

Water: The Global Challenge of Our Future

International Forum

March 23, 2012 at 9AM - 5PM

Center for Global Affairs
New York University, 15 Barclay Street, NYC

Organized by Melody for Dialogue
among Civilizations Association



Melody for Dialogue
Among Civilizations



in partnership with



Northeastern University
College of Arts, Media and Design

Just because you can't see it, doesn't mean it isn't there



Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations
Mélodie pour le Dialogue entre les Civilisations

Website : www.melodydialogue.org www.madarshahi.org

E-mail: melody.dialogue@gmail.com and president@melodydialogue.org

Ferdi Rizkiyanto "What lies Under"

Art work (2011)

PARIS

27 Ave Foch, Paris 75016

149, avenue du Maine F-75014 Paris, France

Tel.: +33 (0)6.72.43.26;44 Fax: +33 (0)1.45. 017038

New York

32 West 40th Street, suite 11B New York, NY 10018, USA

Tel./ Fax: +1 212 302 0337

or : +1 9179162355

GENÈVE

Rue Conseil-Générale, 6 Genève, 1205, Suisse

Face Book

Melodydialogue Association

Mehri Madarshahi

Twiter

@melodydialogue

Awarded the UNESCO 60th Anniversary Medal (December 2006)

And

The Marrakech International Prize (June 2005)

Handel, but not only... Music for Water

On the occasion of the World Water Day

Conductor: Emmanuel Siffert,
Prague Philharmonic Orchestra
New York Virtuosi String Quartet

1. George Frideric Handel

Water Music Suite No. 2 in D

Ouverture (Allegro)
Alla Hornpipe
Minuet
Lentement
Bourrée

Water Music Suite No. 3 in F

Sarabande
Rigaudon
Minuet
Gigue

2. Antonio Vivaldi

Op. 8, No. 5
(4 March 1678-1741)

Violin Concerto in E-flat Major,

“La Tempesta di Mare”

- Presto
- Largo

Guo Gan, erhu

-Presto

Wolfgang David, violin and

3. Tan Dun

(b. 15 August 1957)

Ghost Opera

Bach, Monks, and Shakespeare
Meet in Water
Earth Dance
Dialogue with “Little Cabbage”
Metal and Stone

Liu Fang, pipa

Song of Paper

Liu-Wen Tin, viola and Maureen Hynes, cello
Dale Stukenbruck and Orlando Wells, violin;

4. Antony F. di Rities

(b.1968)

“Shui.Life.” for Erhu

Programme



Emmanuel Siffert (conductor)

Swiss born Emmanuel Siffert has been Principal Conductor of the European Chamber Opera, London; Swiss Chamber Orchestra, Aosta Symphony Orchestra, Italy and the National Symphony Orchestra of Ecuador and is appointed as Principal Guest conductor, starting in 2012, for the Welsh Concert Orchestra.

Emmanuel has a wide discography; has released several recordings with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Volgograd Philharmonic Orchestra, Swiss Chamber Orchestra, and Aosta Symphony. His radio recordings include Rundfunksinfonieorchester Saarbrücken (live), Orchestra della Svizzera Italiana (live and studio recordings) and the Swiss Chamber Orchestra (live).

Emmanuel Siffert was assistant conductor at the St. Gallen Opera under John Neschling until 1997; in 1995 he acted in this capacity at the Opera Festival Avenches; in 1998 at the Grand Théâtre de Genève under Armin Jordan; in 2001 at the Teatro Lirico Di Cagliari under Rafael Frübeck de Burgos; and in 2001-2002 under Gerard Korsten. He was also assistant for "The Merry Widow" at the Lyon Opera house. Further opera work included work with "Opera Valle" in Italy since 2002, as well as the Nuremberg Opera, the Moldavian Opera in Chisinau.

He conducted two seasons for the English National Ballet (2003/4 and 2004/5). He also started working from 2011 with the Royal Ballet Covent Garden.

Gives seminars in Europe and Latin America and classes in opera scenes for singers in various summer academies. He is a winner of the conducting prize at the "Schweizerischen Tonkünstlerverein" in 1993 and in 1995.

Wolfgang David (Violin)

The Washington Post wrote that Wolfgang David «scaled the heights of musicmaking» and The Strad described his playing "as emotionally wide-ranging as one could hope for".

On the space of a few short years, Wolfgang has created an important presence on the international stage, both as a recitalist, and as a guest soloist with many leading orchestras such as the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Vienna Radio Symphony Orchestra, Johannesburg Philharmonic Orchestra, etc.

At the age of eight he was admitted to the University for Music in Vienna where he studied for many years with Rainer Kuehl, the concertmaster of the Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra. Later he continued his studies at the Musikhochschule in Cologne with Igor Ozim and with Yfrah Neaman at the Guildhall School of Music in London.

The winner of many competitions and prizes, David has performed in major halls such as Konzerthaus and Musikverein Hall in Vienna, Carnegie Hall in New York, Cerritos Center in Los Angeles, the Wigmore Hall in London, Victoria Hall in Geneva, and Philharmonie in Cologne.

Highlights of his career included concerts at the Great Assembly Hall of the United Nations in New York and a concert in Bangkok for the Queen of Thailand.

Wolfgang David performs on a violin built in 1715 by Carlo Bergonzi, Cremona, on exclusive loan to him from the Austrian National Bank.

Wolfgang David has recorded a number of albums with Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.



Anthony Paul De Ritis

Composer Anthony Paul De Ritis is Professor and Chair of the Music Department and jointly appointed in the Entrepreneurship and Innovation Group within the College of Business at Northeastern University in Boston. His music has been called “groundbreaking”, “ultra-exotic,” and “really cool,” and has received performances nationally and internationally, including at the Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, Harvard’s Sanders Theatre, Yale’s Woolsey Hall, Taipei’s Zhong Shan Hall, Beijing’s Yugong Yishan, Seoul’s KT Art Hall, and UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

De Ritis’ *Devolution*, a Concerto for DJ and Symphony Orchestra, featuring Paul D. Miller aka DJ Spooky That Subliminal Kid as soloist, will be released on CD by the 5-time Grammy nominated Boston Modern Orchestra Project in early 2012. He also works frequently with Chinese traditional instruments, in particular, the Chinese pipa and with Min Xiao-Fen and Wu Man. In Fall 2011 he was as Fulbright Senior Research Scholar at the Central Conservatory of Music in Beijing, China, and was invited to be a Master of Beijing’s DeTao (Masters Academy in music and the creative industries).

De Ritis completed his Ph.D. in Music Composition at the University of California, Berkeley, his M.M. in Electronic Music Composition from Ohio University. He earned screen credits while studying composition at the University of Southern California; and completed courses in film music, recording technology and the music business at New York University. De Ritis also holds an M.B.A. with an emphasis in High-Tech from Northeastern University. In 2006 he was named the Alumnus of the Year for the College of Fine Arts at Ohio University.



