



Walk Together Children

A CROSS-CULTURAL CONCERT CELEBRATION

Musicians, dancers, and other artists from
African, Jewish and Muslim diasporas
unite in a joyful sharing of their cultural traditions.

Sunday October 14, 2018 3:00pm

THE TORONTO CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

FEATURING SOPRANO DENISE WILLIAMS & FRIENDS



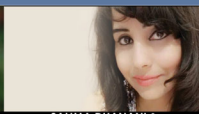
DANIEL BARNES



GENEVIEVE BEAULIEU



TASNEEM DAIRYWALA



SALIMA DHANANI &
MUSLIM YOUTH SINGERS



SAM DONKOH



BRAHM GOLDHAMER



MARK GORDON



ANWAR KHURSHID



BEN MACDONALD



BABAK NASERI



SHAKEIL ROLLOCK



NINA SHAPILSKY



MITCH SMOLKIN



JASWINDER SRAA



AQUA NIBII WAAWAASKONE

Presented by the Children of Abraham Collective under the aegis of No Strings Theatre in partnership with North York Arts (NYA)

NO STRINGS  THEATRE


NORTH YORK ARTS


TORONTO CENTRE
FOR THE ARTS





THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO
LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO

October 14, 2018

It is with pleasure that I extend warm greetings to all attending *Walk Together Children: A Cross-Cultural Concert Celebration*.

The arts are essential to the human experience. When people of different cultures come together to share their traditions, we are sure to come away with a renewed understanding of how there is much more that unites us than divides us. This concert promises to be an unforgettable celebration, and the varied form of music, dance, readings, and visual arts reflect the multicultural society that we have built for ourselves here in Ontario.

I offer my sincere thanks to organizers at the Children of Abraham Collective for all their hard work in putting together this unique and joyful occasion, and I thank members of the audience for their support of local artistic expression, an integral part of what it means to be Canadian.

You have my best wishes for a most enjoyable concert.

A stylized, cursive signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Dowdeswell".

Elizabeth Dowdeswell



Ali Ehsassi
Member of Parliament
Willowdale

Walk Together Children: A Cross-Cultural Concert Celebration

Dear Friends,

It is my great honour to welcome you to *Walk Together Children: A Cross-Cultural Concert Celebration* hosted by my good friends with the Children of Abraham Collective and North York Arts.

That this event dovetails with the Diamond Jubilee of His Highness Prince Karim Aga Khan, and his aspiration for global pluralism, is especially fitting. Celebrations such as these serve to highlight our tremendous diversity through the transformative power of song, dance, and art. It is through arts and culture, after all, that our core values of equality, openness, and inclusivity often find their most meaningful articulations.

In that spirit, I would like to congratulate all of the event organizers, volunteers, staff, artists and performers who have helped make today possible. Your creativity and dedication are inspiring and I look forward to a memorable day of culture, companionship, and celebration.

Warmest regards,

Ali Ehsassi
Member of Parliament, Willowdale

Ottawa | Constituency Office

Room 502, Wellington Building, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Tel.: 613-992-4964 Fax.: 613-992-1158

115 Sheppard Avenue West, Toronto, Ontario, M2N 1M7
Tel.: 416-223-2858 Fax: 416-223-9715

Ali.Ehsassi@parl.gc.ca
<http://aehsassi.liberal.ca>



Message from the Mayor

It is my pleasure to extend greetings and a warm welcome to everyone attending Walk Together Children: A Cross-Cultural Concert Celebration hosted by Children of Abraham Collective.

This event offers vibrant music and dance, showcasing the African, Jewish and Muslim cultures and the commonalities they all share.

I am delighted that wonderful events like this are taking place in Toronto. Arts and culture can be incredible forces for the development of an individual, group or community, and they promote intercultural connections including tolerance, understanding, friendship and social cohesion.

On behalf of Toronto City Council, please accept my best wishes for a memorable event and continued success.

Yours truly,



John Tory
Mayor of Toronto



Welcome to *Walk Together Children: A Cross-Cultural Concert Celebration*, reflecting a wealth of musical traditions from the African, Jewish and Muslim diasporas.

It is intriguing to learn how many common elements can be found in the music of the three very different cultures - beginning with their roots and continuing throughout their histories of social, religious and economic development, migrations, and struggles for acceptance and equality . The most compelling elements reflected in their music are the minor mode, distinctive rhythm, improvisation, a sense of home or the longing for the motherland, and the building of strength and solidarity through community music making.

We named ourselves the Children of Abraham Collective in honour of the father of the three major faiths in which we had each been raised. We had come together at the premiere of David Warrack's oratorio *Abraham*, in 2015. I was already friends with Linda Litwack through my tenure as soprano soloist with the

Toronto Jewish Folk Choir, and our work together on my Black-and-Jewish CD, *Walk Together Children*. At the premiere, we encountered Salima Dhanani, who wanted her Ismaili Muslim choir to learn a song in Yiddish. Thus was born the idea for our cross-cultural concert, bringing together all three heritages.

I had created the *Walk Together Children* concerts with my collaborating pianist Brahm Goldhamer about 20 years ago, in an effort to bring together two communities that had become alienated from each other: in particular, the uprising of Black activists against Jewish producer Garth Drabinsky's production of Jerome Kern's *Showboat*. Brahm and I felt that we could celebrate our diversities (Black and Jewish) and strive to build cultural union through a presentation of our musical roots.

