

CUATRO PUNTOS

Dedicated to global cooperation and peace through the writing, performance, and teaching of music worldwide

www.cuatropuntos.org



Our Toccata Classics album with the children of Kabul

Our mission is to promote global cooperation and peace through boundary-defying projects centered on the healing and unifying powers of music. This year we continued work on a project that involves musicians in three nations, will take two years to complete, and will help the voices of children struggling for their basic rights and safety be heard for generations to come. It began as a single piece of music, titled *The Rosegarden of Light*, proposed by UK composer



Sadie Harrison in December 2014 as a response to an unspeakable act of violence against our mutual friends at the *Afghanistan National Institute of Music* (ANIM) in Kabul. It has turned into an album of the same name that brings together *Cuatro Puntos*, the girls of ANIM's *Ensemble Zobra* (pictured above) and the young men of ANIM's *Traditional Instruments Ensemble* (pictured left). The album will feature Afghan-inspired music for Western instruments by Sadie Harrison, as well as traditional music performed on local instruments from Afghanistan. The album will be released by the renowned UK label *Toccata Classics*, which is distributed across the world by *Naxos*. It will be launched in England on June 1 as part of a special concert at Goldsmiths University, and will be available around the world by Summer 2016. www.toccataclassics.com

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Our 2014 - 2015 Theme:

Musician Warriors- Celebrating Those Who Have & Do Create in the Face of Adversity

Each season we choose a theme with a real-world application that governs all of our activities and music selections for the year. This year's theme encompasses our work in Afghanistan and Bolivia, recording project with *Toccata Classics*, and four programs: "From Damascus to Kabul: Celebrating Artists in Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan," "Beyond Borders," "Music in the Shadow of World War II," and "Beyond Music." Each program relates to the overall theme, and is repeated at venues throughout New England and the world. "From Damascus to Kabul" is our most performed program this year, with over 20 performances in the United States, England, Germany, and The Netherlands. Our theme also encompasses our outreach topic for the year, which is "Life Without Music." With this program we are visiting schools across Connecticut and Massachusetts. We are asking children to contemplate and appreciate the ubiquity of music in the USA by considering what life would be like with no music at all- just as it was in Afghanistan less than 15 years ago.

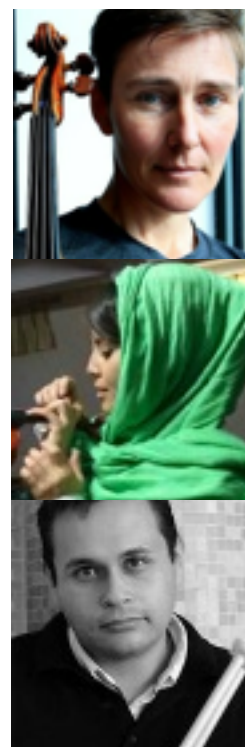


A Return to the Afghanistan National Institute of Music (ANIM)

In August 2015, Kevin Bishop and Holly Bishop returned to teach at the *Afghanistan National Institute of Music*. As part of their visit, they worked with ANIM faculty to prepare *Ensemble Zobra*, the school's all-girl ensemble, for its recording of *The Rosegarden of Light*. As one of the most difficult and dangerous places in the world to be a woman, these young women are defying astounding odds and are providing inspiration for women and children around the world who are fighting for their voices to be heard. Through *The Rosegarden of Light* project- which includes an internationally released album, live performances, school workshops, and lectures in four countries- *Cuatro Puntos* is helping these girls' individual and collective stories be heard.

Summer 2016 Return to Bolivia

In summer of 2013, *Cuatro Puntos* took six musicians to work with the young musicians of the *Youth Orchestras of Tarija, Bolivia*, followed by nine musicians in 2014. In 2015 our Bolivia partnership went on hiatus as we pursued projects in other parts of the world, but in 2016 we will be returning to Tarija. The *Youth Orchestras of Tarija* are part of an El Sistema music program for social change located in a beautiful, but rather isolated, part of the country. This year, in our effort to create cross-cultural dialogue, we will be bringing three special guests with us to Bolivia. Australian/English cellist and violist Emma Ayres, American/Hong Kongese violinist Jennifer Moberg, and Colombian conductor and percussionist Camilo Jauregui are all current faculty at the *Afghanistan National Institute of Music*. (pictured right). They will bring their individual international experience, as well as their collective experience in Kabul, to the young people of Bolivia. As these musicians are also part of *The Rosegarden of Light* project, this visit will tie together all of the outreach we do, bringing together representatives from five continents to teach, make music, and open young minds in the South American country of Bolivia.



