

December 16, 2023

**TACOMA
REFUGEE
CHOIR**



"Let There Be Peace
On Earth" Concert



Welcome!

We are the Tacoma Refugee Choir, a nonprofit music ensemble that brings together refugees, immigrants, and friends to collectively create spaces that foster a sense of community through new connections and music. We believe these spaces promote artistic expression that fulfills a need nearly as essential as food and shelter. In these spaces, like this one that you are sharing with us today, our Choir family hopes to spread an enthusiastic message of welcoming and empathy. We hope you feel that joy. Thank you for being a part of this today's celebration.

3rd Annual "Let There Be Peace on Earth" Concert

Our annual holiday concert's theme is peace. We feel it's always important to ask what peace means for each of us. For the Choir, peace is not just the absence of conflict, it is about creating the spaces and conditions where people feel welcome, where people feel safe, and most of all, where people can feel able to fully express who they are. Our holiday concerts also feature our "Welcoming Artists" Series, where we make space ourselves and share the stage with area artists who bring the same sense of welcoming and want to collaborate. This series enables us to build on each other's gifts and in the process, create something new together. We hope you feel that spirit of solidarity today.



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Concert Program

- Jambo Bwana TRC
- Peace, Salaam, Shalom TRC
- There is More Love Somewhere TRC
- Moon Song TRC
- Nasha Malanka HraiMore & TRC
- Prulutilla lastivocka (a Swallow Flew in) HraiMore
- Na gorodi, na kurgani (In the Field, On the Mound) HraiMore
- Dobruy Vechir Tobi (Good evening to you) HraiMore
- Shedryk (Carol of the Bells) HraiMore
- Marimba - "Zvichapera" Hazelwood Youth Marimba
- Marimba - "Chemutengure" Hazelwood Youth Marimba
- Marimba - "Isu Tauya Pano" Hazelwood Youth Marimba & TRC
- I'm Just Like You TRC
- City of Destiny - *World Premiere* TRC - Song by Orlando Morales
- This is My Wish TRC
- Everyone Can Love Someone TRC

HraiMore

Olga Okhapkina
Dmytro Oliinychenko
Viktoria Hewitt
Maryna Kazakova
Anna Lomova
Mary Naboka

Musicians

Orlando Morales, Keyboard
Charles Brown, Jr., Bass
Tim Davis, Drums
Sander Lazar, Percussion
Karen Peters, Cello

Hazelwood Youth Marimba

Jeff Brahe
Asher Roberge
Sita Roberts
Graeme Fielding
Doug Fielding
Munirah Madrik
Trahen McCuiston

Audio Engineering by the ProFi Group



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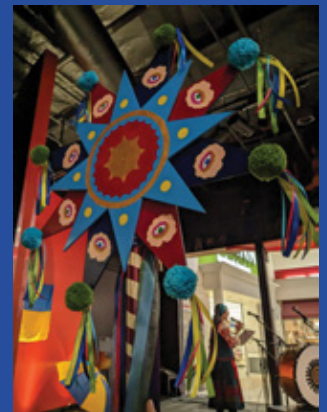


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TRC 's Welcoming Artists Series



HraiMore is a band created in 2022 by volunteers from WA who are in love with the culture of their Motherland. They are ethnophores - bearers of ethnic consciousness - who revive Ukrainian traditions on the basis of folklore and field research by ethnographers from all corners of Ukraine. Participants of HraiMore independently reproduce costumes and jewelry, explore the nuances of authentic singing and dancing, and restore traditional handicrafts and dishes of national cuisine. Their goal is to create a center of Ukrainian culture in order to spread knowledge and create emotional support for Ukrainian immigrants.



Jeff Brahe (pronounced 'bray') has a diverse musical background, including Zimbabwean marimba and mbira; classical training in bass clarinet, composition, and conducting; various pan-African influences; and recent collaborations with blues and hip-hop artists in the Seattle area. Born and raised in Santa Fe, NM, he has been performing with The Ande Marimba Band since 2000. In 2010, he graduated from the

University of Puget Sound with a BA in Music Composition, and he currently teaches Shona music in the Seattle-Tacoma area. Most recently, he has dived headfirst into the deep waters of traditional matepe music, a more virtuosic version of the mbira that is played by neighboring tribes in Zimbabwe and Mozambique. This has opened his eyes even more to the true richness of African music, and is already influencing his compositions in new directions.



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Tacoma Refugee Choir 2023-2024 Roster

Shannon Armitage
Nikki Arogundade
Piya Banerjee
Bhagirath Bhatt
Dr. Ina Bhatt
Gail Brandt
Maricres Castro
Noah Citron
Natalie Ghayoumi
Michael Green
Lucia Guerrero
Erin Guinup
Lina Hammoud

Tshishiku Henry
Rebecca Herron
Michael Hughes
Grace Kamau
Anneliese Kellogg
Annie Lane-Ryan
Sander Lazar
Maurice Lekea
Kaelin Lor
Katia Marynevich
Orlando Morales
Marsha Mutisi
Gadine Marie Niyotwizeye-Boutin

Linus Nyaga
Ran Owyang
Karen Peters
Mariia Pozhar
Priya Saxena
Perry Spring
Julie Staples
Chris Staples
Diane Tilstra
Linda Vanderbilt
Becky Wentling

TRC Board of Directors (in alphabetical order)

Bhagirath Bhatt
Erin Galeno, *Board Treasurer*
Jennifer Hines, *Board Chair*
Amy Leonard, *Board Secretary*
Eula Ramroop
Matthew Wurdeman

TRC Staff Team (in alphabetical order)

Gadine Boutin
Member Coordinator
Erin Guinup
Executive & Artistic Director
Maurice Lekea
Donor Relations Associate
Jefferson Mok
*Director of Development
and Communications*
Orlando G. Morales
Assistant Artistic Director
Mariia Pozhar
Director of Operations



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Thank You!

We humbly thank you for joining us today. We are first and foremost a group of performers who are deeply inspired by our immigrant and refugee friends and neighbors. From them, we continue to learn what it means to share, to exchange, and to be welcoming. It is by learning about these ideals that we think there is a road to peace. Thank you for sharing in this important occasion to highlight just one way we can find unity from our differences. We feel the need for this kind of community more than ever, and your presence today makes our mission and all the rehearsals worthwhile!

This concert could not have been possible without each and every person involved, especially the members of our Choir and you, their audience. We are also deeply indebted to the guest artists, production crews, and volunteers. We hope we added to your picture of what peace can look like.



Special Thanks to Today's Sponsor:



www.refugeechoir.org