We named it after a spiritual I had learned, not in my African-Canadian community, but in the Jewish choir! The launch was in this very theatre, and was enthusiastically received. When we performed for a CBC Radio broadcast from the Glenn Gould Studio, the hall was packed, with an overflow crowd in the lobby, watching on TV monitors. Our performances continued to draw audiences, and we were joined by pianist Nina Shapilsky and African drummer Sam Donkoh. Now we welcome new friends from the Muslim community, as well as a First Nations performer, dancers, writers and visual artists into our tent. It has been a thrilling experience to join forces in this way!

Living in Toronto, I feel we are compelled to acknowledge and embrace, beginning with our indigenous nations, our new multicultural and pluralistic "home".

I would like to acknowledge all those who have aided in the development of this program through the years, including instigators, Ben and Jean Shek (United Jewish People's Order); program collaborators Linda Litwack and Charlie Sise; music collaborators Brahm Goldhamer, Sam Donkoh, Nina Shapilsky, Ben MacDonald, and more recently Salima Dhanani, Babak Naseri, Anwar Khurshid, and the faculty of Community Music at Wilfrid Laurier University, led by Lee Willingham and Gerard Yun.

We also wish to express our thanks and gratitude to the staff of our community partners, North York Arts, the Toronto Centre for the Arts, and No Strings Theatre for all their help, and to our private donors and advertisers. Donations are welcome, and may be made at the table in the lobby, or online at www.denisewilliamssoprano.com/walk-together-children. Tax receipts will be issued by our umbrella company, No Strings Theatre, to which a portion will be donated for their youth scholarships. We also invite you to purchase a souvenir in the form of CDs and books available at the tables.

Now, please sit back and let us share our music with you.

Denise Williams, Artistic Director, and co-creators Linda Litwack, Salima Dhanani

FEATURING

Daniel Barnes, percussion

Sam Donkoh, percussion

Brahm Goldhamer, pianist

Ben MacDonald, winds

Babak Naseri, pianist

Shakeil Rollock, dancer

Nina Shapilsky, pianist

Sitar Fusion – Anwar Khurshid, Jaswinder Sraa, Geneviève Beaulieu

Mitch Smolkin, tenor

Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone, singer/songwriter

Denise Williams, soprano

Salima Dhanani and Muslim Youth Singers

Isabel Bernaus, conductor of the Jubilate Singers and

Common Thread: Community Choir of Toronto

**Members of the Jubilate Singers and of the Common Thread:
Community Choir of Toronto**

Muslim Youth Singers

Aryaan Bhimani, Olivia Rose Froemchen, Aryaana Gagani,

Janine Gagani, Karima Panjwani,

Violinist: Jamil Premji

Adult Ensemble

Antoinette Ankrah, Louise Davies, Adrienne Gord, Marilyn

Hintsu, Meredith MacFarquhar

Readers

Amina Abena Alfred

Bernadette Gabay Dyer

Art Exhibit by Tasneem Dairywala, Art Ignite

CREATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

Denise Williams, artistic producer

Linda Litwack, publicist, co-producer, program editor

Salima Dhanani, M.C., youth singers coordinator, co-producer

Ben MacDonald, music collaborator, arranger, production assistant

Babak Naseri, technical assistance

Glenn Seville, graphic design

Marzieh Masroori, social media marketing

Rick Harper, videographer

Greg King, photographer

Amina Abena Alfred, stage manager, portrait photographer of
Denise Williams

FRONT OF HOUSE AND BACKSTAGE ASSISTANCE

Eulalie Walling-Sampson, coordinator

Don Dos Santos

Dr. James Meade

Anya Poesiat

Karen Sampson

North York Arts

No Strings Theatre

Toronto Centre for the Arts

Thank you to The WholeNote, The New Classical FM, Forever Young, Post City Magazines, Canadian Jewish News, Donna G and CIUT's The More the Merrier, The Jewish Standard, and other media for their coverage.

PROGRAM

| | |
|--|---|
| Land Acknowledgment & Original Hand Drum Song | Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone |
| Welcome | Salima Dhanani, MC |
| Greeting | Ali Ehsassi, MP, Willowdale |
| Jambo Bwana ("Hello Sir") | Them Mushrooms |
| Ojibwa Prayer and Song/Land Acknowledgement | Aqua Nibii Waawaaskone |
| Allunde | African Traditional arr by Salli Terri |
| Wade in the Water | Afro American Traditional arr. by Mark Hayes |
| Peter Go Ring Dem Bells | Afro-American arr by Andre J.Thomas |
| Reading from Chasing the Banyan Tree | Bernadette Gabay Dyer |
| Liturgical Medley | Mitch Smolkin and Nina Shapilsky |
| S'iz Shoy'n Farfaln (It's Already Fallen) | Unknown; transcribed by Michael Alpert |
| Ala Uno Yo Naci | Ladino Traditional arr by N. Shapilsky |
| Dona Dona | Aaron Zeitlin/Shalom Secunda arr by N. Shapilsky |
| Poem: In the Aftermath | Bernadette Gabay Dyer |
| A Song of Water | Denise Williams arr by Ben MacDonald |
| Address | Presented by James Meade |
| Ose Shalom | N. Hirsh arr by B. Goldhamer |

