

Bach With Verse is supported in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts & the National Endowment for the Arts.



Bach With Verse

2014-2015 NEWSLETTER
Season Report by Dobbs Hartshorne, double bass

AFGHANISTAN CONCERT TOUR February 2014

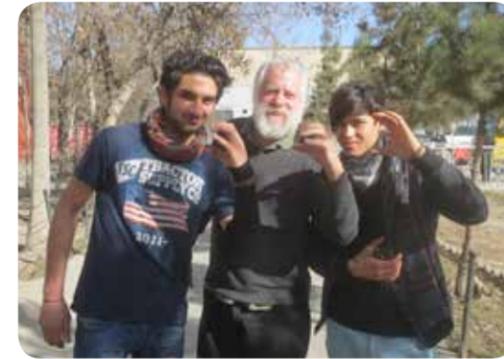
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Dobbs with ANIM Bass players demonstrating good hand position.

In February, I returned to Afghanistan under the auspices of Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM). The school has developed into a very strong conservatory with high levels students in both Classical and Afghan music. The security situation was worse than it has been. In December of last year, there had been an attack in which a bomb went off in an auditorium where music students were performing. They were unhurt but the director of ANIM was injured and had to be flown to Australia for surgery. Because of this situation, I was unable to get out to perform as much as usual, but I worked every day with two very talented bass students and with the

cello teacher who would take them after I left. I performed for numerous age groups in the school and for community members, children and student groups brought to the school for concerts. The most unusual place I played was at the Russian Embassy with the ANIM faculty. I did my story "The Saddest Day" in Russian (thanks to a last minute translation by good friend Movses Pogossian) to riotous laughter and then food and vodka. I made contact with my old friends at the Aghan NGO, WADAN. In addition to working with ANIM, I look forward to being hosted by WADAN to perform in their 22 drug rehab centers and for \$25,000 teachers currently enrolled in their training programs.



Dobbs with visiting students from the Agha Khan Institute for traditional Afghan music.

2014-2015 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS



DENMARK ~ BWV 10TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT March 21, 2015



After the concert in Sankt Johannes Kirke with Dobbs' first teacher, Bent Grosen.

J.S. Bach's Six Solo Suites (originally for Cello) are central to the programs we run. I play one of the Suites on every concert for every population. Periodically, I play all six together on a single concert. The last time was in Bolivia in 2011. This year on Bach's birthday, March 21st (no. 330), I performed all six suites in a beautiful church in Århus, Denmark. This was special for me because I began my study of the Bass there in 1961. My teacher, Bent Grosen, was sitting in the front row and the church was filled with the family I lived with as well as old friends and people who were interested in the work I do around the world. It was a beautiful celebration of the work I have been doing for the past 10 years.

Send Joy To Kurdistan

IRAQ CONCERT TOUR CAMPAIGN

Join our campaign to raise money to send Dobbs to Iraq this season. We need to raise \$2000 for air travel, instrument baggage fees and ground transportation.

Working with local musicians, Dobbs will travel to Erbil, Ranya and Sulaymaniyah playing in elementary and high schools, music schools and community centers. With your help we will bring over 20 concerts to children and communities of this war-torn region free-of-charge.

WE CAN DO IT WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

Visit www.bachwithverse.org/support to donate now and and spread the word to make this concert tour possible!

MUSIC STORE



CDs are available at www.bachwithverse.org and/or for download on iTunes. Proceeds go directly to BWV programs bringing live music to audiences around the world.

- J.S. Bach: Six Solo Suites LIVE
- J.S. Bach: Gamba Sonatas
- Brahms: Sonatas
- Monkey Business & Other Stories

Bringing hope, inspiration and laughter through music and stories to underserved audiences.

2014-2015 Season In Review

476 Apple Hill Road
Nelson, NH 03457

Bach With Verse

PRISON CONCERT PROJECT

New Hampshire Prisons

11 Concerts ~ August-September 2014

In August and September, I did concerts in New Hampshire county jails, drug rehab centers and youth homes in NH. I would have thought that people in short term programs (jails typically house offenders for a couple years only) would lack the extreme thirst for connections that I've seen in prisons. It turns out, though, that often the short term incarceration leads to a period of intense reflection. "How did I end up here?" or "How did I end up here again?" or "How can I change myself so that this doesn't keep happening?" Often these thoughts are enhanced and focused by the invitation to listen to Bach. The letters and comments I get often includes a feeling of having come to some resolution during the 20 minutes of listening/thinking during the concert.

I have done this long enough that I almost always run into someone who has heard me play before. Often they have told others about me and as I begin to talk about listening to the Bach I see knowing grins and heads shaking. Sometimes they have told the plots of some of my stories to their friends and they comment about them afterwards. "We heard all about that one. I loved it. Do you have any more?" I believe that the story is the marker. It's what sticks in the memory, while the main experience is how they were affected by the Bach.



Dobbs performing for Drifter before his transformation.

New York Prisons

9 Concerts ~ December 2014

In December, I did a tour of seven New York prisons, including two new facilities. Of special interest was a concert at Groveland Correctional Facility for over 300 attentive inmates, a return to the largest women's maximum security facility, Bedford Correctional, and three concerts for the hospital wing in Fishkill Prison. It was in Fishkill that one of the inmates, a large African American man in a wheel chair, completely broke down after the concert and was sobbing uncontrollably. When I talked to him he told me that the Bolivian song I had just sung was the song (or maybe reminded him of the song) his parents sang to him when he was five. "I'm just thinking of the simple beautiful things in life." He said.

