

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.



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

2014-2015 Season in Review

476 Apple Hill Road  
Nelson, NH 03457

Bach With Verse

## Send Joy To Kurdistan



### IRAQ CONCERT TOUR CAMPAIGN

Join our campaign to raise money to send Dobbs to Iraq this season. We need to raise \$2000 for air travel, instrument baggage fees and ground transportation.

Working with local musicians, Dobbs will travel to Erbil, Ranya and Sulaymaniyah playing in elementary and high schools, music schools and community centers. With your help we will bring over 20 concerts to children and communities of this war-torn region free-of-charge.

#### WE CAN DO IT WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

Visit [www.bachwithverse.org/support](http://www.bachwithverse.org/support) to donate now and and spread the word to make this concert tour possible!

## MUSIC STORE



CDs are available at [www.bachwithverse.org](http://www.bachwithverse.org) and/or for download on iTunes.  
Proceeds go directly to BWV programs bringing live music to audiences around the world.

J.S. Bach: Six Solo Suites LIVE  
J.S. Bach: Gamba Sonatas  
Brahms: Sonatas  
Monkey Business & Other Stories

## Bach With Verse

## 2014-2015 NEWSLETTER

Season Report by Dobbs Hartshorne, double bass

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### 2014-2015 SEASON BY THE NUMBERS



99

Concerts & Workshops

6

Concert Tours

4

Countries & 3 US States

6395

Audience members experiencing our live programs

4775

Incarcerated men, women & juveniles

1331

Children, teens & caregivers

289

Audience members learning about our programs & those we serve

## AFGHANISTAN CONCERT TOUR

February 2014



Dobbs with ANIM Bass players demonstrating good hand position.

In February, I returned to Afghanistan under the auspices of Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM). The school has developed into a very strong conservatory with high levels students in both Classical and Afghan music. The security situation was worse than it has been. In December of last year, there had been an attack in which a bomb went off in an auditorium where music students were performing. They were unhurt but the director of ANIM was injured and had to be flown to Australia for surgery. Because of this situation, I was unable to get out to perform as much as usual, but I worked every day with two very talented bass students and with the

cello teacher who would take them after I left. I performed for numerous age groups in the school and for community members, children and student groups brought to the school for concerts. The most unusual place I played was at the Russian Embassy with the ANIM faculty. I did my story "The Saddest Day" in Russian (thanks to a last minute translation by good friend Movses Pogossian) to riotous laughter and then food and vodka. I made contact with my old friends at the Aghan NGO, WADAN. In addition to working with ANIM, I look forward to being hosted by WADAN to perform in their 22 drug rehab centers and for \$25,000 teachers currently enrolled in their training programs.



Dobbs with visiting students from the Agha Khan Institute for traditional Afghan music.

## DENMARK ~ BWV 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONCERT

March 21, 2015



After the concert in Sankt Johannes Kirke with Dobbs' first teacher, Bent Grosen.

J.S. Bach's Six Solo Suites (originally for Cello) are central to the programs we run. I play one of the Suites on every concert for every population. Periodically, I play all six together on a single concert. The last time was in Bolivia in 2011. This year on Bach's birthday, March 21st (no. 330), I performed all six suites in a beautiful church in Århus, Denmark. This was special for me because I began my study of the Bass there in 1961. My teacher, Bent Grosen, was sitting in the front row and the church was filled with the family I lived with as well as old friends and people who were interested in the work I do around the world. It was a beautiful celebration of the work I have been doing for the past 10 years.



## PRISON CONCERT PROJECT

### New Hampshire Prisons

11 Concerts ~ August-September 2014

In August and September, I did concerts in New Hampshire county jails, drug rehab centers and youth homes in NH. I would have thought that people in short term programs (jails typically house offenders for a couple years only) would lack the extreme thirst for connections that I've seen in prisons. It turns out, though, that often the short term incarceration leads to a period of intense reflection. "How did I end up here?" or "How did I end up here again?" or "How can I change myself so that this doesn't keep happening?" Often these thoughts are enhanced and focused by the invitation to listen to Bach. The letters and comments I get often includes a feeling of having come to some resolution during the 20 minutes of listening/thinking during the concert.

I have done this long enough that I almost always run into someone who has heard me play before. Often they have told others about me and as I begin to talk about listening to the Bach I see knowing grins and heads shaking. Sometimes they have told the plots of some of my stories to their friends and they comment about them afterwards. "We heard all about that one. I loved it. Do you have any more?" I believe that the story is the marker. It's what sticks in the memory, while the main experience is how they were affected by the Bach.