Artistes



Liu Fang- (Pipa)

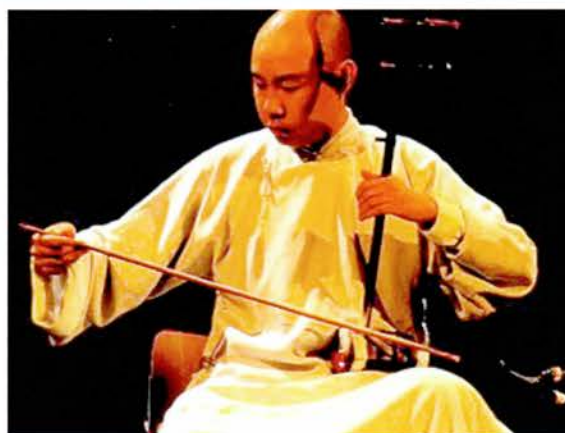
Liu Fang is referred to as «the empress of pipa» (*L'actualité*, 2001), “divine mediator” (*World*, 2006), “the greatest ambassadress of the art of the pipa” (*La presse*, 2002). As a child prodigy in her native China, now a resident of Canada, Liu Fang has been regarded as one of the most eminent pipa soloists. She has performed numerous concerts throughout world, including solo recitals of Chinese traditional and classical music as well as contemporary music with orchestras, string quartets and ensembles.

She has made frequent appearances in national and international media. Liu Fang is highly acclaimed for her “Silk and Steel projects” in which she has collaborated with world class musicians from various traditions, and has released 9 solo and collaborative albums. Her most recent recording ‘Silk Sound’, under the French Label Accords Crosses, won the prestigious Académie Charles Cros Award. In 2001, Liu Fang was one of the tree young artists under 30, to receive the prestigious ‘Future Generation Millennium Prize’ from the “Canada Council for the Arts”.

Liu Fang has been a denoted artist in many international concerts organized by Melody for Dialogues Association around the world.

Guo Gan (Erhu)

Guo Gan Yi-zhen was born in 1968 in China and was attracted early to playing “Erhu or a two string Chinese violin”. At the same time he started to learn other musical instruments such as violin, violoncelle and he studied



in the Shenyang Conservatory of Music and in 1991 he obtained the first prize in Erhu. In 1992, he gained the title of master of Erhu. Soon after he moved to Paris and registered in the l'École nationale de musique de France where he studied percussions and jazz.

In 2002, he was invited by Gabriel Yared to participate in the musical performances of a film « L'idole » and to the 55th opening session of the Cannes Film Festival as a Soloist.

En 2005, he accepted the invitation of Yvan Cassar in the production of poème symphonique « l'Encre de Chine » with l'Orchestre de l'Opéra de Paris. In 2010 Guo Gan appeared with Lang Lang in a successful concert at the Carnegie Hall (New York). He was also the guest soloist at the French Pavilion in Expo – Shanghai in 2010. Guo Gan is a celebrated artist of the Association Mélody for Dialogues and has travelled with the organizers to many parts of the world where the Association organized internationally acclaimed concerts. This included the opening session of 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou (Nov 2010). His appearances in the theme related concerts organized by the Association at UNESCO –Paris have earned him a great praise from the diplomatic communities.



Liuh-Wen Ting

A multi faceted performer, who enjoys collaborating with artists from diverse genres and mediums. As an advocate of the contemporary music, she has premiered and recorded numerous solo and chamber music works, and has been praised by The Czech Music 2001 for her performance with the Janacek Symphony Orchestra as “an extraordinary experience”, she has also performed at international festivals such as the Prague SMF, the Warsaw AM F, Etnafest, and the Ostrava New Music Days. In addition to

advocating the contemporary music, she has toured with the Rumi ensemble, performing with Persian vocalist Shahram Nazeri to sold-out audience. In 2009, she co-founded the Ensemble Meme, which debuted in Zankel Hall to critical acclaim. She has recorded chamber and solo works for Mode, Capstone, Albany, Tzadik, Pogus and Naxos labels.



Maureen Hynes (cello)

As a soloist, chamber musician, orchestral player and teacher, Maureen performs regularly with the American Ballet Theater, the American Symphony Orchestra, the Opera Orchestra of New York, American Composers Orchestra, the Bard Festival Orchestra, New York Virtuosi, the Westchester Philharmonic and others. She has also appeared with the Royal Ballet, the San Francisco Ballet, at the Spoleto and Aspen Festivals and at the Lake George Opera Festival. Her solo and chamber music appearances have included

Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, Merkin Concert Hall, Alice Tully Hall, the Kennedy Center and others. In May 2011, she conducted the C. W. Post String Ensemble on its first European concert tour in Italy. She is an Adjunct Professor of Cello and Director of Orchestral and String Studies at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island Music Program. In 2009, she received the Adjunct Faculty Recognition Award from Long Island University/C. W, and she is listed in the Marquis "Who's Who of American Women and a winner of the Concert Artist Guild Award

DALE STUCKENBRUCK (violin)

As a soloist, concertmaster, chamber musician and teacher, he has performed with Philharmonia Virtuosi, New York Virtuosi, New York String Ensemble, Tchaikovsky Chamber Orchestra, Taipei City Symphony Orchestra, Dance Theater of Harlem, Long Island Philharmonic, and others. He has recorded for countless commercial labels, and over one hundred films. He has received international acclaim with Steve Margoshes, "Sawing to New Heights," and acclaim for his performances of the "Divination by Mirrors" by Michael Levine with the New Century Chamber Orchestra and the New York Virtuosi. His performance of «Ancient Voices of Children» by George Crumb with the Lincoln Center Chamber Music Society led to the recording of this work for Bridge Records, nominated for a Grammy. As mandolinist he has appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, ABT, the Metropolitan Museum, and in a recording with the Charleston Symphony. He has been featured in many magazines and newspapers including Newsday, and the New York Times. Since 1975 he has performed with Heawon Kim, his wife, in recitals in Asia, Europe and South America. He wrote and recorded the soundtrack for "Shadows" by Ed Lachman and Slater Bradley which was recently shown at the Whitney Museum for five months.



ORLANDO WELLS (violin)



He attended the State University of New York at Purchase as a double major on violin and viola where his primary teachers were Yuval Waldman, and Emmanuel Vardi. He continued his studies at the Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers in New Jersey in the studio of Michael Tree. Orlando played with the Northeastern Pennsylvania Philharmonic, St. Lukes Chamber Orchestra, Radio City Christmas Spectacular orchestra, Knickerbocker Chamber Orchestra, Bronx Opera (concertmaster), Orchestra of the Bronx (concertmaster), Antara Chamber orchestra (principal viola), and the Ritz Chamber Players in Jacksonville, Florida. He has appeared as soloist with Manhattan Virtuosi, the Harlem Symphony, and Antara Chamber Orchestra. Mr. Wells has performed and recorded with great artists such as Mariah Carey, John Legend, Rihanna, Harry Connick Jr., Dionne Warwick, Elvis Costello, and many others. Currently, he is the violist of the critically acclaimed Sweet Plantain String Quartet, and assistant concertmaster of the Broadway revival of Porgy and Bess.