Documentary about Cuatro Puntos



Filmmaker/Journalist
Shirra Edwards

Since November, *Cuatro Puntos* musicians have been on camera as a team of film makers plans a 45-minute documentary about the story behind the organization. Throughout the first half of 2016, filmmaker and journalist Shirra Edwards will follow *Cuatro Puntos* through rehearsals, performances, and workshops. Ms. Edwards, a graduate journalism student at Quinnipiac University, is producing the film for her capstone project. She is assisted by Phillip Simon, Quinnipiac's School of Communications graduate program director. *Cuatro Puntos* is grateful to Ms. Edwards and her team for taking interest in our story. We are glad that the voices of those we work with will be heard by a broader audience through this film.

“From Damascus to Kabul” Residency with Dr. Sadie Harrison

In September, *Cuatro Puntos* was pleased to welcome Dr. Sadie Harrison for her first visit to the United States. Earlier in 2015, Dr. Harrison was named *Cuatro Puntos*' composer-in-residence for her exceptional work composing *Dast be Dast* (premiered in Kabul in 2014,) and *The Rosegarden of Light*. In addition to being a well respected composer, she is also a scholar of Afghan music and currently a Visiting Teaching Fellow in the Afghan Music Department at Goldsmiths University in London. During her visit, *Cuatro Puntos* gave four public performances of the “From Damascus to Kabul” program, which featured *The Rosegarden of Light*. Dr. Harrison gave a lecture at each concert, and, in conjunction with the *Women Composers Festival of Hartford*, at the University of Connecticut. She even played violin on a piece of music from Iraq. The biggest part of the residency was the nine outreach events at Connecticut schools. These events, titled “Life Without Music,” featured some of the music from the “From Damascus to Kabul” program and a discussion with Dr. Harrison. Students learned about the past and ongoing struggles facing Afghan musicians, and how it pertains to life in the United States. Thank you to *Arts Council England* and the *Greater Hartford Arts Council* for making this residency possible!



Composer-in-residence
Sadie Harrison

Schools Visited by “Life Without Music” Boston Residency/Hartford Performs



The “Life Without Music” curriculum uses the story of musical rights in Afghanistan to engage students and make them think about the importance of the arts in their own society. They are also asked to consider the importance of protecting all people's freedom of expression. The workshop is a one day or multi-day project, depending on the school's preference. Host schools for

the 2015- 2016 season are: In CT: Glastonbury High School, Buttonball Lane and Nayuag elementary schools, Memorial Middle School, Emerson Williams Elementary School. In MA: MusiConnects program, Boston Bridge Academy, Somerville High School. Thank you to *Greater Hartford Arts Council* for funding the Connecticut residencies, and the *Mattina Proctor Foundation* for funding these and more events in the Boston area. Thank you also to Hartford Performs for helping us reach even more schools within the city of Hartford.

Our Spring 2016 European Tour



We will be taking our program “From Damascus to Kabul” and our teaching series “Life Without Music” on the road this spring, visiting three European countries. Our main stay will be in England, where we will link up with our composer-in-residence Sadie Harrison and our album producers from *Toccata Classics*. Here we will perform and teach as part of the *Purbeck Arts Festival*, *Brighton Fringe Festival*, and *Late Music Festival*, as well as at venues across Dorset and Somerset. We will also have a CD Launch Concert at Goldsmiths University in London. Following this we will travel to Berlin, Germany to be guest performers and lecturers at *The Institute for Cultural Diplomacy*. Finally, we will stop in The Netherlands to visit an aspiring music program at a refugee camp.

This will help us form our 2016-2017 projects and themes, which will center on the international refugee crisis. Thank you to *Arts Council England*, *Ambache Foundation*, *New Music USA*, *Ralph Vaughan Williams Charitable Trust*, and *Toccata Classics* for making this tour possible.