*** 15 MIN INTERMISSION ***

| | |
|--|---|
| A Glance Through Khayyam | Babak Naseri |
| Aghrab e Zolfe Kajet | Ali Akbar Sheida |
| Kirvani | Anwar Khurshid |
| Raag Peelu | Anwar Khurshid |
| Reading from The Kanner Aliyah | Mark Gordon |
| Asma Allah/Let's Unite and build a bridge | Sami Yusuf/Salima Dhanani and Karima Panjwani |
| Papa Didn't Know | Hal Evans |
| Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child | Afro American Traditional arr. by H. T. Burleigh |
| Poem: Home | Warsan Shire |
| River | Leon Bridges |
| Shalom Salaam from <i>We Still Dare to Dream</i> | Andrew Craig |
| Abibi'Fa'Hodie (Up Rise In) | Amina Abena Alfred |
| Woyaya | Osibisa |
| Bein Hachoshekh Laor (Between Darkness and Light) | Manal Hreib/Daphna Rosenberg |
| Walk Together Children | Afro American Traditional, arranger unknown |

Unauthorized video and audio recording is strictly prohibited.

TRANSLATIONS AND PROGRAM NOTES

Jambo Bwana ("Hello Sir"), is by a Kenyan band called "Them Mushrooms", first released in 1982.

The Jambo song was written and sung in Swahili in 1982, to welcome people to the country of Kenya. In Islam, the importance of building bridges with communities from around the world is extremely important. As early as the 6th Century, Muslims, Jews and Christians worked harmoniously with one another in the city of Constantinople. They regarded each other very highly and innovative ideas in science, the arts, engineering and mathematics manifested through the work they did together. Embracing each other's differences is what makes us stronger and it is what makes our world a united and better place. The rendition you are about to hear is to welcome everyone to Canada. Now that many of us from around the world have made Canada our permanent home, this song welcomes newcomers to this beautiful land we call home.

Translation: Hello sir, How are you? The visitors are welcomed to our Canada, a country of wonder, a country of peace. You're all welcomed. Hakuna Matata (Don't Worry).

Allunde – African prayer lullaby (Swahili)
O God of the Sunrise, protect this child
Help the infant to grow
And become a worthy member of our tribe.

Ala Uno Yo Naci
At one I was born. At two I grew up.
At three I took a lover. At four I married.
Soul, life and heart.

Tell me, little girl, where do you come from, because I want to get acquainted.
If you have no lover I will defend you.
Soul, life and heart.

Going off to war, I threw kisses into the air.
One is for my mother, the other is for you.
Soul, life and heart.

Dona Dona
In a wagon lies a calf; it is tied with a rope. High in the sky a swallow flies joyously back and forth. The wind laughs in the field, laughs and laughs and laughs. It laughs a whole day and half the night. Dona, Dona, Dona...

S'iz Shoy'n Farfain (It has already fallen)
It has already fallen.
My young years are gone.
The moon and the stars have become dark

Oh good brothers,
I am appealing to you now.
They are taking me away from you.
Therefore I wish you to be well.

I am bound with a rope.
They are taking me to prison forever.
And they will never send me back again.

A Song of Water

This composition was conceived and composed by Denise Williams, arrangement and harmony by Ben MacDonald. One morning during a sound contemplative meditation in the shower. I became very still, relaxed and then heard a creative work. It was then that I decided that I could possibly do a composition for a presentation in my master study last spring and started to conceive it.

Music: based on plainchant melody, Tonus Pelegrinus,

Words: based on Psalm 137

Poetry: *Rivers*, by Langston Hughes

Shower soundscape - *Water is a significant element - life force, journey to freedom, consuming, cleansing.*

By the rivers of Babylon, there we sat down, yea, we wept, when we remembered Zion. We hanged our harps in the midst thereof. For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; saying, Sing us one of the songs of Zion. If I do not remember thee, let my right hand forget its skill; let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth.

Ose Shalom

May He who makes peace in the high places, make peace for Israel and for all mankind. And let us say Amen.

A Glance Through Khayyam

Omar Khayyam was a prominent mathematician, philosopher, astronomer, scientist and poet who lived during the 11th and early 12th centuries. The highlights of his efforts are solving the grade 3 equation and the precise Jalali calendar, which is still in use. He is best known for his work as a poet. His poetry book of Rubáiyát (poetry of four line stanzas in iambic pentameter) was translated into English in 1859 by Edward Fitzgerald, with numerous publications all over the world. "The poet, who refers to himself as 'old Khayyám', is unable to commit himself to belief in an afterlife. Consequently, he believes in living for today" (Michael J. Cummings, © 2008). Babak and Denise chose the following stanzas (rubai) to put to music. Babak Naseri completed this composition in September 2018. There is a strong improvisational element at the end (voice, piano, sitar), which is a common feature in the Muslim style of performance.

There was the Door to which I found no Key;
There was the Veil through which I could not see;
Some little talk awhile of Me and Thee
There was - and then no more of Thee and Me.

Yesterday This Day's Madness did prepare;
Tomorrow's Silence, Triumph, or Despair;
Drink! For you know not whence you came, nor why;
Drink! For you know not why you go, nor where.

