Love is the spirit of life unto the adorned body of mankind, the establisher of true civilization in this mortal world and the shedder of imperishable glory upon every high-aiming race and nation.

'Abdu'l-Baha' i, *from the Bahá'í Writings*

By the Grace of the One, Supreme Being, The Eternal,
The All-pervading, Parusha The Creator, Without Fear,
Without Hate,
The Being Beyond Time, Non-incarnated,
Self-existent,
The Enlightener.

I Cherish the Lord's Name in my mind,
And meditate on it by good Fortune.
The perfect Guru has attained Perfection in the Lord's
Name.
(But) rare is the one who walks in the Guru's Way.
I have gathered the fare of the Lord's Name for my
journey
in the (Yond).
It is the life of my life and keeps me company for ever.
The Perfect Guru has made me Wise in the Lord's
Name;
And its eternal Treasure remains for ever with me.
My Lord is my Friend, my Beloved, my King.
Who would take me to my Lord and give me a new
life?
I cannot be without Seeing my Love, and my eyes are
welling up with tears.
Since my childhood, the True Guru is my only Friend.
I cannot Be without him.
O Lord, be Merciful, and take me to the Guru that from
him
Nanak gathers Thy Name.

Sikh writings from the Sri Guru Granth Sahib,

Has my soul strength over anyone for help? Who is found as protector for my cattle, who for myself, but Truth and Thee, Lord Mazda, and Best Purpose, my invocation having been heard?

Truly, praising, I shall worship You all, O Mazda with Truth and Best Purpose and Power

Truly, I shall harness for You the swiftest steeds,strong through good purpose, with which, O Mazda, You, together with Truth shall drive hither, shall be ready for my help.

With hands outstretched, O Mazda I shall serve You all with the famed footsteps of Sacrificial Offering, truly (I shall serve) You all with truth and a faithful man's reverence, with the skillfulness of good purpose.

Praising, I shall approach You with these sacrifices, O Mazda and Truth, with acts of good purpose....

Truly, I shall vow myself and be, O Mazda, as long as I have force and strength, O Truth! May the Creator of life accomplish through Good Purpose the true fulfillment of what is most wonderful (frasha), according to wish.

Zoroastrianism readings from the Gathas

MUSIC

Delia
singer and guitarist

Love

*“All you need is Love . . . Love, All you really need is
Love”*

We return thanks to our mother,
the earth, which sustains us.
We return thanks to the rivers and streams,
which supply us with water.
We return thanks to all herbs,
which furnish medicines for the cure of our diseases.
We return thanks to the corn,
and to her sisters,
the beans and squashes,
which give us life.
We return thanks to the bushes and trees,
which provide us with fruit.
We return thanks to the wind,
which, moving the air,
has banished diseases.
We return thanks to the moon and stars,
which give us their light when the sun has gone.
We return thanks to our grandfather,
He'no,
that he has protected his grandchildren
from witches and reptiles,
and has given to us his rain.
We return thanks to the sun,
that he has looked upon earth with a beneficent eye.
Lastly,
we return thanks to the Great Spirit,
in whom is embodied all goodness,
and who directs all things for the good of his children.

Native American Iroquois Prayer

I am a part of all that I have met;
yet all experience is an arch where thro'
gleams that untravelled world, whose
margin fades
for ever and for ever when I Move.

Alfred Lord Tennyson

Ah, Love! Could thou and I with Fate conspire
to grasp this sorry scheme of things entire,
would not we shatter it to bits – and then
re-mould it nearer to the heart's desire?

Ah, Moon of my Delight who knowest no wane,
the Moon of Heav'n is rising once again:
how oft hereafter rising shall she look
through this same Garden after me – in vain!

Omar Khayyam

I THANK YOU, Lord for knowing me better than I
know myself, and for letting me know myself better
than others know me. Make me, I pray to You, better
than they suppose, and forgive me for what they do not
know.

Islam: *Abu Bakr*

Be happy! Be happy!
The Sun of Truth has Shone!
Be happy! Be happy!
The Light of the Spirit has surrounded the world!
Be happy! Be happy!
The doors of the Kingdom are opened!
Be happy! Be happy!
The song of the Supreme Concourse is raised!
Be happy! Be happy!
The breaths of the Holy Spirit are life-giving
and the world of man is being quickened.

Abdu'l-Baha from the Baha'i Writings

You are the one God,
shining forth from your possible incarnations
as Aten, the Living Sun,
Revealed like a king in glory, risen in light,
now distant, now bending nearby.
You create the numberless things of this world
from yourself, who are the One alone -
cities, towns, fields, the roadway, the River;
And each eye looks back and beholds you
to learn from the day's light perfection.
O God, you are in the Sun-disk of Day,
Over-Seer of all creation
-your legacy
passed on to all who shall ever be;
For you fashioned their sight,
who perceive your universe,
that they praise with one voice
all your labours.

Attributed to Akhenaten ~ 350 BC

Love and Time

Once upon a time, there was an island where all the feelings lived: Happiness, Sadness, Knowledge, and all of the others, including Love. One day it was announced to the feelings that the island would sink, so all constructed boats and left. Except for Love.

