Music for Life International
IMPACT since 2006

Our Humanitarian Concerts at Carnegie Hall

Beethoven for The Rohingya (2018-19)
Beethoven, Ninth Symphony
A Concert of Solidarity for the Rohingya Refugees

Mahler for Vision (2016-17)
Mahler, 2nd Symphony
For the Restoration of Vision for Those Suffering from Cataract Blindness

The Scheherazade Initiative (2014-15)
Scheherazade Works of Ravel and Rimsky-Korsakov
Celebrating the Resilience of Women Facing Violence

Shostakovich for the Children of Syria (2013-14)
Shostakovich, Symphony 7
For the Child Refugees of the Syrian Civil War

Beethoven for the Indus Valley (2011)
Beethoven, Ninth Symphony
A Concert for Life and Renewal in Pakistan After the 2010 Floods

Mahler for the Children of AIDS (2009)
Mahler, 3rd Symphony
For Pediatric AIDS & the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV Worldwide

Requiem for Darfur (2007)
Verdi, Requiem
For the Victims of the Darfur Conflict

Beethoven’s Ninth for South Asia (2006)
Beethoven, Ninth Symphony
For the Survivors of the October 2005 Pakistan Earthquake

Musicians from more than 120 Orchestras and Ensembles including the New York Philharmonic, Berlin Philharmonic, MET Orchestra, Vienna Philharmonic, Israel Philharmonic, Cleveland Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Boston Symphony, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Minnesota Orchestra, St. Louis Symphony, San Francisco Symphony, other orchestras, and artists from the Emerson, Mendelssohn, American, Guarneri String Quartets, the Metropolitan Opera, and many others


Featured Speakers: United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador Mia Farrow, UN Undersecretary General Jan Egeland, Acumen Fund CEO Jacqueline Novogratz, former UN Population Fund Executive Director Dr. Nafis Sadik, MSF-USA Executive Director Sophie Delaunay

Advisory Board Members: Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Sir Colin Davis, Zubin Mehta, Zarin Mehta, Daniel Barenboim, Lorin Maazel, Fareed Zakaria, Senator George McGovern, Gunther Schuller, Norwegian Refugee Council Secretary-General Jan Egeland, Kenneth Bacon, Former UNICEF Executive Director Ann Veneman and many others


More than US$3.3 Million raised since 2006 for our concerts and causes
Music for Life International’s Humanitarian Concerts

What they are saying

“I have never been quite so moved by that first movement, skillfully placed in a context of war and suffering... utterly gripping, moment to moment... The performance will live in the memory for having been part of its own time as well as part of Shostakovich’s.”

—James Oestreich, The New York Times

"Your MAHLER FOR THE CHILDREN OF AIDS echoes Mahler’s own words scribbled into the manuscript of this Symphony, – "Father, let no creature be lost!" Your community of artists and humanitarians alike makes that call resound across the continents. You are giving voice to the voiceless, hidden suffering of HIV/AIDS that must be heard by the world. I will be there with you in spirit."

—Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"The wonderful thing about making music is that more often than not, our identities melt away, and we try to match notes, match rhythms and be in harmony,” [George Mathew] said. ‘Music has the potential for changing the way we deal with each other.’"

—Bloomberg News

"Mathew said he is most thrilled by the social impact of the event, which he witnessed in different ways. First, the makeup of the orchestra itself ‘was in fact a microcosm of the world,’ Mathew said in an interview... '[Pakistan] and Indian ... Arab and Israeli, just the most amazing thing to see,’ he said. 'And more than that, they were pouring out their hearts and souls for Pakistan.'"

—U.S. State Department

"The concert was... a powerful statement for the role we all have in rebuilding in the face of tragedy and destruction, and of how different worlds (classical music and Acumen Fund; an Indian conductor putting on a concert for Pakistan; Carnegie Hall and the Punjab) can come together."

—Sasha Dichter, Acumen Fund

"That the concert had an air of sensation was no surprise, given the participants. George Mathew, a conductor and an energetic humanitarian activist, gathered an extraordinary pool of talent. Glenn Dicterow, concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, performed that duty here, sharing a music stand with Eugene Drucker of the Emerson String Quartet. From the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, Timothy Cobb, the principal bassist, Stefan Hoskuldsson, an acting principal flutist, were also principals here... with numerous moments of sublimity along the way... gorgeously burnished brass choirs in the first movement and eloquent solos from Mr. Dicterow, the trombonist Joseph Alessi and the trumpeter Matthew Muckey. And when Ms. Mentzer gave impassioned voice to Nietzsche’s sentiment of ‘joy deeper still than heartbreak’ in the fourth movement, the point of the event could hardly have been clearer.”

—Steve Smith, The New York Times

"Verdi’s great work, presented not just as a prayer for the dead but as a call to compassion and purpose, came through affectingly. The apocalyptic Dies Irae...is always chilling. But it is hard to describe the effect of hearing this ferocious music while seeing a photograph by Ron Haviv projected on the wall behind the performers: it showed a painting by a Sudanese boy (now a refugee in Chad) of his home village burning, with bodies on the ground and attacking militia on horses.”


"He [George Mathew] is one of the most inspirational human beings I have ever known... I have such great admiration and respect for this extraordinary man whose social conscience and ability to bring people together in support of humanitarian issues is nothing short of miraculous.”

—Glenn Dicterow, Concertmaster, New York Philharmonic

To learn more please visit www.music4lifeinternational.org