Dobbs performing for Drifter before his transformation.

of "Drifter", which was his prison name. He cut his long red beard and wears a cap over his skull tats and most importantly contacted his family after letting them think he was dead for 25 years. The power of music! He and I talked about performance issues and practice issues for 2 and a half hours. I got standing ovations in Solano, CRC and LA County Jails. I also expanded the work for Juvenile offenders by doing 9 concerts just for young people in the prison system.

### New York Prisons

9 Concerts ~ December 2014

In December, I did a tour of seven New York prisons, including two new facilities. Of special interest was a concert at Groveland Correctional Facility for over 300 attentive inmates, a return to the largest women's maximum security facility, Bedford Correctional, and three concerts for the hospital wing in Fishkill Prison. It was in Fishkill that one of the inmates, a large African American man in a wheel chair, completely broke down after the concert and was sobbing uncontrollably. When I talked to him he told me that the Bolivian song I had just sung was the song (or maybe reminded him of the song) his parents sang to him when he was five. "I'm just thinking of the simple beautiful things in life." He said.

### California Prisons

27 Concerts ~ May 2015

The last tour of the season was to prisons in California where I did 27 concerts in 2 weeks. One of the highlights was a master class I did in "SAC" for one classical guitar player. I've known him now for 6 years and for the last 4 years I've watched him become not just a guitarist but a full-fledged musician. It has become his reason for living. He recently changed things in his outward life as well. He now goes by his "street name" instead

## UGANDA CONCERT TOUR

21 Concerts - April-May 2015



there were over 1000 inmates sitting on the ground outside in the yard. But they squeezed into such a small area that they were able to hear me. When I began doing "Another Fairy Tale" in their language, Luganda, the roar was incredible. I played for both women and men and finally on "Death Row". I said to them what I say to all audiences. "Listen to this Bach and if you like, go home or go wherever your mind takes you." After the concert on Death Row, a spokesman for the inmates stood up and told me, "We all went home to our villages. Thank you."

In addition to prisons, I did 10 concerts for street children in various kinds of homes as well as two concerts for the hosting organizations. I was again struck by the politeness of the people and the warmth of the culture, even in prisons. I can't wait to go back.

Photos left to right: Dobbs performing for inmates at Luzira Main Prison in Kampala - Death Row (top 2 photos). Concert in the woodworking shop at Luzira Main Prison in Kampala for convicted inmates in yellow and waiting to be sentenced inmates in orange.



### NEW BOARD MEMBERS

RHONDA LAKE &  
ALLEN MENDELSON

We are pleased to welcome Rhonda Lake and Allen Mendelson to our Board of Directors. Both reside in Keene, New Hampshire and have been long time supporters of Bach With Verse.



Allen Mendelson is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Keene. He has lived in the Monadnock Region since 1974 and has

known Dobbs since then. After serving on many boards in the region, the mission of BWV and Dobbs' energy attracted him to serving on our board. He hopes that his work can help make the Global Citizenry work of Dobbs more well-known in the Monadnock Region.

### 2015-2016 SEASON EVENTS

New Hampshire Prison Tour  
Iraq Concert Tour  
New York Prison Tour  
Afghanistan Concert Tour  
California Prison Tour



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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Visit [www.bachwithverse.org/support](http://www.bachwithverse.org/support) for unique opportunities to make a big impact keeping BWV programs going strong!

Thank you for your support!

### 2014-2015 SUPPORTERS

(JULY 1, 2014 - JUNE 30, 2015)

**Suites Circle** (up to \$10,000)  
Susan Saltus

**Gigue Circle** (up to \$5000)  
NH State Council on the Arts

**Bourree Circle** (up to \$2500)  
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David & Susan Lord  
Anne Maxwell  
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Paul & Judy Noyes  
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Eve & Fred Richardson  
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Kay Frank  
Joanne Geyer  
Hal Grant  
Probyn Gregory  
Timothy & Nancy Hartshorne  
Jonathan Hartshorne  
W. Ritter Henn  
Claire Henshaw McNeill  
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We would not be able to provide our concerts free-of-charge to hundreds of children, refugees, students, inmates & rehab patients around the world without the generosity of so many. Thank you!

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