

## 2012-2013 Season In Review

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

### PRISON CONCERT PROJECT



Pitchness Detention Center,  
LA County Jail

Our goals for the Prison Concert Project were to expand to reach more county jails and youth facilities. We were overwhelmed with the positive outcome. I performed my latest composition, *Poems from the Inside*, songs based on the poems by inmates incarcerated in Sacramento State Prison, Spoon Jackson and Marty Williams as well as “Destiny,” a 17-year-old girl from a juvenile facility.

### CALIFORNIA TOUR, February 4 - 14

I gave 16 concerts in 6 facilities. Giving multiple concerts at each facility, I was able to play for several populations that don't get much attention. Having always visited the state prisons in the past, this year we reached out to two new prison populations: the county jails and youth facilities in the LA area. The county jails used to be horrible, but have been turned into classrooms for over 7000 inmates. Our program was a positive support to their goals. We will be able to do even more concerts next year. We received the following reaction from Nathan Martinez at the youth facility:

*“As a program service coordinator, I can attest to the difficulties of securing positive and influential role models to volunteer their time and talents to a facility such as ours. The need for motivating and inspiring youths to expand their horizons and become more productive members of their communities can be a difficult task. With programs such as yours...that task was made a little bit easier. A majority of our minors are known for their lack of attention and at times disrespectfulness, but during your performances those negative adjectives were absent. Fidgety and disrespectful minors were mesmerized by the sounds of your instrument and helped pacify the negative needs for attention. I can still hear the echoes of “love was hard for Billy and Brenda” ricocheting off the walls.”*



Barry J. Nidorf Juvenile Hall

## Bach With Verse

### IN THIS EDITION:

Prison Concert Project  
Bolivia Concert Tour  
Supporters  
2013-2014 Season Plans  
Board & Staff  
Available CDs

### NEW YORK TOUR, December 4 - 14

The New York tour continues to expand. I played 13 concert in 12 facilities including 3 new prisons and 2 youth facilities. Word keeps spreading about our program. One woman at Beacon Correctional who had never grieved over losses was able to cry at last, I was told a significant event in her recovery, especially in a living situation where vulnerability is the exception rather than the rule.

### MICHIGAN TOUR, March 28 & June 5

My brother has been asking me to speak at his church that is involved in social justice work. I finally made it. In addition, I performed for one state correctional facility and one youth facility. Powerful response letters from the youth facility attested to their positive experience. One girl said it “opened a new place in her heart.” My concert-lecture was covered by *Central Michigan Life* and the article was seen by other facilities that contacted us. There is great potential to reach more in the state.

### NEW HAMPSHIRE TOUR, May-September

We are very fortunate to receive ongoing support from the New Hampshire State Arts Council for this project. I presented a record 13 concerts in 10 venues throughout the state, including one new county jail and one new rehabilitation facility. This year we expanded to include two children's homes which we plan to continue next season.

available on CD \$102-2102

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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.

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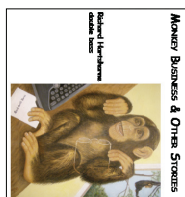
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## BOLIVIA CONCERT TOUR

For nine years, I've been doing mostly single performances in places where music is needed desperately. This has taken me to Palestine, Afghanistan, Iraq, Uganda and prisons in the United States. It is only natural to wonder whether these concerts have a lasting effect on the listeners or whether it is merely a pleasant way to spend an hour. Two years ago, during my return to Bolivia after many years, I realized that there was a way to test this.

In 1969, while serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in La Paz, Bolivia, I went with two other musicians and two classical dancers to six villages near Lake Titicaca. We performed Mozart, Gluck and scenes from Swan Lake by Tchaikovsky. These were the first concerts of classical music and dance ever performed in these places. In April of 2013, forty-four years later, I returned to these same six villages to find out if those concerts did have a lifelong effect on audience members. Here is what we found:



In Sicuani, Justo Quispe Condori, an eighty-eight year old man who remembered (what I had forgotten) that there were two concerts; one in front of the chapel and one in the school. His comments were mostly in the language of Aymara and will be translated for the film that we are making.

Justo Quispe Condori

In Huayllani, Don Andrés Poma, eighty-two, remembered everything about that evening in the old church including that my former wife, who was dancing in slippers, lost one and then took off the other and threw it to me. His cousin and his oldest daughter also remembered. Andrés must have embraced me twenty or thirty times over the two days we were there.



Don Andrés Poma



Nestor Quispe

In Compi, we found Nestor Quispe who said that as I played the first note he became a boy of nine again. "I remembered the sounds of that concert and carried them in my heart my whole life." He later moved to La Paz and took up the accordion.

We found ten people in total who had been in the audiences for those concerts. The reason we found so few is because the population has changed radically and most of the young people have moved to the city, and those who stayed in the villages

are now quite old. I presented each village with photos I had taken in '69 and many faces now deceased were recognized. The ten who were present all remembered clearly the events of forty-four years ago and some were very vocal and grateful.



Here is the team who made the trip possible: Edgar, driver and water colorist, Me, Claudia, photographer and filmmaker, and Eduardo, photographer and bass player. Claudia is working to make a film out of this trip from eight hours of film and hundreds of photographs. I can't wait for the results. The answer is YES, a single concert in the right place for the right audience can have an effect that lasts a lifetime.



## SUPPORTERS

*We thank all those who make sharing music with inmates, children, rehab patients, students and orphans possible to bring more laughter, more joy and more peace into this world.*

*Dobbs*

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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.

### 2013-2014 SEASON PLANS

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Iraq Concert Tour  
California Prison Tour  
Palestine Concert Tour  
Michigan Prison Tour  
New Hampshire Concert Tour

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