Prague Concert Philharmonic Orchestra L'Orchestre Philharmonique de Prague

The Prague Philharmonic Orchestra was established in 1995 by Czech musicians and quickly developed into one of the leading orchestras for CD-recording in Europe. The orchestra plays about 200 recording sessions every year. The Prague Philharmonic Orchestra works with labels such as Decca, EMI, Sony BMG and many international film studios. The New Year concerts of the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Friedemann Riehle are a highlight of the Prague music scene. Also the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra has taken part in Marco Witt's CD «Sinfonia del alma» in 2007.

The Prague Concert Philharmonic has achieved recognition throughout Europe and the world performing the great symphonic literature, opera, oratorios, and with internationally renowned solo artists.

Melody for Dialogues among Civilizations Association (MDACA)

Objective and background

MDACA was established in Paris, France in December 2004, incorporated as a non-profit organization in NY in March 2007 and in Geneva in 2009. The general objective of the Association is to promote multicultural dialogue through music as a new and innovative means of communication for the purpose of universal respect for cultural diversity and tolerance. Dialogues through melody could provide a major breakthrough in mutual understanding among people who share universal values and can help in creating a culture of peace among the global community.

To that end, the Association, since its inception, has chosen a practical approach to catalyzing peace and harmony by organizing major multi-cultural concerts. On major thematic issues these events has been followed by holding international forums and has produced written literature and recordings of its organized events to facilitate the global transmission of its messages worldwide. In the course of the past eight years, the Association has engaged close to 475 international artists from 76 countries. While each were a treasure in their own locality, they were restricted to share their talents and broaden their musical horizons.

The Association, by bringing these individuals together and exposing their rare and little known musical instruments to the world, has helped to create important bounds among humanity of all races, and provided a fertile ground for new learning.

In furthering its message of tolerance, respect for cultural diversity and peaceful coexistence through music, the Association has travelled to many continents and organized major concerts including the opening of the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, China (2010) and celebrating the 50th anniversary of manned space flight (on the occasion of the anniversary of Yuri Gagarin) in UNESCO, Paris in 2011. In 2012, in addition to present events organized to celebrate World Water Day, we will have the privilege of collaborating with Maestro Tan Dun in Hangzhou, China at the inaugural of Festival of Music and at Shenzhen's Musical Festival.

Since Dec 2004, the Association has enjoyed the patronage of UNESCO in all its undertakings and it is the recipient of 60th Anniversary Medal of this Organization in recognition of its efforts. Prior to this, in 2005 the Association was nominated as the winner of the International Marrakech Prize.

In 2010, the Association was honored by the Vice Mayor of Guangzhou (Secretary-General of the Asian Games) with a letter of recognition to bring harmony to the Games (www.melodydialogue.org).

Our concerts intend to give rise to memorable multicultural exchanges and act as a building block for peace and cultural harmony.

Special Thanks

New York University, Center for Global Affairs
North Eastern University, College of Business
North Eastern University , College of Arts, Media and Design
Africa Leadership Forum
United Nations HABITAT
UNESCO IIP
Blue Legacy

The concert have been made possible, thanks to:

Maestro Emmanuel Siffert

Wolfgang David

Liu Fang

Guo Gan

Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and its Director Boris Jedlika

New York Virtuosi String Quartet

Dale STUCKENBRUCK

Liuh-Wen Ting

Maureen HynesDO WELLS

Anthony Paul Di Ritis

Melody Water Ambassador: Ara Aralola Olamiyiwa

Melody staff and Associates: Anoush d'Orville (Vice-President), Marisa Benson, Chakameh Bozorgmehr, Maureen Tan, NYU/CGA students

&

ALL SPEAKERS and Panelists AT THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM



Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association
L'association Mélodie pour les dialogues entre les civilisations

Thanks to our partners



Northeastern University
College of Arts, Media and Design



Northeastern University
College of Business
Administration



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

UNDER THE AUSPICES
OF UNESCO



The International
Institute for
Peace

AT RUTGERS
UNIVERSITY





Mehri Madarshahi

President of Melody for Dialogue Association

Mehri Madarshahi, served for 26 years (1977-2003) at the United Nations Secretariat in New York in various capacities. This included, inter alia, assignments as a Senior Economist with the Office for Economic Assistance to Africa; as External Relations Officer in the Office for Emergency Operation in Africa (OEOA); as member of the UN Secretary-General's Task Force on the Decentralization of Economic and Social Issues; as Head of the Management Audit Section in the Office of Internal Oversight; as a senior advisor to the Executive Secretary of the Reform and Efficiency Board of the UN and as an elected President of the UN Coordination Committee of International Staff Unions and Associations (CCISUA),.

In Paris she was named as the Paris Correspondent of MaximsNews and United Nations Diplomatic (UNDIP) and covered various international, political and environmental issues.

She is the founder-President of the «Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations Association», in France, Switzerland and the United States. The Association works closely with UNESCO and other international organizations such as UNEP, HABITAT, CERN and with private sectors and universities, such as Northeastern University in Boston, New York University in NY and American University in Paris, to promote a new role for cultural diplomacy, focusing on music as means of intercultural communications, as a vector for environmental awareness. In 2009, the Association received a pledge for one million trees following its advocacy campaign and planted a symbolic tree in Geneva in the presence of the Mayor and the Director-General of CERN .

She is the Advisor to the Guiyang Eco Forum in China and is working with Hangzhou Municipality on cultural issues. In 2012 she was nominated as the Strategic Advisor to the Shenzhen Municipal Government in China on cultural issues.

www.madarshahi.org and www.melodydialogue.org.





Fred Ritchin

Co-director of the NYU/Magnum Foundation Photography & Human Rights

Fred Ritchin is professor of Photography & Imaging at New York University's

Tisch School of the Arts and co-director of the NYU/Magnum Foundation Photography & Human Rights educational program. He was picture editor of The New York Times Magazine, executive editor of Camera Arts magazine, and founding director of the Photojournalism and Documentary Photography Program at the International Center of Photography.

He is co-founder and director of PixelPress, an organization that has collaborated with many humanitarian organizations on issues such as a global attempt to end polio, the advancement of the millennium development goals, the promulgation and explanation of the crimes of war, and the photographic vision of children in a Rwandan orphanage. PixelPress also featured an online publication combining documentary and new media strategies. Ritchin's collaboration with photographer Gilles Peress for the New York Times online, "Bosnia: Uncertain Paths to Peace," was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in public service in 1997.