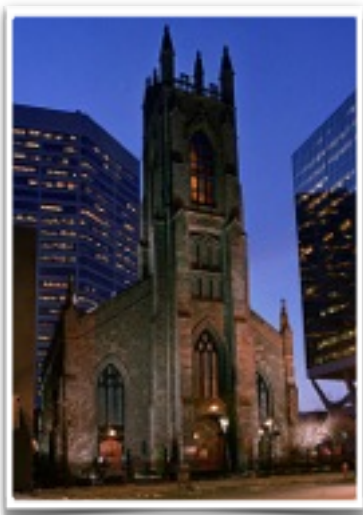
Play-In Fundraiser for Kabul Orphanage

In July 2015, *Cuatro Puntos* organized two fundraising events for the *Afghan Child Education and Care Organization* (AFCECO.) One was held at the Church of the Covenant in downtown Boston, and the other at Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford. The events were held as community play/sing-ins, where amateur and professional musicians of all ages were invited to come together and make music for a cause. Over 200 musicians played and sang traditional pieces from Afghanistan. The events were organized by *Cuatro Puntos* musicians Eden MacAdam-Somer and Kevin Bishop, both of whom have visited the AFCECO orphanages in Kabul. Daniel D’Addio and David Vaughan volunteered their time as the guest conductors. Andeisha Farid, founder and director of the AFCECO orphanages, also made an appearance. Thank you to all involved for raising a significant sum for the children of Kabul!



Cuatro Puntos Named Artists In Residence at Christ Church Cathedral in Downtown Hartford

We are honored to be able to further connect with the urban center of our home city by being named the Artists in Residence at one of Hartford’s largest and most important cathedrals. Christ Church Cathedral is located in the center of downtown on the corner of Church and Main streets. Beginning in the 2016-2017 season, the cathedral will host five or more concerts a year. They will also work with *Cuatro Puntos* to find new and creative ways for our musicians and “Chamber Music for Peace” students to engage the urban community. There will be a preview concert titled “Letters from Kabul” at the Cathedral on Friday, January 15, 2016 at 7:00pm. Please join us, and take the opportunity to see this Hartford landmark!



Chamber Music for Peace

Our Hartford program providing instruction and meaningful connection with the community

In Spring 2015, Cuatro Puntos presented its second round of “Chamber Music for Peace” workshops. Students from around Connecticut came together in Hartford to play chamber music. They also learned about ways of engaging their community and world through music. They performed a concert at Trinity Episcopal Church in downtown Hartford as well as for residents at Hebrew Healthcare. This three-week program is set to continue in Spring 2016. We are currently welcoming tax-deductible contributions to help offset the cost of this program, which, due to state budget cuts, is no longer funded by the Connecticut Office of the Arts. We are also currently accepting applications for the program. Please encourage the young musicians in your life to apply!



Apply for Chamber Music for Peace 2016!

Eligibility: Students age 18 and under who play violin, viola, cello, bass, or flute

Dates: **Saturday, April 2** from 8:00am to 12:00pm; **Saturday, April 16** from 8:00am to 12:00pm; **Saturday, April 23** from 8:00am to 12:00pm, with student concert at 1pm and faculty concert at 7:30pm; **Sunday, April 24** will be a concert at 2:00pm.

Location: Trinity Episcopal Church in Hartford.

Requirements: Fill out the online application and submit a 5-minute recording. (recordings are only for placement, can be made at home using a smart phone, and do not have to include an accompanist.) The deadline is February 15.

Fees: The application fee is \$20 per student, or \$30 for families with multiple students. The program is free for all those accepted, and there are no additional costs.

Where to apply: Find the application link on our homepage: www.cuatropuntos.org



Andrew Stiefel- 2014 Grand Prize Winner for his piece *The Day is On Fire*. His piece was performed in the USA, Bolivia, and Brazil, and will be released on an album.