Love was the only one who stayed. Love wanted to hold out until the last possible moment. When the island had almost sunk, Love decided to ask for help.

Richness was passing by Love in a grand boat. Love said, "Richness, can you take me with you?" Richness answered, "No, I can't. There is a lot of gold and silver in my boat. There is no place here for you."

Love decided to ask Vanity who was also passing by in a beautiful vessel. "Vanity, please help me!" "I can't help you, Love. You are all wet and might damage my boat," Vanity answered.

Sadness was close by so Love asked, "Sadness, let me go with you." "Oh . . . Love, I am so sad that I need to be by myself!" Happiness passed by Love, too, but she was so happy that she did not even hear when Love called her.

Suddenly, there was a voice, "Come, Love, I will take you." It was an elder. So blessed and overjoyed, Love even forgot to ask the elder where they were going. When they arrived at dry land, the elder went her own way. Realizing how much was owed the elder, Love asked Knowledge, another elder, "Who Helped me?"

"It was Time," Knowledge answered.

"Time?" asked Love. "But why did Time help me?"

Knowledge smiled with deep wisdom and answered, "Because only Time is capable of understanding how valuable Love is."

An Indian Story

MUSIC

Alex Permezel
violinist

Peace

Conquer anger by love.

Buddhism

Ferocity and savagery are natural to animals, but men should show forth the qualities of love and affection. God sent all his Prophets into the world with one aim, to sow in the hearts of men love and good will, and for this great purpose they were willing to suffer and to die. All the sacred Books were written to lead and direct man into ways of love and unity; and yet in spite of all this, we have the sad spectacle of war and bloodshed in our midst.

When we look in the pages of history, past and present, we see the black earth reddened by human blood. Men kill each other like the savage wolves, and forget the laws of love and tolerance.

Now this luminous age has come, bringing with it wonderful civilization and material progress. Men's intellects have widened, their perceptions grown but alas, in spite of all this, fresh blood is being spilt day by day.....

This all shows that material progress alone does not tend to uplift man. On the contrary, the more he becomes immersed in material progress, the more does his spirituality become obscured.

I want to make you understand that material progress and spiritual progress are two very different things, and that only if material progress goes hand in hand with spirituality can any real progress come about, and the Most Great Peace reign in the world. If men followed the Holy Counsels and Teachings of the Prophets, if Divine Light shone in all hearts and men were really religious, we should see peace on earth and the Kingdom of God among men. The laws of God may be likened unto the soul and material progress unto the body. If the body was not animated by the soul, it would cease to exist. It is my earnest prayer that spirituality may ever grow and increase in the world, so that customs may become enlightened and peace and concord may be established.....

Oh, peoples and nations! Arise and work and be happy! Gather under the tent of the unity of mankind!

‘Abdu-l Baha, from the Bahá’í Writings

We can still celebrate the world today in spite of its dire threat to human happiness. The Bahá'í Faith, as is true of the other great religions, calls for a rejection of the world. But in doing so, it defines the 'world' only as anything which prevents us from loving God. Following this definition, the world actually enables us to love God more completely through a deeper appreciation of His many beautiful names and attributes revealed in all of creation.

We can still celebrate the world today by celebrating ourselves. We can rejoice in the realization that there is still much left in the soul to be loved and because wherever we are in our spiritual journey, we have been able to endure our lives up to this moment and because we are still here learning to live and to love, to understand, to suffer and to forgive, to work and to praise—with this end in mind: that we might make a difference in the world and become a cause of healing.

We can still celebrate the world today by admiring the soul beauty in others. A myriad faces of joy are still to be seen, faces of bliss mirroring mystery, individual waves that have emerged from that vast unknown Sea of Reality. For that greatest of all mysteries, the endless, unfathomable Sea of Being, in its profound mystery, in its heights and depths, contains us one and all. In that Great Sea, we may all learn to swim secure and be confident in the realization that its salutary waters' will carry us safely to the farthest shore.

J. A. Mclean *Under the Divine Lote Tree*

“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?”
Jesus replied, “You shall love the Lord your God with all
your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”
This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second
is like it, “You shall love your neighbour as yourself.” On
these two commandments depend all the law and the proph-
ets.”

Matthew 22.36 ,*from the Bible*

Life is short and we do not have much time for gladdening
the hearts of those who are travelling the dark way with us.
Oh, be swift to love! Make haste to be kind!

Henri F. Amiel, *Journal*

Love is the most great Law that ruleth this mighty and heav-
enly cycle, the unique power that bindeth together the divers
elements of this material world, the supreme magnetic force
that directeth the movements of the spheres in the celestial
realms. Love revealeth with unfailing and limitless power
the mysteries latent in the universe.

‘Abdu’l-Baha, *from the Bahá’í Writings*

MUSICAL FINALE

Alain Valodoze
guitarist

Please join us for refreshments after the program

2005 SOUL FOOD SCHEDULE

*Every third Sunday of the month
11:00am-12:00pm
Art Gallery of South Australia*

16 January	New Thing Entire
20 February	Regency of the Heart
20 March	Dreaming it New
17 April	In the Garden
15 May	Reconciliation: A Gentle Justice
19 June	Child of Forever
17 July	Inner Fire

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