Ritchin has written the 2008 book *After Photography* (translated into Chinese, French, Korean, Spanish and Turkish) and *In Our Own Image: The Coming Revolution in Photography* (1990) and is currently writing *Bending the Frame*, on new strategies used by photographers to impact social change. His essays have appeared in other books such as *In Our Time: The World As Seen By Magnum Photographers*, *An Uncertain Grace: The Photographs of Sebastião Salgado*, *Mexico Through Foreign Eyes: Photographs*, *Sahel: End of the Road*, *Under Fire: Great Photographers and Writers in Vietnam*, and *Felice Beato: A Photographer on the Eastern Front*

Vera Jelinek, Ph.D.

Divisional Dean and Director, NYU Center for Global Affairs

Dr. Vera Jelinek's work creating a community of global citizens has spanned over two decades at New York University. After an initial career in international educational exchange, she joined NYU as the director of International Programs, Social, and Natural Sciences. While overseeing the growth of programs in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, Jelinek envisioned and established a new department of international affairs. In 1999, the prestige and overall excellence of the international affairs program allowed Jelinek to found The Lillian Vernon Center for International Affairs at NYU. The Vernon Center provided Jelinek with the opportunity to develop public programs that attracted world leaders, the U.N. community, authors, journalists, and scholars in international affairs.

The Masters of Science in Global Affairs program was created in 2004 under Dr. Jelinek's direction and housed within the new Center for Global Affairs (CGA) in lower Manhattan's historic Woolworth Building. Currently, the CGA has over 330 students in its graduate program, as well as over 3000 who come to the Center for continuing education and public programs which bring together NYU students and the greater New York community for conversations on critical global issues with experts in the field. Dr. Jelinek maintains close ties with international and nongovernmental organizations, the UN community, international media, and the US Department of State. She has a Ph.D. in modern European history from NYU, a Masters in International Affairs from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a B.A. in history from Queens College. She is conversant in French, Italian and Hungarian.



Damien M. Pwono

Director of the Aspen Institute
Global Initiative on Culture



Dr. Damien M. Pwono is the Director of the Aspen Institute Global Initiative on Culture and Society. He holds a Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh and has worked on arts, culture, cultural diplomacy, and socioeconomic development issues globally for many years. A renowned cultural entrepreneur who has lived and worked in several countries, Dr. Pwono has significantly contributed to the development of cultural markets in Africa, the Arab World, Europe, the Caribbean, Latin America, and North America. His professional experience includes over a decade in philanthropy, serving as a Senior Program Advisor for the Arts and Humanities at the Rockefeller Foundation in New York and Nairobi, and Program Officer for Media, Arts and Culture at the Ford Foundation in New York. Prior to joining the Aspen Institute, Dr. Pwono was the Secretary General of the International Music Council at UNESCO in Paris and Research Faculty at the University of Pittsburgh.



Ian Williams

Journalist

Born in Liverpool, UK, and graduated from Liverpool University despite several years' suspension for protests against its investments in South Africa. Consequently, he had a variegated career path, which included a drinking competition with Chou En Lai and an argument about English literature

with Mme Mao before taking up journalism, briefly taking time off to be a speech/article writer for British Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock in the 1987 election campaign.

He is a senior analyst for *Foreign Policy in Focus*, Institute for Policy Studies in Washington, a contributor to *World Policy Journal* and a contributing editor to the *Common Review*. He regularly writes for the *Guardian*, *Tribune* and the *New Statesman* and the *Asia Times*. He is also contributor to the *Financial Times*, *Emerging Markets Report*, *FTSE Global Markets* and many other business publications.

He also "pundits" on BBC, CNN, MSNBC, FOX, CBC, Russia Today, *Press TV* and *Al-Jazeera*, and innumerable radio stations arguing for rational and balanced coverage of the world. He teaches writing at NYU's SCPS and is a media trainer with a special interest in UN and development issues

His first book was *The Alms Trade*, on the historical development of NGO's, and the second was *The UN for Beginners*. He also wrote *Deserter*, on Bush's Vietnam war record, and *Rum: A Social and Sociable History*. Currently he is working on *The Global History of Tequila*.

He has contributed to many others including *George Orwell into the 21st Century* - (2005) *Irving Howe*, University of Nevada Press (2005) *The UN And World Affairs* (1993), and *No Peace To Keep* (1995). "The UN and Iraq" in *The Iraq War: Causes and Consequences*, He also contributed to *The Cambridge Companion to George Orwell*, and has written papers for publications such as *International Human Rights Journal*, *Vereinte Nationen*, *World Policy Journal*, and the Chatham House monthly, *Foreign Policy*, on the United Nations.





Anoush d'Orville

Vice-President, Melody

Anoush d'Orville is the Vice President of Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations (MDAC) which focuses on using music as a catalyst for raising awareness on critical issues facing the globe, with a particular focus on the environment.

In addition to his function as the Vice President for Melody (MDAC) New York Chapter, Anoush spent four years in Ghana working and consulting through his company, AllTerra Communications. During this time, he was able to help establish the first large scale pilot test of smart grid technology in Sub-Saharan Africa and, in 2008, oversaw the negotiations and signing of the first ever broadband over powerlines deployment agreement with the Electricity Company of Ghana.

He is also the president of ECAD Consulting Company dealing with IT consulting and strategy for private sectors and non profit companies . This includes advise and technical assistance when and if called for.

While at Stern Business School, he worked as a research and news analyst for the President of Nigeria and provided daily /weekly analysis of pertinent information for the cabinet. He has also contributed to a few published articles.

Anoush holds a Bachelor's degree from NYU's Stern School of Busines in International Business and Information Systems and a Master's of Global Affairs from NYU's Center for Global Affairs where he graduated with the Global Affairs Academic Excellence and Achievement Award.



Hans d'Orville

ADG UNESCO, Paris

Hans d'Orville is the Assistant Director-General for Strategic Planning of UNESCO, based in Paris.

He joined UNESCO in 2000. Prior to this, he served from 1996 to 2000 as Director of the Information Technologies for Development Programme in the Bureau for Development Policy of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), New York. Between 1987 and 1995 he was Executive Coordinator of the InterAction Council of former Heads of State and Government. – For 2012, he also has been designated as Vice-Chairperson of the UN Development Group (UNDG). Among other professional affiliations, Mr. d'Orville was a member-co-founder of the Africa Leadership Forum (1988-2007). He also was advisor to the Independent Commission of Population and Quality of Life and the Independent Commission on Forests and Sustainable Development. He joined the United Nations in 1975 and held various functions in the United Nations Secretariat and UNDP, among others Secretary of the UN Committee on Conferences and Senior Officer in the Office of the UNDP Administrator with responsibility for UNDP's Governing Council. He holds a PhD and MA in economics from the University of Konstanz, Germany.



Kevin Mathews

Vice President of Nestle Waters
North America

Kevin Mathews is the Vice President of Regulatory, Health and Environment at Nestle Waters North America where he is responsible for all regulatory, health and environmental programs for the company. Prior to his current role, Kevin served as the company's head of Quality Management. With over 30 years of operational and technical management experience in the food and beverage industry, he serves in leadership positions on many industry association and customer committee technical working groups including the International Bottled Water Association, Drinking Water Research Foundation, Beverage Industry Environmental Roundtable, Water Quality Association, Grocery Manufacturer Association and the Walmart Food and Agriculture Sustainable Value Network. Kevin is a frequent speaker on water and environmental sustainability topics around the country.