California Prisons

27 Concerts ~ May 2015

The last tour of the season was to prisons in California where I did 27 concerts in 2 weeks. One of the highlights was a master class I did in "SAC" for one classical guitar player. I've known him now for 6 years and for the last 4 years I've watched him become not just a guitarist but a full-fledged musician. It has become his reason for living. He recently changed things in his outward life as well. He now goes by his "street name" instead

of "Drifter", which was his prison name. He cut his long red beard and wears a cap over his skull tats and most importantly contacted his family after letting them think he was dead for 25 years. The power of music! He and I talked about performance issues and practice issues for 2 and a half hours. I got standing ovations in Solano, CRC and LA County Jails. I also expanded the work for Juvenile offenders by doing 9 concerts just for young people in the prison system.

UGANDA CONCERT TOUR

21 Concerts - April-May 2015



In April, I returned to Uganda for the second time. I was hosted by Kristin Fry and Dwelling Places, which is an organization that rescues street children, gives them some rehabilitation and then places them either with family or in schools. Before my arrival, Kristin had gone to the Department of Corrections and told them that my music heals broken hearts and wouldn't they allow me to play in prisons. The Director was moved and said yes. I played 9 times in 6 different prisons.

The response was overwhelming. On one occasion there were over 1000 inmates sitting on the ground outside in the yard. But they squeezed into such a small area that they were able to hear me. When I began doing "Another Fairy Tale" in their language, Luganda, the roar was incredible. I played for both women and men and finally on "Death Row". I said to them what I say to all audiences. "Listen to this Bach and if you like, go home or go wherever your mind takes you." After the concert on Death Row, a spokesman for the inmates stood up and told me, "We all went home to our villages. Thank you."

In addition to prisons, I did 10 concerts for street children in various kinds of homes as well as two concerts for the hosting organizations. I was again struck by the politeness of the people and the warmth of the culture, even in prisons. I can't wait to go back.



Photos left to right: Dobbs performing for inmates at Luzira Main Prison in Kampala - Death Row (top 2 photos). Concert in the woodworking shop at Luzira Main Prison in Kampala for convicted inmates in yellow and waiting to be sentenced inmates in orange.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

RHONDA LAKE &
ALLEN MENDELSON

We are pleased to welcome Rhonda Lake and Allen Mendelson to our Board of Directors. Both reside in Keene, New Hampshire and have been long time supporters of Bach With Verse.



Allen Mendelson is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Keene. He has lived in the Monadnock Region since 1974 and has

known Dobbs since then. After serving on many boards in the region, the mission of BWV and Dobbs' energy attracted him to serving on our board. He hopes that his work can help make the Global Citizenry work of Dobbs more well-known in the Monadnock Region.

2015-2016 SEASON EVENTS

New Hampshire Prison Tour
Iraq Concert Tour
New York Prison Tour
Afghanistan Concert Tour
California Prison Tour



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HOW YOU CAN HELP

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Shop on Amazon? Have a Capital One credit card?
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Work for a company with matching grants?

Visit www.bachwithverse.org/support for unique opportunities to make a big impact keeping BWV programs going strong!

Thank you for your support!

2014-2015 SUPPORTERS

(JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015)

Suites Circle (up to \$10,000)
Susan Saltus

Gigue Circle (up to \$5000)
NH State Council on the Arts

Bourree Circle (up to \$2500)
Jeremy & Anne Whitney

Gavotte Circle (up to \$1000)
William James Association

Sarabande Circle (up to \$500)
Dr. & Mrs. Stuart

Courante Circle (up to \$250)
David Blair

Lauren Cowles
Mimi Do

James Fellows
Rhonda Lake & Marc

Laurence Gardner
& Alison Noiles

Matthew & Deborah Saltus
Gordon Snyder

Craig & Contance Walley

Allemande Circle (up to \$100)
Anonymous

Mike & Serafin Anderson
Ralph Arend

Chick & Pat Colony

Louis Cornell
Millie Empedocles
Mark Hill

Justine Kaltenbach
Rev. Eliza Linley

John Maloney
Marc & Margaret Mann

Robert McKelvey
Lee & Becky Pearson

Movses Pogossian
& Varty Manouelian

Larry Rinehart
& Sarah Hartshorne

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B.A.S. Associates

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Eric Stern & Carol Brown

Jeffrey Stillman
Gary & Lisa Tateosian

Jane Taylor
William & Carol Watkins

Prelude Circle (up to \$50)
Anonymous

Paul Althouse
Peter Arvantely

Ken & Dorothy Bacon
Harris Berman

Malcolm & Louise Brown
Steve & Abby Bruce

Susan Dalsimer
Jon Deak & Jacqueline Mullen

We would not be able to provide our concerts free-of-charge to hundreds of children, refugees, students, inmates & rehab patients around the world without the generosity of so many. Thank you!

Gary Stephens & Swati Desai
Mary Doughty

George & Anne Easton
For Prison Concert Project

Warren & Renee Ferris
Gretchen Fisher Orr

Christine Frank
Kay Frank

Joanne Geyer
Hal Grant

Probyn Gregory
Timothy & Nancy Hartshorne

Jonathan Hartshorne
W. Ritter Henn

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Paul & Judy Noyes

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Richard & Holly Sanders

Daniel Sedgwick
& Marjorie Gere

Matthew Shubin
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