



## MELODY FOR DIALOGUE AMONG CIVILIZATIONS LAUNCHES NORTH AMERICAN EVENTS IN ORDER RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE GLOBAL WATER CRISIS AROUND WORLD WATER DAY

*Two unique events, starting with a multicultural concert at Kaufman Center, Merkin Concert Hall on March 22, 2012, followed by a major conference on the global water crisis at NYU's Center for Global Affairs, will mark the organization's push to raise awareness.*

### PRESS RELEASE

NEW YORK (Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations) March 5, 2012 – Water is a source of life for all and as we speak, one in six people in the world has no access to fresh drinking water. But despite its critical importance for life on earth, water is taken for granted and the burning issue of water security remains largely unattended, if not neglected. The Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association (MDACA) is organizing two major events to help raise awareness about this global crisis and its impact on humanity, with an emphasis on finding solutions and encouraging everyone to play their part.

Building on its brand of unprecedented multicultural concerts, on March 22, 2012, MDACA will put on a one-time event at Kaufman Center, Merkin Hall around the theme of water. Joining the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra and the New York Virtuosi String Quartet on stage, will be renowned musicians from all over the world including Guo Gan (China) on Erhu, Wolfgang David (Austria) on violin, and Liu Fang (China-CANADA) on the Pipa. They will play selections from Handel's *Water Music*, Vivaldi's *La Tempesta Di Mare*, and Tan Dun's *Ghost Opera*. A new piece, *Shui. Life*, specifically composed for the concert by Anthony Paul De Ritis, will also be unveiled. Maestro Emmanuel Siffert (Switzerland) will be the evening's conductor.

On March 23, 2012, in order to further enhance and expand the advocacy started by the concert and MDACA's previous African regional meeting in Nigeria, the organization is partnering with New York University's Center for Global Affairs and Northeastern University (Boston), to bring together some of the world's leading academics, scientists, journalists, and the private sector practitioners to address the challenges presented by the global water crisis, and to form new collaborations and relationships to come up with solutions on how to mitigate its impact. This event will be keynoted by **Alexandra Cousteau** of Blue Legacy and will feature speakers such as **Amina Az-Zubair** (Senior Advisor on MDGs), **Dr. Charles Vorosmarty** (Scientist, CUNY), **Ric Davidge** (Chairman, AQUEOUS International), **Kevin Matthews** (VP Regulatory, Health and Environment, Nestle Waters NA, Nestle Waters NA), and **Fred Ritchin** (Professor at NYU, and former editor of the New York Times).

As part of MDACA's goals to engage future generations, the organization will also welcome student participation. Qatari and U.S. students, who have been working with Blue Legacy and Qatar Foundation International (QFI) to produce student-led films on water issues, will make a presentation to the audience and panelists on how they are creating awareness and changing perceptions.

## **About the Melody for Dialogue Among Civilizations Association**

Started in 2004, MDAC 's main objective is to foster awareness about major social issues with a particular emphasis on the environment, through concerts and forums around the world. With over 20 mega events spanning eight countries and four continents, MDAC has worked with various UN agencies, governments, inter-governmental organizations, and private individuals to foster a dialogue between all stakeholders on the ground.

[www.melodydialogue.org](http://www.melodydialogue.org)

### **Notes to Editors**

The concert takes place at Kaufman Center, Merkin Hall on March 22, 2012 at 8pm. The concert hall is located on 129 West 67<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City.

Tickets are available by phone: 212-501-3330

Or Online: <http://kaufman-center.org/mch/event/music-for-water>

The international forum will take place at New York University's Center for Global Affairs located on 15 Barclay Street in New York City starting at 9am.

For more information on events, speakers, and registration, visit [www.melodydialogue.org](http://www.melodydialogue.org) or email [Anoush@melodydialogue.org](mailto:Anoush@melodydialogue.org)

To find relevant story ideas, please download the press kit: [www.melodydialogue.org/presskit](http://www.melodydialogue.org/presskit)

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