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BUILDING SACRED BRIDGES



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Building Sacred Bridges – an interfaith musical experience – is a goodwill event uniting culture, faith and community.

Part of United Nations Interfaith Harmony Week celebrations in Calgary, presented by the Calgary Interfaith Council, along with the Habitat for Humanity Interfaith Build Project Leadership Team, the Building Sacred Bridges concerts are intended to build community in a variety of ways, by connecting people of different faiths and backgrounds, and by raising funds to build homes for working families in need as a fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta.

“It’s a wonderful goodwill event,” says concert organizing committee member Dalton Harding, a volunteer with the Calgary Interfaith Council. “When we come and listen, and experience cultures and faiths that are not our own, we leave with more tolerance and more love for our neighbours. We take that with us back to our communities – in wanting to create more bridges rather than walls.”

Concert goers are in for a treat, according to Harding, who describes the musical events as family-friendly, with a variety of music that will appeal to people of all ages.

The musical program will include:

- A faith band from the United Church, entertaining people as they first arrive and after the concert when people are leaving;
- Syed Hadi Hassan will start the formal program with a prayer in Arabic and then in English;
- A children’s choir will combine singers from the Jewish and Mormon traditions (the youngest singer is four years old);
- At the end, all of the choirs will join together.
- Singer, Dr. Harjot Singh, will share a Sikh musical tradition, performing a wedding song;

“There’s this gathering at the end, of voices and faith and culture,” Harding says. “Come and enjoy. These are opportunities to experience something new, and you leave having a great feeling.”

Both concerts will include performances by:

- Syed Hadi Hassan (Call to Prayer)
- Lutheran Church of our Saviour Praise Singers
- United In Song
- Zamram (My Song)
- The Naked Faith Band
- Singer, Dr. Harjot Singh
- All God’s Children (Jewish and Mormon Children’s Choir)
- UUPhonia and Chor Vida (Unitarian Choirs)
- Harmony Through Harmony
- Adorare Choral Ensemble/St. Bonaventure (Catholic Choirs)
- Grand Finale Choir singing “Love Can Build A Bridge” and “One Light One Sun.”

The concerts take place at Knox United Church Saturday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m.; and at Beth Tzedec Congregation Sunday, Feb. 11 at 7 p.m.

Are these the kind of stories your organization has to share?

While admission is free of charge, “we encourage and welcome donations,” Harding says, noting there is a suggested minimum of \$20 donation per seat. To reserve, please visit habitatsouthernab.ca/bsb. Rush seating is also available.

Donations will support Habitat for Humanity Southern Alberta. The Calgary Interfaith Council will donate the funds raised towards its goal of building 10 homes for local working families who need affordable housing, for a total cost of \$1 million. Concert organizers are hoping to raise \$20,000 to put toward that total at this year’s two musical events.