Phillip G. Retallick

Clean Harbors Environmental Services

Phillip G. Retallick has 35 years of professional experience in the Environmental Management arena having served in both Government and Industry. Phil currently serves as Senior Vice President for Compliance and Regulatory Affairs with Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Incorporated, North America's largest Environmental and Energy Services Phillip G. Retallick has 35 years of professional experience in the Environmental Company. He joined the Company as part of the Safety-Kleen/CSD Acquisition, in September 2002. He also served as Chief Compliance Officer with the Rollins Environmental Services Company, Laidlaw Environmental Services Company and Safety-Kleen, Inc. Previously, Phil held leadership positions with the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. Phil received a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Geosciences from the Pennsylvania State University. He also received a Graduate Certificate in Environmental Management from the University of Southern California.





Christopher J. Robertson

Professor of International Business and Strategy - Northeastern University.

Christopher J. Robertson (Ph.D., Florida State University) is a Professor in the International Business and Strategy Group at Northeastern University and Faculty Coordinator for the Full-Time MBA Program. He is also the Director of the new Global Corporate Citizenship Collaborative at Northeastern. He previously taught in Virginia, Florida, Spain, Peru and Ecuador. In 2006 he returned to Peru on his second Fulbright grant to study business ethics, cultural values and entrepreneurial strategies. His professional experience includes work with Hasbro, Inc. and many small businesses. Professor Robertson's primary research stream is cross-cultural management with a focus on ethics and strategy and his work has been published in journals such as the *Strategic Management Journal*, *Journal of World Business*, *Journal of Business Research*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Management International Review*, *Organizational Dynamic and Business Horizons*. He will Chair the Panel II of the International Forum on Water Crisis.

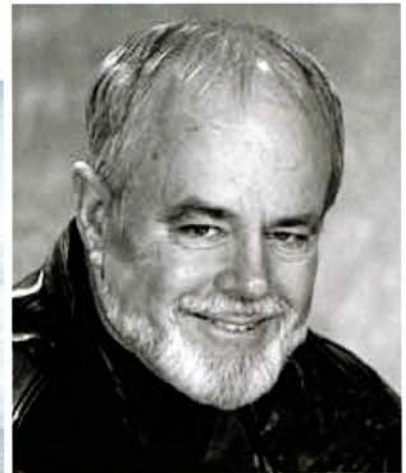
Ric Davidge

Chairman of Aqueous International

Mr. Davidge has extensive public and private sector experience in organizational management, natural resource development, and international commerce. He holds advanced degrees in management and served as a sub-cabinet officer to the President of the United States and advisor to U.S. Senators, Governors, Mayors, and national and international leaders. He is considered one of the best informed and most creative global thinkers on the pressing global freshwater crisis. While serving as Director of Water and Chief of the Alaska Hydrologic Survey he wrote a substantive paper on the economic and environmental feasibility of global bulk water sales and conveyance which was reviewed by the Congressional Office of Technological Assessment and has received international attention. After leaving his post with the State of Alaska he placed the paper on his private web site as an educational effort to stimulate world discussion of the concepts. Most water professionals worldwide have read his paper, resulting in him being asked to lead the World Water, SA consortium.

As Chairman of AQUEOUS International, Mr. Davidge provides leadership and vision in the development of the global company (market assessments, development of new technologies/processes and strategic planning).. His leading role with World Water, SA included the assessment of markets in many areas of the world as well as the acquisition, marketing, and management of bulk water sources to supply those markets.

Mr Davidge was also featured in the acclaimed documentary, «Blue Gold, New Water Wars».





Amy Hart

Writer/producer

Amy Hart is a writer/producer/director based in New York City devoted to directing productions that focus on solutions to our global problems. Her documentary, *Water First: Reaching the Millennium Development Goals*, which she made in Malawi, has been shown around the world at festivals and conferences and will be aired on UNTV on March 22, World Water Day. She received a Fulbright Cultural Exchange Award and a Jury Award at the World Water Forum for the film. Hart is the founding director of Public Health Productions (PHP), an in-house production studio at The New York Academy of Medicine, a public health policy think-and-do-tank. Prior to launching PHP she directed more than 125 educational programs on public health issues, and a special broadcast on Ovarian Cancer Survivors. In the '90s Hart worked in publicity and marketing at various film and television companies including Miramax Films, Fine Line Features, New Line Cinemas and King World Productions. Hart performs in an original one-woman shows. She was invited to perform her solo drama, *Mother Maroon*, about four different women in four different countries, each faced with a reproductive issue, at the UN Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, the World Social Summit in Copenhagen and several other international festivals and conferences. Hart is the president of Freshwater Project International, a non-profit that funds water projects in Malawi. The organization prioritizing water and sanitation projects at birthing centers to improve maternal-child health. Hart also teaches Public Health Through Film and Fiction at NYU.



Dr. Saraswathi Menon

Director, Policy Division-United Nations

MENON, Saraswathi is currently the Director of the Policy Division in UN Women, the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. She was formerly Director of the Evaluation Office in the United Nations Development Programme and the elected Chair of the United Nations Evaluations Group that brings together the heads of evaluation of all UN organizations. She was a member of the team of authors who wrote the first six Human Development Reports. Subsequently she worked on UNDP programmes as Deputy Chief of the Regional Programme in the Regional Bureau of Asia and the Pacific, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Nepal (1999-2000) and as UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia (2000-2003). Prior to joining UNDP she taught sociology in Madras University in India. She has a Ph.D. in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. Her Ph.D. dissertation was on caste and land control in Thanjavur district during the nineteenth century, and she continues to be interested in multi-dimensional issues of poverty.





Francesca De Ferrari
Human Settlements Officer

Francesca De Ferrari is a Human Settlement Officer in the New York Liaison Office of UN-HABITAT. She has been working in the Development and Humanitarian world for over a decade. By background, she is a Civil Engineer with Masters in Hydrology and Hydrogeology and International Development. She started her career in Colombia managing a recovery programme after a devastating earthquake. She worked with international NGOs, including OXFAM in the Philippines as a Public Health Officer after typhoon and land slide. She worked with UNICEF as Chief of Water and Sanitation Unit in El Salvador, as a Water and Sanitation and Emergency Specialist in the Sudan and as an Education, Water and Sanitation Specialist in Sierra Leone. She joined UN-HABITAT in May 2010 bringing with her broad range of experience. In her career she always promoted innovative tools to create greater impact in the implementation of projects. At present, she is responsible for building partnerships and coordination among UN agencies and other stakeholders in relation to humanitarian and urban development.

