

December 2019

Dear Friends and Supporters,

Much has changed and much has stayed the same since the incorporation of Bach With Verse in January of 2005. We still provide free concerts all over the world to audiences who most need it: in prisons, in refugee camps, living on the street, in countries that are still at war. I wish you could experience with me the outpouring of emotion and gratitude that these performances generate. At this writing I have finished playing in jails, prisons and rehab centers in NH, a week of prisons in Michigan and I'm preparing to go to Afghanistan and Iraq as well as California in the Spring

I want to share with you an experience I had in the Strafford County Jail a month ago. I was playing for a group of women, members of an intensive dependency program run by the jail. After I finished the Bach d minor Suite the guard who was with me asked, as people often do, "What the story was that went with it?" and I said as I always do, "Whatever you saw in your own mind". He proceeded to tell the group a story of a couple in love, then fighting, then getting back together etc. etc. I asked if anyone else had had a similar experience and the woman right in front of me said she thought of her children and cried. I then told the story of the birch tree who fell in love with a beaver and there was laughter but the over all feeling was still very influenced by what that woman had said, so instead of doing more outlandish comedy as I had planned I asked them "How many of you have kids" and they all raised their hands. I then sang the lullabye that I wrote in Afghanistan when my own son was two months old (he is now 10). Afterwards when I opened my eyes there were some women openly weeping and the rest had tears in their eyes. The amazing power of Bach's music in that kind of setting allows people to access their feelings and a real catharsis can occur.

You are the reason that these concerts happen. I know that there are thousands of worthy causes that deserve your support but I guarantee that none provide as much good for as little money. Please help.

For Bach With Verse with love and thanks,
Dobbs

P.S. What has changed is that our fabulous administrator Sarah Bacon has left us and I have taken over most of what she did. It's sometimes a struggle and I'm a little overwhelmed but I like the way it keeps me in touch with every aspect of the process. This for example is my first newsletter. Now if I could only figure out how to make a budget? Just kidding!