2016 Zvi Zeitlin International Composer's Competition

We are pleased to announce the deadline and requirements for our second composition competition. It is named in memory of the Israeli-American violinist Zvi Zeitlin who gave so much of his career to musical diplomacy projects. Some of the rewards enjoyed by our 2014 competition winners: performances in the United States, Bolivia, and Brazil; a USA residency by a composer from Egypt; live performance recordings of works; recognition as international competition winners on ours and other websites. The top four prize winners are also part of a professional recording project, which will be released in 2017 as an album by *Cuatro Puntos*. This year our competition will be open to composers of any age. The musical scores submitted as part of the application process will become the basis from which we will decide our programming for the following two years. A list of the various prizes as well as the application form can be found on our website: www.cuatropuntos.org

Our Place in the World - a letter from director Kevin Bishop

I am often confronted with questions about what motivates me to take on difficult projects or go to dangerous places when I could very easily live a simpler life as a musician and teacher in the small, affluent state of Connecticut. I am also met with the question of why *Cuatro Puntos* exists at all, or why, like most ensembles, we aren't championing new music for the sake of the art form itself. Isn't making the notes of new pieces of music come to life a heroic enough cause? While I believe any art for its own sake is perfectly legitimate, I also know that music and art can play a greater role in our complicated world.

Right now, at the end of 2015, our world is at a great crossroads. What happens in the next few years will greatly alter its course. Whether we go down the path toward positive or negative change is up to the combined decisions of many individuals rather than any one regime or political power. Our world is currently in the throes of deep racial, cultural, and religious divisions. Xenophobia is rampant. As *Cuatro Puntos* has focused on the music and people of Afghanistan the past two years, I have learned that there is still a large number of people, good people, who stereotype entire nations. While there are indeed a handful of ill-meaning people in every nation, this is never representative of an entire country, race, religion, or heritage. Our planet is too diverse, and people too individual, to classify any large group as being "all the same." This is where music and art can play a role. Music is enjoyed and consumed by all. It is a common love through which seeds of understanding and empathy can be sown. Thanks to music's intrinsic ability to express and convey meaning without the use of words, people from different backgrounds can begin to understand each other better.

My colleagues and I are not disillusioned into thinking that we are going to create a massive change in the world through our music and projects. However, we want to use our own passion and love of music to become a small part of a greater international group of people from all fields and specialties who are committed to bringing about a lasting change for the better. A change that might not be seen in our lifetimes, but that could affect generations to come. A change that cannot be achieved through weapons and warfare, but by fostering understanding, acceptance, and empathy. A change that makes people answer to violence with compassion and a desire to understand the roots of misgiving, rather than meet it with immediate revenge.

Thank you for your time in reading this newsletter, and we all humbly thank you for considering a financial contribution. We invite you and encourage you to come to any of our events, or share your own ideas on how we can use music to make our world a safer, happier, more vibrant place.

- Kevin Bishop, kevin@cuatropuntos.org, 860-839-7049

Support us!

Thank you for considering a contribution as part of our annual appeal to supporters.

Contribute online. visit www.cuatropuntos.org, then click "support."

Contribute by mail. Make your check to "**Fractured Atlas**" within the United States, or "Cuatro Puntos" outside of the United States and mail to:

Cuatro Puntos, c/o Kevin Bishop
925 Oronoke Rd. 25H
Waterbury, CT 06708, USA

Become a monthly contributor. Would you consider giving \$20 or \$30 monthly to support us? You can set it up on the support page of our website, or by calling us at 860-839-7049 or emailing kevin@cuatropuntos.org. It's still tax deductible!

Volunteer

Have a little spare time to help us out? Please get in touch. We need volunteers to do all sorts of things. Let us know your strengths and expertise. We are an organization of volunteers, and always appreciate help in any form.

Please contact: Andrea Graffam, our volunteer coordinator:
andrea.graffam@gmail.com

Questions?

contact Kevin Bishop: kevin@cuatropuntos.org, 1-860-839-7049

Here are some immediate financial goals:

\$1,200 to fund our April 2016 "Chamber Music for Peace" workshops in Hartford;
\$2,000 to fund the rest of our "Life Without Music" outreach; \$2,000 to cover remaining production costs for our album with the Afghan children.