With them the Seed of Wisdom did I sow,
And with my own hand laboured it to grow;
And this was all the Harvest that I reaped -
"I came like Water and like Wind I go."

Into this Universe, and Why not knowing,
Nor Whence, like Water willy-nilly flowing:
And out of it, as Wind along the Waste,
I know not Whither, willy-nilly blowing.

"Aghrab zolf e Kajet" is a Persian love song composed by Ali Akbar Sheida. The theme of song will be performed differently with Indian musical ornaments.

Kirvani – dance piece

Music composed in raag *Kirvani* by Anwar Khurshid and dance choreographed by Geneviève Beaulieu.

Three condensed segments:

Unity - Separation is a veil. We push the boundaries, shred the veils and weave the threads of harmony into a fabric of unity.

Serendipity - The unexpected encounter of beings whose disenchantment turns into a peaceful bliss of coexistence.

Trinity - The confluence of values of kindness, generosity and faith of the three major ideologies.

Raag Peelu

Anwar Khurshid, sitar. Jaswinder Sraa, tabla.

Anwar's composition based on traditional music from India and Pakistan.

Asma Allah

This piece is sung in Arabic and the words call out the beautiful attributes of the Divine, seeking out the Almighty's compassion, gentleness, protection, and forgiveness as well as the fulfilment of prayers.

God is Greater. There is no god but Him, the King, the Most Holy.

O Most Compassionate! Have compassion on our weakness.

O Forgiver! Forgive our sins.

O Concealer! Conceal our defects.

O Bestower of honour! Bestow honour on our Ummah.

O Responsive One! Answer our prayers.

O Gentle One! Show gentleness to us.

Show gentleness to us.

Bein Hachoshekh Laor

The words by Manal Hreib (social psychologist and Israeli citizen) and music by Dafna Rosenberg (Israeli -Jewish singer/songwriter) were highly influenced by the divide that exists between the Israeli and Palestinian borders. The lyrics were composed by Manal while in preparation for a peace event in 2007 on a day that signifies a memory of loss for Palestinians (Nakba) and concurrently a day of celebration of Independence for the Israelis. It was promptly set to music by Dafna.

English Translation (Dafna Rosenberg): Between Darkness and Light I will always walk, and wherever I may go I will open the window of life and plant the seeds of love.



DANIEL BARNES

Drummer, composer, producer and singer Daniel Barnes is the son of the late composer and conductor Milton Barnes, and author and scriptwriter Lilly Barnes. Daniel started drumming at five, and by 16 was launched into his professional career, playing clubs with his brother's Micah Barnes Trio, and eventually opening on stage for international acts. He has performed and recorded with such leading Canadian artists as Joe Sealy, Jane Bunnett, Hilario Duran, The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band, Maryem Tollar, Theresa Tova, and DJ So-called; and appeared at jazz festivals and on TVOntario. In the 1990s, he toured in Europe, the U.S., Africa and the Caribbean with Ethiopian singing star Aster Aweke. His two jazz CDs, *Culmination* and *Classic Beauties* were both critically acclaimed. He has twice been nominated as Drummer of the Year in the National Jazz Awards; and three times for Juno Awards – winning in 1996 for Joe Sealy's *Africville Suite*. www.danielbarnes.net



GENEVIEVE BEAULIEU

Genevieve Beaulieu is an interpretive dancer from Québec. After training in Indian classical dance for 10 years both in Ottawa and in India, Genevieve has created her own delicate dance style. Rooted in the Indian classical dance form of Odissi, her style takes from a variety of dance forms and movement practices. She uses these idioms to tell stories, and express poetry and emotions. She is currently working with Propeller Dance, an integrated dance company based in Ottawa, and pursues her own projects alongside sitar maestro Anwar Khurshid. They are presenting a music and dance project promoting cultural diversity in elementary schools in the Toronto region under Prologue to the Performing Arts. Over the past decade, Genevieve had a chance to perform in numerous venues throughout Canada and the U.S., as well as in India.



TASNEEM DAIRYWALA

Tasneem Dairywala of Art Ignite is an award-winning contemporary visual artist and educator. She holds a BFA from OCAD University and has over nine years of experience in arts programming. Her work stems from the belief that art has the power to overcome ethnocultural boundaries that divide us. That is why she finds it so important to use her knowledge as an artist to connect and empower people. Her artwork can be viewed at www.tasneemdairywala.com.



SALIMA DHANANI & MUSLIM YOUTH SINGERS

Salima Dhanani is a brand ambassador for a health and wellness company and an Ontario certified teacher with the Toronto District School Board. She has always been involved in the world of the arts in both singing and dancing since she was four years old. After many years of singing in choirs and participating in dance shows, Salima became conductor of the Toronto Ismaili Muslim Youth Choir in 2012. Since then she has led youth and other artists in vocal performances and dance choreographies for multicultural performances with communities that reflect cultures from all around the world. Her passion for spreading diversity and building bridges with global communities have grown extensively, leading to a chance meeting with Denise Williams and Linda Litwack. Her vision for showcasing themes of pluralism and embracing both commonalities and differences started manifesting with these two remarkable women in 2015.



