

PROJECT for PEACE Proposal

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MUZIKO MONDA

(World Music in the Esperanto language):

• • • WHY:

An **OBSTACLE** to peace in our increasingly diversified communities is clashes of our cultural differences. One area in which people everywhere are comfortable and recognize, welcome, respect, and celebrate their differences is **MUSIC**. Programs that respectfully and comfortably bring together **MUSICS** from different parts of the world create **OPPORTUNITIES** for peaceful, educational, and enjoyable cross-cultural exchanges and fertilizations.

These displays and celebrations of **DIVERSITY** through **MUSIC**

1. allow people to publicly and proudly **EXPRESS** their unique cultural beauties and legacies from the past, in the present, and into the future.

2. **EDUCATE** people about the unique beauties of other cultures -- as everyone learns and everyone teaches.

3. **ENABLE** people of every background to mingle, learn from one another, and be positively and comfortably influenced by each other in peaceful and joyful settings.

4. and to thereby **DEVELOP A HEALTHY CURIOSITY AND RESPECT** for each other's special background.

5. These gatherings demonstrate Peace and Friendship as a model, a process, and a template for interactions in other areas of life. They demonstrate a common human desire to express human emotions (from joy to grief), to share and experience those expressions with others, and to connect with other human beings -- in song, in dance, and as listeners.

• • • The CHALLENGE:

The unstoppable force of Globalization and the emphasis on Modernization is eroding familiarity-with and interest-in the natural and beautiful pluralism of Traditional World Musics -- legacies that bonded, served, and nurtured people for centuries. This erosion is especially apparent among teen-age people in the Boston MA area and beyond who **WANT** music in their lives and are constantly exposed to an homogenized Music that is developed and promoted by commercial interests and values that are often divisive, angry, and hostile - attitudes contrary to the peace, friendship, and hopefulness that are promoted by the Davis United World Colleges. In contrast, many World Musics unite people in infectious rhythms, comfortable harmonies, and memorable melodies, plus opportunities for exciting improvisations

• • • The GOAL:

The Intention and Purpose of the project MuzikoMonda is to familiarize and engage those teenagers with the beauty, vitality, dynamism, joy, and variety of World Musics -- those from the cultures of their own ancestors, and those from the ancestors of their friends and school-mates and neighbors -- a spectrum that is huge and rapidly growing in today's world as immigration (by choice or necessity) brings together people from all parts of the world to areas like Boston MA.

• • • HOW:

MuzikoMonda (MM) is a student instrumental ensemble at The Boston Conservatory (aka BoCo), formed in an Independent Study Course and currently including college students from Bulgaria, Japan, Dominican Republic, Malaysia, and several USA students of mixed heritage. The faculty coaches are accomplished and recognized classical and world- music performers and scholars. New members from a variety of backgrounds are being auditioned.

MuzikoMonda concerts (and their process of preparing and performing their programs) are an example and role model of international and mutual collaboration, respect, enrichment, and enjoyment.

So far our repertoire (which is rapidly increasing) includes African, Arabic, Bulgarian, Malaysian, Brazilian, Irish, and North American musics – in solos, duos, trios, quartets . . . to octets. Our instrumentation so far includes percussion, marimba, guitar, harp, cello, and keyboard. All pieces are respectfully researched, coached, learned, and arranged by the group. In performance, MuzikoMonda members announce and describe the pieces, thereby educating the listeners about their unique historical contexts, uses, and musical aspects.

WHO, WHEN, WHERE:

MuzikoMonda is applying for the Peace Project Grant to play a Summer Concert Tour for programs designed to serve teen-agers in the greater Boston, Massachusetts area of the USA: Summer Schools, Summer Camps, and Summer Youth Events. Our partners in this tour will include the Mayor's Office, the Public School Systems Summer Programs, Citizen Schools after-school programs, several Unitarian and Congregational Churches, YMCAs and YWCAs, Boys and Girls Clubs, and Big Brother and Big Sister organizations.

We will perform one-hour concerts which will include audience clap- alongs and sing-alongs. Afterwards, we will conduct play-along workshops for student musicians at the venues who want to learn to join-in some of our pieces.

IMPACTS:

By encouraging self-pride and cultural-pride in individual teens, plus a group-connection through music during the concerts and workshops, MM hopes to plant seeds for peaceful interactions among the youth of Boston, a group from which Boston's future leaders could emerge. With teen violence on the rise, particularly in the summer, we hope this program will re-direct youthful energy and talents toward a desire for Peace and Friendship in all areas of life with local and global consciousness, concern, and consideration.

This hoped-for impact will be measured short-range by the audience reactions and participations at the concerts. It will be measured long- range in discussions MM will request the Teachers in the schools and camps conduct days after the concerts - - asking the students what they enjoyed and learned from and with MM. These responses will be shared with MM, to help MM effectively plan future programs for teens.

MORE:

We also have an Entrepreneurial Goal. We hope that the Davis Peace Project Grant will be an investment in MM's future impact beyond the Summer of 2007. We will use the Summer 2007 Concert Tour to attract media coverage and potential presenters and funders who will witness and be inspired by the peaceful sharing of cultural diversity to fund more Concert Tours for teen-agers and other students and their communities into the 2007-2008 school year.

In addition the members of MM could be Consultants to duplicate this project in Music Schools throughout our region and beyond - - partnering college students and teen-agers in learning and enjoying the diversity of World Musics as they all grow into being our future world leaders.

GRATTITUDES:

MuzikoMonda is grateful to Kathryn Wasserman Davis for this contest. It has challenged us to formalize an exciting and effective mission through which we can use our music skills to promote and share the marvelous music that has nourished people all over the world for many generations.