Ana Persic
Science Specialist- UNESCO

Dr. Ana Persic is a Science Specialist at the UNESCO Liaison Office in New York. Ecologist by training, she holds a PhD in ecotoxicology from the University of Paris-South (XI). She joined UNESCO's Division of Ecological and Earth Sciences in Paris in 2006 where she served the Secretariat of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme. Her work mainly focused on promoting science-policy dialogue in the area of environmental sciences, facilitating international scientific collaboration in the field of biodiversity management and ecosystem services and exploring the links between biological and cultural diversity in close collaboration with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). She joined UNESCO's office in New York in 2011 where she is closely following major UN discussions on sustainable development, including UNESCO's contributions to the preparatory process for the forthcoming UN Conference on Sustainable Development - Rio+20.



Wenonah Hauter

Executive Director of Food
& Water Watch



Wenonah Hauter is the Executive Director of Food & Water Watch. She has worked extensively on energy, food, water and environmental issues at the national, state and local level. Experienced in developing policy positions and legislative strategies, she is also a skilled and accomplished organizer, having lobbied and developed grassroots field strategy and action plans. From 1997 to 2005 she served as Director of Public Citizen, Energy and Environment Program, which focused on water, food, and energy policy. From 1996 to 1997, she was environmental policy director for Citizen Action, where she worked with the organization's 30 state-based groups. From 1989 to 1995 she was at the Union of Concerned Scientists where as a senior organizer, she coordinated broad-based, grassroots sustainable energy campaigns in several states. She has an M.S. in Applied Anthropology from the University of Maryland.



Dr Charles J. Vörösmarty

Director, CUNY's Environmental
CrossRoads Initiative Distinguished
Scientist, NOAA-CREST (Cooperative
Remote Sensing and Technology Center)

Dr. Vörösmarty's research interests focus on development of computer models and geospatial data sets used in synthesis studies of the interactions among the water cycle, climate, biogeochemistry, and human activities, including water resource management. Professor Vörösmarty is a founding member of the *Global Water System Project* representing the inputs of more than 200 international scientists under ICSU's *Global Environmental Change Programs*. In this capacity he is spearheading efforts to develop global-scale indicators of water stress, to develop and apply databases of reservoir construction worldwide, and to analyze coastal zone risks associated with river diversions. Professor Vörösmarty serves on several national and international panels, including the *US Arctic Research Commission* (Presidential Appointment), as Chair of the *National Research Council's Committee on Hydrologic Sciences* and is a member of the *NASA Earth Science Subcommittee*. For the United Nations, he serves as consultant to the 24-agency *UN World Water Assessment Programme* and represented the *International Council of Scientific Unions* at recent *UN Commission on Sustainable Development meetings*. He has provided information and advice to the intelligence community on emerging water scarcity issues on the world stage.

Handwritten signature and date: "Hauter 2012" with a small diagram of a network or structure.





Aldo Civico

Senator George Mitchell called Aldo Civico “one of the most innovative leaders in the conflict resolution field.” He is the co-founder and director of The International Institute for Peace at Rutgers University in Newark, New Jersey, where he is a professor in anthropology.

Over the last 20 years, Civico has served as a strategic adviser and conflict resolution facilitator to international institutions, governments, corporations and non-governmental organizations in Italy, Haiti, Mexico, Brazil and Colombia. From 1991 to 1995 as a senior adviser to anti-mafia leader and Mayor of Palermo, Leoluca Orlando.

Since 2001, he has been involved in research and conflict resolution work in Colombia.. Between 2005 and 2008, he was one of the facilitators of cease-fire negotiations between the guerrilla of the *Ejercito de Liberación Nacional* and the Government of Colombia. During that time, he also served as a mediation adviser to the U.S. Ambassador to Colombia and the U.S. State Department Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs. Since 2007, he has been serving as an adviser to Colombian rock star Juanes and his foundation *Mi Sangre* on strategic peace building. In that capacity, he assisted Juanes in organizing *the Paz sin Fronteras* concerts in Cuba (2009) and on the border between Colombia and Venezuela (2008), at a time when the tension between the two countries was dangerously high, and escalating.

From 2007 to 2010 he served as a Director of the Center for International Conflict Resolution at Columbia University. He continues to be affiliated to the Advanced Consortium on Cooperation, Conflict and Complexity at The Earth Institute of Columbia University. He designed and facilitated numerous conflict resolution trainings in Mexico, Haiti, Colombia and for the 7th Youth Forum of UNESCO.

He is author of several books and articles. Recently he wrote the chapter *Elusive Peace*. Civico is a columnist for the Colombian newspaper *El Espectador*.

Civico holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Columbia University and a *laurea* in Political Science from the University of Bologna, Italy.



Forest Whitaker

Forest Whitaker is a distinguished Oscar winning artist and humanist; he is the co-founder and chair of the International Institute for Peace and is the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation.

Forest Whitaker is also a talented, versatile performer and one of Hollywood's most accomplished figures. He has received prestigious artistic distinctions, including the 2007 Academy Award for Best Actor for performance as Ugandan dictator Idi Amin in "The Last King of Scotland", as well as the BAFTA, SAG Award and Golden Globe for Best Actor and the Cannes Film Festival Award for Best Actor for Bird.

Forest Whitaker's social awareness has compelled him to seek ways of using the film media as a means to raise people's consciousness. Among others, he has produced the multiply awarded documentary "Kassim the Dream", which told the poignant story of an Ugandan child soldier turned world championship boxer and the Peabody award winning "Brick City", a look at inner-city life in Newark, New Jersey.

He currently serves as a spokesperson for the Ugandan child soldier orphanage Hope North, providing community and hope to young victims of the civil war. In 2001, Forest was awarded the Humanitas Prize for his selfless and ongoing advocacy for child soldiers, as well as his work with inner-city youth. In 2008 he served as a member of the Urban Policy Committee and currently sits on the board of the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities (PCAH). In 2011, Forest was sworn in as a UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation. Forest co-founded the International Institute for Peace, which focuses on conflict resolution and community empowerment through education. The institute under the auspices of UNESCO, builds partnerships and works with grass-root organizations, anti-violence educators, and building environmental conflict awareness in an effort to spread the message of peace and reconciliation





Amina Az-Zubair

OFR

A development expert and the CEO of the Center for Development Policy Solutions, a think-tank aiming to address the policy and knowledge gaps in Development. She is an adjunct Professor at Columbia University(Master course for development practices) in New York.

From 2005-2011, she served 3 Presidents as Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Millennium Development Goals, coordinating the expenditure of Debt Relief Funds (US \$1bn p.a) towards the achievement of MDGs in Nigeria. She was the National Coordinator for Education for All in Nigeria (2001-2005).

Mrs. Az-Zubair currently serves on numerous International advisory panels and boards including the Global Development Program of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the UN Secretary General's Global Sustainability Panel, the Hewlett Foundation on Education, African Women's Millennium Initiative (AWOMI), the ActionAid International "**Right To Education Project**", the Millennium Promise Initiative, The Institute of Scientific & Technical Information of China and a Governor of the International Development Research Centre in Canada. Mrs. Az-Zubair also currently Chairs the Advisory Board of the UNESCO Global Monitoring Report on Education.