SAM DONKOH

Sam Donkoh learned to drum in the age-old African tradition: by listening. Growing up in Kumasi, Ghana, he listened to broadcast and live traditional Ghanaian, jazz, Latin, Caribbean and western drum and percussive rhythms and repeated these on boxes, walls, table tops and pans. In Toronto, Sam has helped form and/or performed with such groups as the Heritage Singers, Sankofa African Drum & Dance Ensemble, Flaming Dono, Afraranto highlife band, and the Scarborough Bel Canto Choir. He has also led workshop demonstrations in Toronto area schools and universities, done movie soundtrack work, and performed as an accompanist at the World Poetry Festival and as solo drummer for the Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival production of *Slacks and Tops*. As a featured or ensemble performer, he has appeared on stage in Germany, Barbados, the U.S. and several Canadian cities. He is featured on Denise Williams' CD *Walk Together Children* and the Heritage Singers' *Folk Roots*.

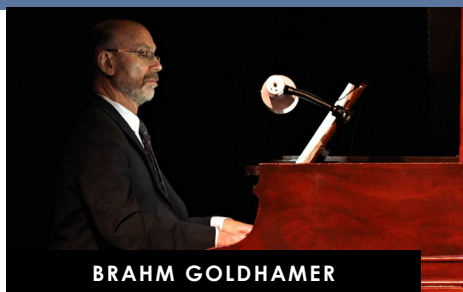
Brahm Goldhamer is one of Toronto's most experienced and respected accompanists and vocal coaches. He has performed across Canada, the U.S. and Europe, and is in great demand as recital collaborator with some of Canada's most celebrated soloists. For the past 30 years he has been a faculty member of the Royal Conservatory of Music and the Glenn Gould School, where in addition to his studio coaching and classroom teaching, he is the principal répétiteur of the Spring Opera Program. His performances include work with Opera in Concert, Toronto Operetta Theatre, CBC's Music Around Us, the Elora Festival, Debut Atlantic and Opera Anonymus. He was nominated for a Dora Award for Best Musical Direction following his work with Comus Music Theatre. For over three decades, Mr. Goldhamer has also been a choral director and music director at a number of Toronto synagogues, currently serving at Beth Shalom Congregation.

Poet and novelist Mark Gordon is the author of *The Kanner Aliyah* and *Head of the Harbour*, published by Groundhog Press, a company formed in the 1980s by Charlie Sise and Linda Litwack. Both novels received critical acclaim, with such comments as "compulsive reading...a marvellous narrative gift" (novelist Hugh MacLennan), "a work of genius" (The Fiddlehead), "a labour of love, written from the gut" (Montreal Gazette), and "a big, sprawling bite of reality, full of life and sheer energy" (Ottawa Revue).

Anwar Khurshid studied the sitar in Pakistan, and continued his training in India and Canada, adding tabla and vocal studies. His interest in Indian classical music has led to integrating world music with Indian classical music. Since 2003, he has composed music inspired by the great masters in odd meters. One of Anwar's aims is to collaborate with as many diverse artists as possible. One of his songs recorded with Sultans of String won second prize in a world music competition from among 18,000 entries, while his album with the group, titled *Subcontinental Drift*, was nominated for a Juno Award and as World Music Album of the Year in the Canadian Folk Music Awards. He composed for the film *What it Takes to be Extraordinary* and played sitar on the film soundtracks of *Life of Pi*, *Love Guru* and *Kama Sutra*. He is director of the Sitar School of Toronto. <https://sitarfusion.ca>

An alumnus of the Humber College Jazz and Contemporary Music program, and trained in classical music, Ben MacDonald specializes in saxophone, clarinet, flute and voice. Besides playing, he sings professionally, composes, arranges, and has been a band leader for several projects. Ben has performed in many venues, playing a range of styles – Sudanese and West African, Indian, jazz, classical, contemporary and popular music, klezmer and Jewish traditional music, 20th century music, avant-garde, electronic and hip hop. He has worked on studio recordings, singing with the Nathaniel Dett Chorale, playing saxophone and flute with his contemporary jazz/funk band Yuka, and collaborating on many freelance projects. He teaches woodwinds and voice, and is on the faculty of the Classical Music Conservatory as well as the Regent Park School of Music. He is currently involved in a new music education project, JamSpace, dedicated to offering young people an opportunity to be creative, perform, and compose material, and undergoing a Masters of Community Music at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Babak Naseri started piano lessons at age six in his native Iran, where in his early teens he gave many performances with the Junior Orchestra of the national broadcaster. In addition to his classical training, he has worked with major Persian composers and performed vast Persian repertoire. He has continued his musical education in the U.K. and in Canada, and is currently working on a post-graduate degree in community music at Wilfrid Laurier University. He is actively involved in music education, community choirs, solo performances and numerous recordings. While continuing to contribute to Persian-Canadian community music – blending Persian and modern western elements in such projects as his music/poetry initiative *Songs of Freedom*, which he has composed and performed – he has collaborated with diverse communities on various Toronto musical projects. He has also worked with the Delo Jan choir to raise funds to build schools for less privileged societies in Iran.



BRAHM GOLDHAMER



MARK GORDON



ANWAR KHURSHID



BEN MACDONALD



BABAK NASERI



AQUA NIBII WAAWAASKONE

Aqua, the singer, songwriter, storyteller, artist and activist, is a strong Anishinaabe Kwe-Indigenous Woman, also known as Nibii Waawaaskone-Water Flower. She originates from North Bay, where she was raised by her single mom Waabishkaasin Kwe-White Stone Woman. Aqua is a two-spirit woman of mixed ancestry; Ojibwe Métis with French and Scottish heritage. She has created a life filled with her love of creation. She is a hand drummer and hand drum maker and has shared her joy for drumming with the community in circles all over the country.



