

Background and Project Overview

In 2008, China experienced a lot of natural disasters, such as snow storms, earthquakes, and floods. Any one of them will easily destroy a peaceful place. However, Yunnan, a province in the southern part of China, experienced both earthquake and floods. Numerous houses collapsed, many people were injured and died in the disasters. Mostly, the disaster destroyed a lot of children's lives. They lost families, homes, and schools. In addition, the Yunnan province has many ethnic groups. There is an on going conflict between the 24 minority ethnic groups and the major group Han.

This project, **-A Music Camp for Wounded Hearts** has been designed to address following issues:

- The children have been greatly affected by natural disasters in Yunnan, China.
- The on-going conflicts between 24 minority groups and the major group Han in Yunnan.

The purpose of this project for peace is to develop a music program, which will offer support for these children who experienced the disasters. Through doing various music activities, the children will regain some joy and ease some of their sorrow. In addition, this music program is designed to be open to all children from the different ethnic groups from the province, which will provide greater opportunities for these children to interact with one another, and developing a better understanding of different minorities in the province. Moreover, the children targeted for this project mainly come from disadvantaged background as compared to the Han's. The no cost programs will provide them a great chance to have music experiences they couldn't have because of the budget limitation of the families.

In addition to working with children in this province, this project includes the teacher training for the teachers and students from Yunnan Conservatory of Music, and the community. This training will provide different perspective and approaches to teaching for teachers to continue working with disadvantaged children in this area.

The value of this music program in this province is not just the music lesson, but a variety musical activities that will give them more positive experience, provide them a different way to express themselves, relieve some of their stress and help them to become leaders of peace.

Dalai Lama said: "We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves". Under the direction of the teachers, the children from the music camp will explore tradition folk songs from different ethnic groups in the various music activities. Also, they will compose some original songs based on their own stories and experiences. In addition, they will have classes for world. It will offer them chance to learn how other nations strengthen their culture through music. Moreover, some classes will be taught in English. It will help children to improve their second language study. Since English is the required foreign language class in all public schools in China, it is important for children to practice English with native speaker. At the end of the music camp, they will present their creations in various music forms to the community.

Procedures/Scope of Work

Location, Dates and Students:

The music camp will be hosted by the Yunnan Conservatory of Music in July, 2009 for 16 days. The conservatory is in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan. The Conservatory has agreed to offer the space, supply the facilities, and workers (students and teachers) to help running the music camp. The first four days will be teacher training, set up camp sessions details, and interview enrolled children and other preparations. The rest 12 days will be the music camp. The music camp will have two groups of students. One group for children ages 5-6 years, the other group for children 7-10 years old. Each group will have around 12-15 students. Children will be selected from orphanages, poor or disadvantaged families in Kunming and other area near Kunming.

Key personnel:

Organizer: Danqing Zhou & Matteo Sabattini Co-organizer: Prof. Jingsong Chen Yunnan Conservatory of Music
Teachers: Danqing Zhou, Matteo Sabattini, teachers or college students from Yunnan University

Music Therapist: Sarah Perry EdM, MT-BC, is a board certified music therapist and teacher in New York City. She is the music therapist/music specialist at an elementary school for children with special needs and also teaches private lessons in guitar, violin, piano, and cello to children with a variety of developmental issues including Autism, language delays, and sensory processing disorder. Sarah is an adjunct instructor of cello and guitar at Teachers College, Columbia University. She is currently a Doctoral Candidate at Teachers College, Columbia University in the music and music education program, with the focus of her work being on music and special education.

Partner information:

Yunnan Conservatory of Music has contributed to the vibrant culture of Yunnan for 50 years. It is one of the important music conservatories in China. The conservatory is equipped with advanced facilities. The conservatory has a need of developing their music education and music therapy curriculum. They are very interested in knowing different prospective ways of teaching music to disadvantaged children from western countries.

Who We Are

Matteo Sabattini is a professional musician, with a remarkable academic curriculum. He graduated with highest grade from conservatory in classical sax performance. And also graduated with honor from New School in jazz sax performance, and he got a master degree in sax performance (with Collegiate All American Award in 2006) from Manhattan School of Music. He is granted the artist visa from US government only to a limited number of musicians for their extraordinary talent and contribution to the field. He has been performing with his own group and doing workshops for children and master classes internationally (Japan, Korea, Italy, Yugoslavia, Germany, USA, Bahamas, France.) In his spare time, he does a lot of photography. His works are considered very artist. He love kids and really would like to have the opportunity to go back and help some of those that have been hit by such tragedy, and bring a smile back on their face.

Danqing Zhou is a professional and creative music teacher. She currently is an Ed.M student in TC, focus on music education for young children. She graduated from Manhattan School of Music with honor in piano performance. She has been teaching music for 10 years. She believes learning music can tremendously develop children's mind, help them to build a positive personality, and learn collaboration. She is the piano faculty in Manhattan School of Music summer camp. She teaches piano in Bergen Academy School in NJ now, mostly her students are from 4-10. Besides teaching piano, she also devotes herself to being a teaching artist appears on the stage. She did several music presentations in New York public schools under outreach office and distance learning office at Manhattan school of Music. She worked as a teaching artist in pre-concert activities for a New York Philharmonic Young People's Concert at Avery Fisher Hall. She participated as a performer at a Memorial Concert for Gunnar Schonbeck (a famed instrument builder and professor) at Bennington College in Vermont; also involved herself as a teaching artist at the 92nd Street Y, "learning music and making instruments concerts for children".As a pianist, she successfully had solo and chamber music concerts in US and China. She performed in John F. Kennedy Center, Columbia University Boone Arledge Auditorium, Columbia Faculty House, Shanghai Theater, Shanghai Heluting Hall and Shanghai Luxun Museum Hall.

Being residents in IH, the diversity community gives us a lot of chance to play with many professional musician around the world and it strike us so often that how good they are. Playing together improves our musicianship and inspires us to come up a lot of good ideas. Also, it makes us to understand and appreciate more other's culture. In addition, the activities in IH let us practice leadership and collaboration. Danqing was the orientation fellow. It trained her to be a good leader. Through working with a lot of people, she learned how to deal with conflicts and enable others to act. Matteo organize music concerts and trips for IH community and also perform with the residents a lot. He also helps new residents to get use to the life in NY by showing them around, hangout with them, and help them when they needed. Through working with them, his leadership also gets improved.

We were in Yunnan in the summer of 2008. We are attracted by the cultures from different ethnic groups and are moved by the warm hearted people there. The disasters destroyed many people's lives, especially children's. We are eager to do something for them. The peace project is a great opportunity for us to engage our professions and passion of helping people. The experience in IH inspired us to come up the idea of setting a music camp for disadvantaged children in Yunnan, China. **The great Mahatma Gandhi said: "If we are to teach real peace in this world, and if we are to carry on a real war against war, we shall have to begin with the children."**

We strongly believe that giving the opportunity to children to grow with an open mind and peaceful attitude without any prejudice, and having a place where they can soothe their pain will, in the short run improve their life quality, and in the long run improve the relationships between ethnic groups.