

New Hampshire State Council on the Arts
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.



IRAQ CONCERT TOUR

21 Concerts ~ January-February 2016



Children delighted by Dobbs performance at the Cambridge School in Sulymania

I returned to Kurdistan, the semi-autonomous region of Iraq, where the Kurdish people again welcomed me with overwhelming hospitality. I performed in the cities of Erbil and Ranya. But spent most of my time in Sulymania, where I stayed at "The Music

House," a music school and concert house where Chia, my bass student from 2010, is one of the teachers now. Chia arranged concerts for me all over, which was amazing since the government schools had been all closed due to the fact that the teachers hadn't been paid for 5 months and then went back on half salary and then out on strike. I played at a variety of private schools and kindergartens, the Art Institute and I also told my turtle story, *The Saddest Day*, in Kurdish on National TV. Subsequently, I was recognized on the street.

The highlight for me was working with Save The Children Kurdistan. They organized concerts for hundreds of children at two refugee camps outside the city of Sulymania. One was a camp for Syrian Kurds fleeing the civil war in Syria



Refugee Camp for Syrians fleeing ISIS

and the other was for Iraqi Arabs fleeing ISIS. There were over a thousand families living in tents at that one.

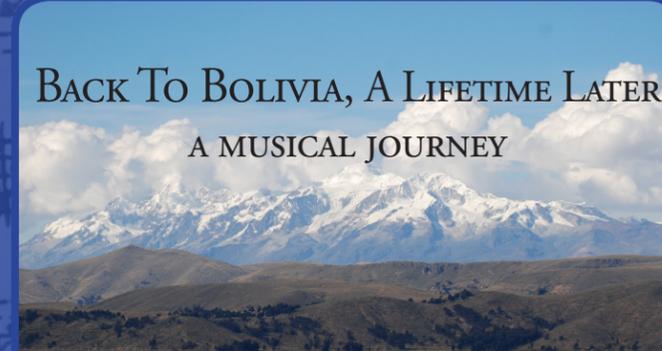
I spoke to them, "Ismo Dobbs." My Arabic stopped working about there, but I made contact. And that was the important part. Through a translator, I told them that everyone in America and everywhere in the world is hoping that they can go home soon. They applauded wildly. At one point, there was unbelievable chaos and the staff from Save The Children did an amazing job of keeping the kids from smothering me and my bass under a pile of children. After all, they are just kids like kids everywhere.



Dobbs performing for 3 and 4-year olds who have been at this refugee camp for about 3 years.

BACK TO BOLIVIA, A LIFETIME LATER

A MUSICAL JOURNEY



Featuring Richard "Dobbs" Hartshorne
Claudia Quilali Erazo, Director

We are very excited to announce the soon-to-be released film

BACK TO BOLIVIA, A LIFETIME LATER

The movie follows Dobbs as he returns to Bolivia to perform in six remote villages where he had given concerts in 1969 as a Peace Corp Volunteer. In searching for people who still remember those concerts from 44 years ago, he is also seeking to determine if the performances he does now in remote and war torn places might also have resonance 44 years from today. You will be amazed at what he finds. The faces of the people and the spectacular scenery around Lake Titicaca form the backdrop for this intense story about the power of music.

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

2015-2016 NEWSLETTER

476 Apple Hill Road
Nelson, NH 03457

Bach With Verse

Bach With Verse

2015-2016
NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION

COVER:

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- New Film "Back to Bolivia"
- Uganda Tour Campaign

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Send Joy To Uganda

UGANDA CONCERT TOUR CAMPAIGN

Join our #GivingTuesday campaign to raise money to send Dobbs to Uganda this season.

Our goal is to raise \$2500 for air travel, instrument baggage fees and ground transportation.

In addition to performing for schools in collaboration with Dwelling Places, the tour will expand to include additional prisons as well as remote villages outside of Kampala. With your help, we will present over 20 concerts free-of-charge.

WE CAN DO IT WITH YOUR SUPPORT!

Visit www.bachwithverse.org/support to donate now and spread the word to make this concert tour possible!



PRISON CONCERT PROJECT

New Hampshire Prisons 12 Concerts ~ August-September 2015

Another great year of playing in NH jails, prisons, rehab centers and a Juvenile Facility. I saw a young man at the Friendship House who could not remember where he had seen me perform. He is now out of prison and in this drug rehab halfway house. Finally he realized it was in the youth facility many years ago. I congratulated him on turning his life around and wished him luck. In the Concord Men's Prison, before the concert I was reminiscing that the very first Bach With Verse concert had taken place in the very gym we were sitting in. "Any of you guys here that day?" A bunch of them raised their hands and smiled. That day was April 30, 2004. It seems like a long time ago. After the concert, I got to hear an inmate sing a couple of funny songs with guitar. He had had a touring band with his best friend until one night they got into an argument and he punched his friend who fell on his head and was killed. He lost his freedom, his band and his best friend. So now he plays for other prisoners and writes humorous songs. They were very good. He's in for 25 years so I'll see him a lot. It always helps to have one or more in the audience who have heard me play to encourage others to come. Those that haven't seen me before don't know what to expect, but they notice that the ones who have seen me before are smiling before anything funny happens.