SHAKEIL ROLLOCK

Toronto-based dance artist Shakeil Rollock started dance at age 17, and trained mainly in urban styles. Later he was influenced to train in classical techniques including ballet, and modern dance. Now a graduate from The School of Toronto Dance Theatre, Shakeil has appreciated working with such choreographers as Louis Laberge-Côté, Draico (Step Up Franchise), Lua Shayenne, Newton Moraes, Kevin Ormsby, and Debra Brown (Cirque du Soleil). He has toured internationally to the U.S., England and Jamaica for dance. As well, Shakeil is a proud member of his own collective, Impromptu Movements. Most recently, he was one of six nominees for the 2017 Emerging Artist in the Premier's Awards for Excellence in the Arts. Beyond performing, Shakeil choreographs and teaches throughout the province. He has been an annual lecturer at Wilfrid Laurier University. Check him out at www.shakeilrollock.com.



NINA SHAPILSKY

Dr. Nina Shapilsky is a versatile pianist-improviser (Master of Arts in Piano Performance) and a composer (PhD in Composition). She is a winner of international music competitions in Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, France, Hungary and Spain, and for many years was artistic director of the vocal jazz quartet "Moscow-Transit", which toured all over the world. At the World Vocal Competition in Bilbao, Spain, Ms. Shapilsky was awarded a special prize as best pianist. She received acclaim as music director of *The Snow Maiden* at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, as well as the creator of soundtracks for documentary movies including *The Dance of Mikhail Baryshnikov*. For over 20 years, she has been a pianist with the National Ballet of Canada and Canada's National Ballet School. Dr. Shapilsky composed and arranged *Canadiana Reel* for the International Ballet Assemblée 2017, during Canada's 150th anniversary, receiving recognition from the Prime Minister of Canada.



MITCH SMOLKIN

Trained in acting and singing, Mitch Smolkin has performed internationally, touring South America, and appearing on Broadway, off-Broadway with the late Bruce Adler, at Lincoln Center, and with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. He has shared the stage with Mandy Patinkin, Jerry Stiller, Theodore Bikel, Bibi Neuirth and more than one *Sesame Street* puppet. Toronto's 2018 Luminato festival saw him in *The Ward*. He served as artistic director of the Ashkenaz Festival 2001-2006, and as a senior artistic associate and manager at Harbourfront Centre, 2007-2011, brought artists together for multidisciplinary festivals. He also produced his own sold out shows at the CBC's Glenn Gould Studio and the Toronto Centre for the Arts. The Klezmer Shack hailed his Yiddish music album as "the most exciting, inventive, beautiful, and just plain interesting Yiddish album in years". His other career is practising, teaching and publishing as a registered psychotherapist.

Jaswinder Sraa is an Indian drummer and percussionist who is performing alongside Anwar Khurshid and Geneviève Beaulieu as part of the group Sitar Fusion. <https://sitarfusion.ca>



JASWINDER SRAA

Antiguan born soprano Denise Williams (singer, teacher, artistic producer) founded the *Walk Together Children* concerts more than 20 years ago. Working with pianist Brahm Goldhamer, and later adding pianist Nina Shapilsky and drummer Sam Donkoh, she has performed versions of these Black-and-Jewish concerts in many venues and produced a well received CD of the same title. Her own stage experience includes the Canadian debuts of *Portia White: First You Dream* (Eastern Front Theatre, and Theatre Northwest), *Mirvish Productions' The Sound of Music*; and *Treemonisha* and many other performances with the Nathaniel Dett Choral. An artistic director as well as performer, she established and runs No Strings Theatre (www.nostringstheatre.com), a non-profit company that gives young people an opportunity to develop their music theatre skills, guided by trained professionals. Denise is celebrating over 30 years of global community music engagement through performing, teaching, leading classes/workshops, directing choirs, shows, and artistic production. She is currently on the voice faculty of Sheridan College and is completing her master's in Community Music at Wilfrid Laurier University. www.denisewilliamssoprano.com

The prominent conductor and music educator Isabel Bernaus is at home with classical and folk music traditions from many cultures. Born in Catalonia, Spain, she obtained her music education diploma in France, and her master's at Quebec's Laval University, and studied conducting in Catalonia and Princeton NJ, and with the Elora Festival Singers. In Toronto, Isabel has conducted the community choirs Common Thread and Settlement Community Choir, a chamber choir (the Jubilate Singers) and the University of Toronto Spirit Singers. She has also taught music at Sheridan College and in the Haliburton School of Art + Design of Fleming College. She shares her love for world music frequently as a guest conductor, including with the JCC SICA Singers and at CAMMAC. She was awarded an honourable mention at the 2006 Leslie Bell Prize for Choral Conducting, given by the Ontario Arts Council. <http://commonthreadchorus.ca/about-us/musical-direction>

Common Thread: Community Chorus of Toronto is a non-auditioned chorus which promotes a sense of community by performing joyful and empowering music. All voices are welcome! We believe that everyone can sing and that together we can make beautiful music. We sing music that celebrates the dignity of all people and their struggles to create a better world. We sing for recreation, for reverence, for learning and laughter, for struggle, for hope and for understanding. One of our goals is to encourage people to sing in their everyday lives. To that end we often invite our audience to sing along. We aim to "Put a song on people's lips, and not just in their ears!"