Our 2015 Supporters



Founder's Circle (\$3,000+) Greater Hartford Arts Council, Arts Council England, Mattina R. Proctor Foundation, New Music USA, Andrea Graffam



Grand Supporters (\$1000+) Ambache Charitable Trust, Ralph Vaughan Williams Trust, Powell & Sandra Harrison



Gold Supporters (\$500-\$999) Lise Trépanier, Fuller Family Trust, University of Hartford, Sally and William Fuller Charitable Fund

Mattina R. Proctor
Foundation

Silver Supporters (\$250-\$499) Marjorie Weiss, Gillian Griswold, William and Norma Wamester, Mark and Cathryn Decaprio



Bronze Supporters (\$100-\$249) Jane Sarjeant, Theresa Szymanski, Antonio Lysy, Philip and Elaine Archer, Linda and Lee Hillard, Janet and Keith Spencer, Richard Morabito, Laurie and Doug Fischer, Montminy Family, David and Renee Lathrop



Contributors (\$50-\$99) Dinah Baxter, Eric Steiner, Donald Larson, Lowell Fitzgerald, Nancy Kerr, Dennis Davies, Mary Thomas-Vallens, Katerina and Lawrence Geisler, David and Marjorie Fischer, Carl Schaefer, Leon Kuller, Patricia Knight, Lydia Whittman, Richard and Jane Hunter, John and Marie Sieller, Valerie Bscheider, Nancy Dahl, Michael and Andrea Douyard, Linda Bedard, David and Aleksandrina Sergio

The People Behind the Music

Thank you to our home-venue hosts:



Board of Directors: Kevin Bishop, Co-Executive Director; Annie Trépanier, Co-Executive Director; Steve Larson; Andrea Graffam; Allan Ballinger

Core Musicians: Aaron Packard, Annie Trépanier, Steve Larson, Kevin Bishop, Allan Ballinger, Pablo Issa Skaric, Holly Bishop, Dionne Jackson, Eden MacAdam-Somer, Sadie Harrison (composer in residence)

www.cuatropuntos.org

Upcoming Public Concerts

2014 - 2015 Theme:

Musician Warriors- Celebrating Those Who Have & Do Create in the Face of Adversity

Friday, January 15, 2016 at 7:00pm

“Letters from Kabul,” music from our album
Christ Church Cathedral - 45 Church St., Hartford, CT

Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 7:30pm

Women Composers Festival of Hartford
Christ Church Cathedral - 45 Church St., Hartford, CT

Friday, March 11, 2016 at 7:00pm

“Music in the Shadow of World War II”
St. Mark Lutheran, 75 Griswold St, Glastonbury CT

Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 2:00pm

“Music in the Shadow of World War II”
Huntington Library, 338 Main St., Huntington, NY

Monday, April 11, 2016 at 7:00pm

“From Damascus to Kabul”
Groton School, 282 Farmers Row, Groton, MA



Friday, April 22, 2016 at 7:00pm

“Beyond Music”
St. Mark Lutheran, 75 Griswold St, Glastonbury CT

Saturday, April 23, 2016 at 7:30pm

“Beyond Music”
Trinity Episcopal, 120 Sigourney St., Hartford CT

Concerts in England / Germany

All programs are titled “From Damascus to Kabul: Celebrating Artists in Syria, Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan”

Saturday, 28 May, 2016 at 7:30pm

Purbeck Arts Festival
Swanage School, Dorset, England
www.purbeckartweeks.co.uk

Sunday, 29 May, 2016 at 3:00pm

Brighton International Fringe Festival
Friends Meeting House, Brighton, England
www.brightonfringe.org

Wednesday, 1 June, 2016 at 7:30pm

Toccata Classics CD Launch Concert
Goldsmiths University, London, England
www.toccataclassics.com

Thursday, 2 June, 2016 at 7:30pm

St. Peter's Church
St. Peter's Church, Shaftesbury, England
www.stmin.org.uk/stpeters

Saturday, 4 June, 2016 at 7:30pm

Late Music Festival
Unitarian Chapel, York, England
www.latemusic.org

Monday, 6 June, 2016 at 7:00pm

Institute for Cultural Diplomacy
Berlin, Germany
www.culturaldiplomacy.org

More info on any event: www.cuatropuntos.org

(Please add me to your fridge door!)