Hajiya Amina received the National Honours Award of OFR in 2006 and was inducted in the Nigerian Women's Hall of Fame in 2007.



Alexandra Cousteau

Explorer, Filmmaker, Advocate

Representing the third generation of her family to explore water issues, Alexandra was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2008. She currently serves on the prestigious Young Global Leaders Council of the World Economic Forum; the Board of Directors of the Global Water Challenge, Mother Nature Network, and Earth Echo; and the Leadership Council for the Water-keeper Alliance. In 2009, Alexandra joined the Discovery Channel line-up, co-hosting “Blue August” with her brother Philippe, Jr. and serving as a Chief Correspondent on Water Issues for Discovery’s Planet Green. She has been honored as an “Earth Trustee” by the UN, named a “Principle Voice” by CNN International, and regularly delivers testimony on critical policy issues before the U.S. Congress.

Her work regularly earns global recognition including the University of California Irvine’s Human Security Award, the Arava Institute Peace Building and Environmental Stewardship Award, and special screenings at the National Press Club, the Royal Ontario Museum, and the Smithsonian Institute. She is regularly featured in publications ranging from Glamour and Elle to National Geographic and Scientific American and was named a “Fun Fearless Phnom” along with Tyra Banks by Cosmopolitan magazine.

Alexandra is a graduate of Georgetown University. In 2008, Alexandra joined “dot-com” entrepreneur Jonathan Smith to launch the non-profit Blue Legacy project. Blue Legacy helps people understand and value their everyday relationship with water.



1.30 pm Panel II: Role of the Private Sector and NGOs in Water Challenges and Solutions

- Introduction by **Chris Robertson** (Northeastern University)
- Statements by 3 panelists (10 minute statements)
 - **Ric Davidge** (Chairman, AQUEOUS International)
 - **Kevin Mathews** (VP Regulatory, Health and Environment, Nestle Waters NA, Nestle Waters NA)
 - **Phil Retallick** (Senior Vice President, Regulatory Affairs, Clean Harbors Environmental Services, Incorporated)
- Q&A led by a student (who should do some research and is prepared to ask questions if none are ready)

2.30 pm Panel III: The Role of Culture, Media and Arts in Public Advocacy

Roundtable moderated by Dr Hans d'Orville (UNESCO)

- **Peggy Weil** (Director, HeadsUp!)
- **Fred Ritchin** (Professor at NYU, and former Editor of the NY Times)
- **Ian Williams** (Author and Freelance Journalist)
- **Dr. Damien Pwono** (Aspen Institute)
- Q&A led by a student

3.30 pm Review of Findings and Proposals

- Summary of finding and proposals from African Regional meeting (**Anoush d'Orville**)
- Presentation by students and **Qatar Foundation International**
- Summary presentation by students from breakout sessions

4.10 pm Video presentation

4.20 pm **Concluding session –Towards a plan of Action**

Closing remarks-Hans d'Orville (UNESCO)

4.40 pm **Musical performance by Melody for Dialogue Water Ambassador, Nigerian Percussionist Ara the “Queen of Drums”**

WATER: THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE FOR OUR FUTURE

AGENDA

March 23, 2012

8.45 am Registration

9.15 am Opening remarks by **Mehri Madarshahi**, President of Melody

9.25 am Welcome remarks by **VERA JELINEK** Dean of CGA

9.35 am Keynote Speech by **Alexandra Cousteau** (Blue Legacy LLC)

10.00 am Second Keynote by **Amina Az-Zubair, OFR** (Senior advisor on MDG and CEO of the Development Policy Solutions)

10:20 am Film on water pollution management

10:30 am Coffee break

10.40 am **Panel I: Water, Climate Change, and Conflict**

- Moderated by **Amina Az-Zubair** (OFR)

Keynote statements by **Aldo Civico** (International Institute for Peace at Rutgers University) on conflict and water security

(4 panelists each: 5- 10 minute statements)


- **Wenonah Hauter** (Executive Director of Food & Water Watch)
- **Charles Vorosmarty** (Scientist)
- **Francesca DeFerrari** (UN HABITAT, Human Settlement Officer)
- **Anna Persic** (Scientist- UNESCO)

- Q&A led by a student (who should do some research and is prepared to ask questions if none are ready)

11.50 am Presentation: "**Water Security and the Impact on Women**"

- Brief presentation by **Amy Hart** (Filmmaker, NYU Professor)
- Statement on Water and human rights of women by **Saraswathi Menon**, Director of Policy Division, UN Women
- Q & A

12.30 pm Lunch AND Breakout sessions for students focusing on awareness and policy proposals



and a principal medium through which climate change exhibits its environmental, economic and social impact.

Taking advantage of the growing recognition of the importance of culture and attitudes in the management of water, the Melody for Dialogue Association is focusing on prevailing social norms to create awareness through dialogue with the universal language of music. This is with the understanding that all over the world new initiatives have been launched in the last decade encompassing large international agencies, governments, local citizens' groups, drinking-water providers, international and local non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and educational networks.

The widespread recognition of the need for community involvement in government or NGO-initiated programs dictates a new and innovative approach to awareness-raising. We have selected the interactive language of music. Worldwide different parties are engaged with **awareness-raising on water issues** to influence attitudes and social norms of communities in such a way that efficient, environment-friendly and safe use of water resources is promoted and social pressure towards sound and sustainable policies is stimulated.

As echoed by Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, that "track II diplomatic efforts" require not only dialogue but unique means such as the art and music to foster understanding, open communication, and successful diplomacy".

Mehri Madarshahi

M. Madarshahi





Message from Mehri Madarshahi,

President of "Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations"
Association



"It is vital that green living is not treated as a trend that comes and goes, but that it becomes part of the way we live."

It did not take that long for me to become an advocate for sustainable fresh water management. When I learnt that some 1.2 billion of the world populations live under conditions of physical water scarcity and over one billion have no access to fresh water! I was astounded and asked myself how many other persons in the world come across such staggering numbers casually or do not even have knowledge of it? We have plenty of water and we are taking this important source of life for granted. With no hesitation we pollute, we waste and we mismanage it. How many among us have always thought that water is a God given blessing, it is free and available at all time?


Under the business-as-usual scenario, we must be prepared to learn that by 2030 actual global demand for water will outstrip supply by 40% giving rise to competition for water resources within countries and between countries. International water conflicts are becoming more entrenched and in the foreseeable future this may threaten the already fragile stability in some regions of the world.

On the other hand, uncontrolled population growth, an increase in the number of city dwellers, climate change, change in consumption patterns and industrial and human pollution could leave most freshwater sources in crisis as many rivers and lakes are already severely degraded or disappearing due to destruction of forests, watershed deterioration and other environmental woes. In an unprecedented analysis of 20 million tap water quality tests performed by water utilities between 2004 and 2009, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) found that water suppliers detected a total of 316 contaminants in water delivered to the public in the United States. Another 202 chemicals with no mandatory safety standards were found in water supplied to approximately 132 million people in 9,454 communities across the country. These «unregulated» chemicals include the toxic rocket fuel component perchlorate, the industrial solvent acetone, the weed killer metolachlor, the refrigerant freon and radon, a highly radioactive gas.