The Jubilate Singers was founded in 1969 as an unauditioned community choir. At first known as the North York Chorus, it became an auditioned chamber choir in 1972 and in 1975 changed its name to the Jubilate Singers. In 2017 the Jubilate Singers expanded to include a non-auditioned component, and the two choirs share both rehearsal time and some concert repertoire. We are celebrating our Golden Jubilee season this year. Under music director and conductor Isabel Bernaus, the Jubilate Singers has become identified with an eclectic international repertoire and takes pride in researching and singing in the original languages. The choir is also committed to encouraging new Canadian music and has commissioned a number of innovative works from emerging Toronto composers. As well, the Jubilate Singers invites collaboration with a variety of other performing ensembles. In recent years it has given concerts with Maryem Tollar, Suba Sankaran and Aurorickshaw, Cassava Latin Rhythms, Vox Finlandiae, the Toronto Jewish Folk Choir, Proyecto Altiplano, Shevchenko Choir and the Ubuntu Drum and Dance Theatre. The Jubilate Singers gratefully acknowledges the support of the City of Toronto through the Toronto Arts Council. The choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings, September through June, at St. Leonard's Anglican Church near Yonge and Lawrence. Interested singers are encouraged to investigate the choir's website: jubilatesingers.ca.

This season marks the Jubilate Singers' 50th Anniversary. We are celebrating this milestone with three special concerts and are inviting our former singing colleagues to join us for them. "Golden Jubilee" A wide-ranging programme of music by Victoria, Bruckner, Casals, Lauridsen, Whitacre and others. 7:30 Saturday, December 1st at Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave. at Chester subway station.

"Home" A concert of music on the theme of home, from Canada and the four corners of the globe. 7:30 Saturday, March 2nd at Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave. at Chester subway station.

"Beethoven's Choral Symphony No. 9" Featuring an augmented choir, four soloists, and the North York Concert Orchestra directed by Rafael Luz. 7:30 Saturday, June 1st at the Yorkminster Citadel, Yonge St. & Hwy. 401 and 7:30 Sunday, June 2nd at St. Simon's Anglican Church, 525 Bloor St. E. at Sherbourne subway station.



DENISE WILLIAMS



ISABEL BERNAUS



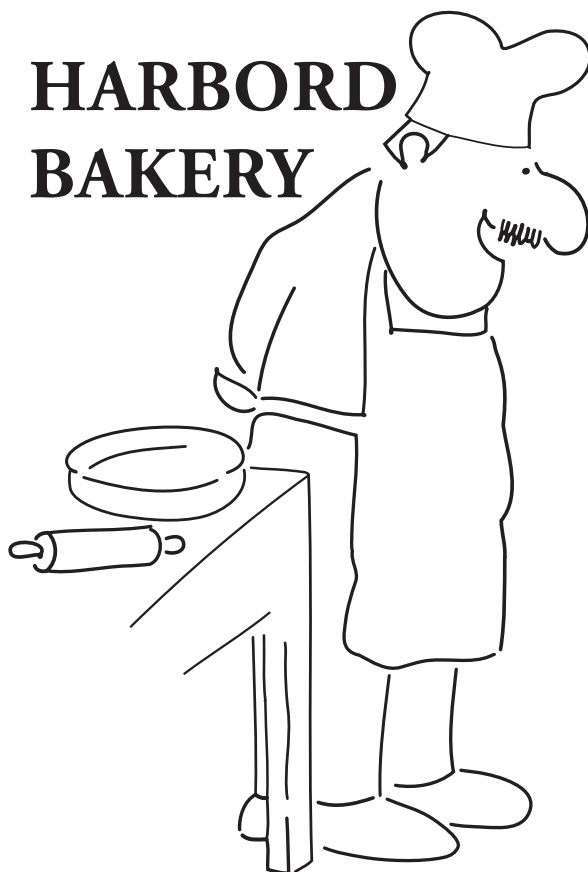
COMMON THREAD



JUBILATE SINGERS

Greetings from

**HARBORD
BAKERY**



**113 Harbord Street
(416) 922-5767**

www.harbordbakery.ca



Dr. Nicole Bergeron
Dr. Angela Monetta
Dr. Linda Skrapits

Optometrists

101 Yorkville Ave • Suite 205
Toronto • ON • M5R 1C1
Telephone (416) 968-2300
Fax (416) 968-1450

SHOP.COM™
Powered by marketamerica®



Consuelo Julien
your shop consultant



Phone: (647) 718-7384

Email: consueloshopandearn@gmail.com
www.shop.com/consueloshopandearn

Call to learn how you can save money
and turn your everyday shopping into a pay cheque
using our shopping annuity program
647.718.7384

OneCart® • Comparison Shopping • eGifts • Gift Registry • 5000+ Partner Stores

Isotonix®
The world's most advanced nutraceutical

MOTIVES
LOREN RIDINGER

ITLS
TRAVEL

VICTORIA'S SECRET

Hotels.com

Holiday Inn

BEST BUY

Bench.