SAC Guitar Masterclass

California Prisons 23 Concerts ~ May 2016

It may seem strange but playing in prisons is something I always look forward to, especially when I get to see old friends. I've now been visiting California prisons since 2005, so I have the most friends there. In May, I saw someone who remembered me at virtually every concert I played. I was in 5 state prisons, 4 youth facilities and one county jail and had wonderful concerts everywhere.



My favorite moment was doing a masterclass for guitar students in "SAC" (California State Prison-Sacramento). Jacob (formerly Drifter), a dedicated classical guitar student, is now teaching students himself. We coached his students together, talking about performance anxiety and practicing skills. But what pleased me most was that the concepts of performing and practicing that I had shared with him last year were coming out of his mouth almost word for word to his students now. I hope I was able to help him with a neck problem by getting him to focus on the neck not the music as he practiced. We did some prison humor by taking a picture with me facing the camera and them facing the wall. No faces allowed. We were all laughing. Then weeks later, the prison approved the picture for release of us all facing the same way.

In the LA area, the county jails have a wonderful education program I performed for: 2 groups of men who have made a commitment to their education, parenting, substance abuse rehab, GED track, etc. A very positive feeling and appreciative audiences.



During my time in California, I spent three days working with my good friend and master editor Jaime Arze doing the final edits on *Back To Bolivia: A Lifetime Later*. I met Jaime 20 years ago at a mutual friend's wedding. He organized the morning after breakfast and Emily and I played the music. The first thing I said to him was "I know a street in La Paz Bolivia called Arze." And he said, "That was my great grandfather." We've been friends ever since. Being Bolivian, Jaime understands this movie in a way not possible by others. 36 hours of nonstop editing in 3 days. Art was made. We are so honored to have had him work on this film. Thank you, Jaime!

As an actor, Jaime works in a black box theatre group with Tim Robbins who runs a Commedia D'el Arte program in prisons around the state of California. He started it in California Rehabilitation Center around the time I started playing there. Jaime hasn't yet participated in it because of time constraints but knows the program well. He's also one of the editors of the full length movie, *Landfill Harmonic*, following the Recycled Orchestra of Cateura, a Paraguayan musical group that plays instruments made entirely out of garbage.

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2016-2017 SEASON EVENTS

- New Hampshire Prison Tour
- New York Prison Tour
- Palestine Concert Tour
- California Prison Tour
- Uganda Concert Tour



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State Council on the Arts

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MUSIC STORE



GREAT GIFTS!
Bach, Brahms and Dobbs' Comedic Stories
CDs and Downloads available at
www.bachwithverse.org.

Proceeds go directly to BWV programs bringing live music to audiences around the world.

AFGHANISTAN CONCERT TOUR

14 Concerts ~ March-April 2015



Working with ANIM bass student, Zultan.

In March, I returned to Afghanistan once again under the sponsorship of WADAN, the amazing Afghan organization that works for the welfare of the country. I was met at the airport by my old WADAN friend Kushal. And for the next two weeks I had food, lodging, a car, a driver and a translator (Kushal) and most importantly concerts. I played for 3 drug treatment centers (including one for women) where they laughed harder than any other group, two orphanages (one boys and one girls), the Afghans4Tomorrow coed school and 4 offices of various organizations doing great work in Afghanistan. I returned to the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM) to perform and also work with their bass students. It was great to see students I had worked with last year. My new student, Zultan, made tremendous progress with 4 days of hand exercises I gave him. I performed twice on TV, the last being on *Dum ba Dum* (Day by Day) the most watched show in Afghanistan. *Dum ba Dum* is a comedy variety show and I was the guest so I played, I told stories, I sang, I danced, and had a weird bat-like miming competition with the comedian host.



Dobbs on *Dum ba Dum* TV show.



Above & Below: Women's & Men's Drug Treatment Centers



2015-2016 SUPPORTERS

(JULY 1, 2015 - JUNE 30, 2016)

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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& Sue McCalley, M.D.*
New Hampshire Charitable
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Gavotte Circle (up to \$1000)
Sherif & Mary Nada
Jeremy & Anne Whitney
William James Association

Sarabande Circle (up to \$500)
Murray Buttner
& Jennifer Heller
Allen & Ellen Mendelson
Rhonda Lake
& Marc Ducharme
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Courante Circle (up to \$250)
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Anne Hardy
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Matthew & Deborah Saltus
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Jeffrey Stillman

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Prelude Circle (up to \$50)
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Joy and Julian Jaffe*
Bali Kumar
Pattama Ladpli
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David & Susan Lord*
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Lucky Marks
Anne Maxwell
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We are able to provide concerts free-of-charge to hundreds of children, refugees, students, inmates & patients around the world only with the generous support of so many. Thank you!

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Shop AmazonSmile to support BWV.

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Bach With Verse is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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