Tap water contaminants come from a wide variety of sources. EWG's analysis revealed 97 agricultural pollutants, including pesticides and chemicals from fertilizer- and manure-laden runoff; 205 industrial chemicals linked to factory discharges and consumer products; 86 contaminants that originate in polluted runoff and wastewater treatment plants; and 42 byproducts of water treatment processes or pollutants that leach from pipes and storage tanks.

We may assume since over 70% of the earth's surface is covered by water we are safe but do we know that out of this amount approximately 97 percent is saltwater, rendering it virtually unusable today? Of the remaining 3 percent, 87 percent is inaccessible (trapped within polar ice caps). All that remains is 0.4% which we all have to share! Share with our industries, our agriculture, our economic developments, our energy and our day to day needs for survival. Water is humanity's most important natural resource





Our desire for water had forced us to infringe on his territory and now had pushed us into conflict. As I look at that situation now I realize that this scarcity of water had broken down our moral fiber and could have cost us our lives. Luckily it was the Philippine marines who were training us who had put us under this friendly fire. But it remained in my mind as to how scarcity of water could so easily lead to conflict and possibly to war.

We would now be led back to our base camp were we could find water, and unlike those who were in real life situations who did not have this option to get water we would be allowed to drink. We would go on to shoot the film Platoon while so many around the world would suffer the reality of what having no access to water really means.

I strongly believe that innovative approaches are required to raise awareness and to bring about changes in our attitudes and behaviors towards water. Preserving the world as a livable and habitable place is key for us today and our children tomorrow. Water is part of that grand objective. Solutions will have to encompass all aspects of our existence: beyond technical and legal solution, we will all have to embrace a culture of peace and non-violence. We must become conscious of the scarcity of natural resources not only as potential causes for violence, but also as opportunities for cooperation and peace.

As an artist I am particularly attracted by the mobilization of the soft power of all the arts to bring about change in individual habits and societal orientations. Raising a global consciousness is a work of advocacy. This is why I wish a great success to the International Forum on "Water, the global challenge for our future", organized by the Association "Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations" led by my friend Mehri Madarshahi. I have dedicated myself to work for peace in all its facets through my mission as UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Peace and Reconciliation and Chair of the International Institute for Peace. I hope to be one of the servants of humanity to move the world towards a lasting peace. A world where all men and women share the same rights and opportunities for achievement and success.

Forest Whitaker



Message from Forest Whitaker

UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
for Peace and Reconciliation



One of the most noble tasks one can undertake. As globalization shrinks the world into a village and as technologies create more and more opportunities for us to connect with a rapidity unprecedented in the history, so grows our awareness of the tremendous new challenges to peace. Peace is fragile. It is sacred.

Challenges to peace are many – but some are more malign, more discrete than others, calling for redouble efforts on our parts. One of them is the looming water crisis. Today, it is still a fact that too many of us human being live without access to safe and clean water. Water is life and its sustainable use paves the way to a future of shared peace and prosperity.. We must reflect on that – and act on it.

During one of my projects I was required to undergo jungle warfare training. We were in the jungle outside Manila for two weeks. We were given two dehydrated food rations for a day and a canteen of drinking water. With these basic essentials along with a rucksack, we would go out on maneuvers each day. We would travel over large expanses of jungle looking for the enemy and make our way back under the harshest of conditions. It was a minimum of 112 degrees Fahrenheit each day, sometimes rising to around 118 - 120 degrees a day. We would be expected to use our one-day ration of food and water to last us for the day until we rejoined our platoon at night. Unfortunately on one of these maneuvers we found ourselves lost in the jungle. Nighttime fell and we found ourselves that night setting up camp in unknown territory.

We had run out of water in our daily canteens hours ago. It makes me laugh now but not at the time when one of the soldiers, Tex from Texas, who had not drunk any of his water, started to wash in the water left in his canteen. It caused an argument that felt cause someone his life. The argument was about Tex's misuse of the water when others had nothing to drink. Everyone ostracized him for this selfish behavior. Tex argued that we would be saved by the others tomorrow and that anyway «that wasn't the point, it was his water to do with as he liked.»

The next day came but there was no rescue party and we took off in our search for base camp. The temperatures were about 117 degrees and it was decided that we would steal coconuts out of a farm we found ourselves traveling through. We drank the coconut milk and were able to use the juice of the coconut as a substitute for water. Later that day we found the area we recognized and begin to cross a river that we knew would bring us back to our platoon and safety. As we crossed the river we began to be shot at. There were canisters shot at us with smoke and the sound of gunfire. And I thought whoever owned those farms where we had stolen those coconuts from to get a drink was now shooting at us.



“Melody for Dialogue among Civilizations”

Association

HONORARY COUNCIL

Chief **Olusegun Obasanjo**

(Former President of Nigeria) - Honorary President

President **Andres Pastrana**

(Former President of Colombia)

Countess **Setsuko Klossowska de Rola**

(Japan/Switzerland - Honorary President, Balthus Foundation) - Vice-President **Karen**

Shakhnazarov

(Russian Federation - General Director, MOSFILM Cinema Concern)

Bernard Miyet

(France - former UN Under-Secretary-General; Directeur, Fonds Culturel Franco-Américain)

Dr Hans d'Orville

Assistant-Director-General, UNESCO

ARTISTIC ADVISORY COUNCIL

Kenneth Klein

Conductor, New York Virtuosi Symphony Orchestra

Richard Boudarham

Conductor, Orchestre Symphonique Bel'Arte

Sergueï Markarov

Pianist - UNESCO Artist for Peace

Boris Trajanov

Baritone - UNESCO Artist for Peace

Maurice Edwards

Actor and Artistic Director, Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra, New York **Igor Vljajnic**

Composer and Conductor

Dr Thomas Culhane

Innovator in Solar and renewable energy

Kiro Urdin

Artist and Filmmaker

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: **Mehri Madarshahi** - Vice Presidents: **Jordan Plevneš, Dr Anouch Rousta, Anouch d'Orville.**

Press Officer **Chakameh Bozorgmehr** - Web Managers: **Maurren Ton and Martin Celis**

Ambassador **Slobodan Šoja** - Advisor

Handel, but not only

*A Multicultural Concert on the
Occasion of World Water Day*

March 22, 2012 at 8PM

Merkin Concert Hall at Kaufman Center

**PRAGUE PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA &
NEW YORK VIRTUOSI STRING QUARTET**

*Organized by Melody for Dialogue
among Civilizations Association*



**Melody for Dialogue
Among Civilizations**



in partnership with



Northeastern University
College of Arts, Media and Design