Budget®

ebay

GUESS

Home Depot

Nike

HUDSON'S BAY

AliExpress

URBAN PLANET

Convert Spending into earning @ shop.com/consueloshopandearn
to earn up to 50% cashback over 50 millions products.



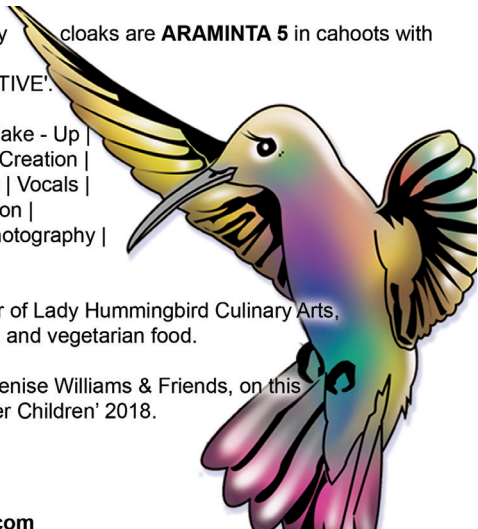
My name is Amina Abena Alfred and my cloaks are **ARAMINTA 5** in cahoots with **Rahjudah Creative Services**.
My story is quite simple...I am a 'CREATIVE'.

Some of my ventures include; Hair & Make - Up |
Painting | Illustration | Logo Concept & Creation |
Graphic Design | Branding | Installation | Vocals |
Music Composition | Drums & Percussion |
Set & Interior Design | Literary Arts | Photography |
Videography and more!

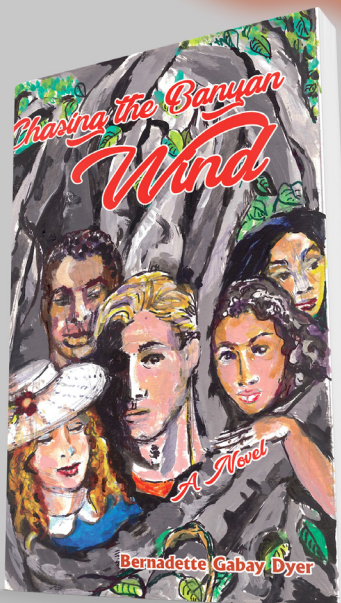
I am also the culinary artist and founder of Lady Hummingbird Culinary Arts,
a catering service specializing in vegan and vegetarian food.

It has been my pleasure to work with Denise Williams & Friends, on this
celebratory production of 'Walk Together Children' 2018.

www.aminaalfred.com
www.ladyhumminbirdculinaryarts.com



Chasing the Banyan Wind



Coming this Christmas...

Bernadette Gabay Dyer was born in Kingston, Jamaica and now resides in Toronto, Canada. She is a member of the Writer's Union of Canada, and Science Fiction Canada.

Bernadette is also the author of *Villa Fair*, a short story collection, *Waltzes I Have Not Forgotten*, an historical novel, and *Abductors*, a science fiction novel. Her poetry and short stories have been published in several literary magazines.

In the mid 1920s an English family, Jonathan and Wilemina Gunn, and their two young children, Dunstan and Eliza emigrate to the Caribbean island of Jamaica. With help from locals they build a home in a remote rural location on the island's north coast. Previous perceptions of the island do not prepare them for the reality of the island's diverse English-speaking population that includes Negroes, East Indians, Chinese, Jews, Europeans and Syrians. This haunting saga exposes race relations, social class distinctions and alliances in a multi-ethnic society, that goes beyond the unforgiving landscape of war, turmoil, hardships and passions that proliferate even beyond Jamaica's shores. A sweeping historical novel that addresses World War II, and the involvement of the Commonwealth nations' allegiance to the 'Mother Country' while taking us on an unforgettable journey that gives credence to the saying, that the more things change, the more they remain the same.



LMH PUBLISHING LIMITED

7 Norman Road
Suite 10-11 Sagcor Industrial Park
Kingston C.S.O.
Jamaica



876-938-0005
876-619-0904



lmhbookpublishing@cwjamaica.com



www.lmhpublishing.com





"Gold Standard Designs for Creative Minds"

glennseville.myportfolio.com | GWSeville84@gmail.com | 647-678-2650

CONTACT ME AND MENTION **"WALK TOGETHER CHILDREN"**
TO RECEIVE **25% OFF ANY GRAPHIC DESIGN SERVICE!**

SUPPORTERS

FRIENDS up to \$199

Dr. Maurice Bygrave
Robin Buyers
Dr. Wansoo Chai
Helen and Kevin Chan
Miriam Paton
Ruby Maynard
Dr. and Mrs. Frederick McIntosh
Juan Pascual-Leone
Nazila Taheri
Mya Tran
Carlos Pascual-Leone Wolfram

PATRONS \$200-\$999

Vanessa McDonald
Babak Naseri
Charlie Sise
Eulalie Walling-Sampson
Margarete Wolfram

BENEFACTORS \$1000+

Salima Dhanani
Linda Litwack
Denise Williams



Walk Together Children 2018

NO STRINGS  THEATRE

nYA
NORTH YORK ARTS


TORONTO CENTRE
FOR THE ARTS