



FORWARD AND EXCERPT from the Book “Rick DellaRatta:
Paving the Path for Peace through Music”

1. FORWARD

It is the year 1761.

A child in the Appalachian mountains (or Nigerian Province or Japanese Prefecture etc. etc.) is given a musical instrument by his Father (or Mother etc.).

A child in Austria named Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is also given a musical instrument by HIS father.

The child in the middle of nowhere plays the instrument, and through his relationship with that instrument he finds himself; he connects with his spirit; he feels emotions and creativity and humanity; and he advances in all kinds of ways through his own personal connection with the instrument without any tutelage whatsoever other than songs and music that he may hear in his native surroundings.

The child in Austria is immediately bombarded with instructions and demands to practice and learn and advance to a level of prodigy encouraged by his extraordinarily educated father who was also a noted

composer, instructor, and the author of famous writings on violin playing, and who was also in the service of the archbishop of Salzburg.

The child in the middle of nowhere advances in extraordinary ways that generate creativity, artistry, individuality, humanity, peace, community, and all of the rewards that come with finding yourself, developing, and being at peace spiritually. The child in the middle of nowhere may have nothing, but in another sense he has everything by the advancement and growth from consistently being rewarded by his true and honest relationship to his musical instrument.

The child in Austria falls way behind the child in the middle of nowhere due to the fact that all of the extraordinary rewards being granted to the child in the middle of nowhere are being denied to him and instead replaced with the demands for prodigal advancement with extraordinary punishment awaiting at the hands of his father should he not comply. This denial of the advancement received by the child in the middle of nowhere also is at the same time replaced with the greatest fame and monetary awards that could possibly be received for anyone of his age group due to the extraordinary parroting and mimicking of other great musicians that came before him that young Mozart is now able to execute. "Mozart the Prodigy" now attains everything that society could ever offer from fame, admiration and fortune to the coveted approval of his narcissistic dad.

The child in the middle of nowhere who has found himself through his instrument and thereby advanced far beyond Mozart at this point in his life receives none of these superficial riches and rewards.

Now an extraordinary thing happens.

The child in the middle of nowhere goes on to become a good human being. He makes a difference in peoples lives and in his community from his own wife and children, to the men, women, wives and children of others due to the spreading of peace and joy that he has found through his instrument and is now able to bring to others.

The child in Austria outgrows his prodigal abilities to parrot and mimic the sounds of others, and also finds his real self through his music. Through this combination of his extraordinary musical training along

with his own personal exploration and advancement he has artistically outgrown anything that the superficial world could offer him and is now giving birth to music that stimulates the intellect and has the ability to advance mankind for centuries to come.

He gets thrown out of his position of servitude in Salzburg and is soundly rejected and disinherited by his father. Utterly abandoned by society and heartbroken beyond belief, he composes over 600 musical works—including 21 stage and opera works, 15 masses, and over 50 symphonies, until he dies at age 35 buried in a pine box without even the money for his own immediate family to be able to pay for his funeral. Yet unlike others who may have received a similar fate for their sacrifices, his music lives on, and he receives performances today that he qualified for back in 1775 in cities such as Vienna that have since turned into a Graceland of guilt.

Both of these existences are honorable. Both made great contributions to others, as well as their community, society, and are great examples for the world at large.

Both of their lives and efforts are a much greater alternative choice than the path of war, discrimination, hatred and annihilation.

The fact of the matter is: “When we fill our souls up with creativity, artistry and intelligence (and numerous other things of that nature) ...we have a better chance at avoiding the behavior that leads to destruction”, and this is the story of my life through music, which inevitably became The Story of Jazz for Peace.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I introduce this book, a testament to the incredible journey of both myself and this organization. It has not only redefined the power of music but has also exemplified the impact of compassion, unity, and the universal language of harmony.

Our visionary leadership has not only brought together exceptional musicians but has also forged meaningful connections with communities around the globe. The ethos of Jazz for Peace is simple yet profound: to use the transcendent power of music to foster peace and positive change. This book chronicles the evolution of this remarkable

endeavor, showcasing the countless lives it has touched and the hope it has inspired.

Through these pages, you will witness the transformative influence of music in the most challenging of circumstances. You will come to understand the profound ability of the arts to heal, to bridge divides, and to kindle the flames of understanding and empathy.

As you embark on this literary journey, I encourage you to immerse yourself in the stories, the music, and the shared experiences of those touched by Jazz for Peace. May this book serve as both a celebration of the organization's accomplishments and an enduring testament to the enduring power of music in the quest for a better world.

Our dedication to this cause including that of our Senior Event Coordinator and Author of this book Debra R. Cerritelli has been unwavering, and the impact of our entire team's work has been immeasurable. I am honored to introduce this book and invite you to join us in celebrating the remarkable journey of Jazz for Peace.

With warm regards,

Rick DellaRatta - Jazz Artist, Pianist, Vocalist, Composer, and the Founder of: Jazz for Peace™

2. EXCERPT

"*Comment of the Day*" - Excerpt From the NEW Book by Debra R. Cerritelli "Paving the Path for Peace through Music"

Dear Rick Della Ratta,

I am writing to express my heartfelt gratitude for your remarkable contributions through Jazz for Peace. Your unwavering commitment to uniting people through the art form of jazz has had a profound impact on communities worldwide.

The milestone performance at the United Nations in New York City on September 25, 2002, where you led a multicultural jazz band composed of

American, Israeli, and Palestinian musicians, remains etched in our collective memory. This groundbreaking concert opened doors to a benefit concert series that has since raised funds, awareness, and publicity for over 700 non-profit organizations. Your efforts have transcended borders, bringing together ambassadors, celebrities, humanitarians, and music enthusiasts from all walks of life.

Your mission to expand performances to other cities, states, and countries is commendable. By reintroducing jazz into schools and exposing Americans to this often overlooked art form, you are nurturing creativity and fostering cultural understanding. Moreover, your commitment to donating musical instruments to underprivileged children underscores your dedication to empowering the next generation.

Rick, your inclusion alongside luminaries like Bono, Elton John, Peter Gabriel, and Sting as a top musician philanthropist by The Foundation Center speaks volumes about your impact. Your soulful journey through music and mindfulness is reshaping how we perceive the healing power of sound

In the true spirit of jazz, you've harmonized creativity, artistry, humanity, spirituality, and intelligence to raise our collective conscience. Your tireless efforts have illuminated the path toward peace and enlightenment.

Thank you, Rick, for using your talent to make the world a better place. May your melodies continue to resonate across borders, bridging divides and inspiring hope.

With deepest appreciation,
Umair

Mohammed Umair - India. February 29, 2024