

# Invitation to Christian musicians for a world-wide orchestra project in Israel

«Worthy is the Lamb Israel»

Dear musical friends and former members of NEO and NEuO,

A short time ago I received (as many of you probably did too, via the Crescendo address list) an invitation from «Worthy is the Lamb Israel» for an NEO-like project in Israel from 26<sup>th</sup> Oct. – 9<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2019 (alternatively now possible: only until 4<sup>th</sup> Nov., i.e. 10 days!).

The following points spoke to me strongly:

- By means of «music» (thus from heart to heart without the round-about route via the intellect) to contribute to Jewish people hearing and experiencing what Jesus means to us and hopefully recognising that this Jesus is also their longed-for Yeshua HaMashiach, for the Holy Spirit will of course be at work (*cf. Romans 11,11: «...Rather, because of their transgression, salvation has come to the Gentiles **to make Israel jealous**»*). Unfortunately, many Jews have so far not recognised Jesus for who he is – understandably enough when one looks at history!
- That I can connect my love for Israel and the Jews, that is, to our Christian roots (*tip: on this study Romans 9-11!*), with my musical gift in order to serve God.
- The idea with the flashmobs appeals to me: a surprise gift to passers-by, both locals and tourists! Comparable with the NEO Recreatios in Salzburg and Rome: infectious joy and yet with a deep spiritual content.

I immediately got in contact with the sender, Claudia Zepeda. In the meantime, we have been maintaining close contact, and she has just stayed with me for 5 days to settle organisational points for the project. She is a woman of humility and simultaneously of strong faith. When I asked her how she came to this vision, this was one of the things she told me: *«The more I spoke with God about this vision, the clearer it became that the project is much too big for me, and I told him that I could not deal with it.»* God then gave her this response: *«You are also free to say «no». Then I will simply look for someone else who will realise this vision, for I must tell you that **it is not your vision, but MINE.**»* And so at that point I agreed to join in.

The person with the vision is therefore the music teacher Claudia Zepeda from Mexico. She wrote this: *“**This musical mission has the purpose of worshipping Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah in the land of Israel**”; and: “In praise, music is intrinsic. I am sure that around the world there are many musicians who have been redeemed with the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ and in which God has awakened their spirit to come to Israel and worship God with their talents and gifts. Have you ever announced God’s glory by using your musical skills? Now is the opportunity to do so in Jerusalem! It is time to step up and boldly proclaim the name and work of our Saviour Jesus Christ through music. Does your heart beat faster when imagining an entire choir and orchestra of redeemed people singing “Worthy is the Lamb” in front of the gates of Jerusalem or in the Garden of the Tomb? Now is the time!»*

Claudia has asked me to help in realising the vision (concretely: in the search for musicians in Europe). This is why I am turning to you today regarding these aims.

Here are main points in brief:

- A choir and a symphony orchestra will be put together with participants from all over the world.
- Timeframe for the project: 26<sup>th</sup> October (arrival) until optionally 4<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> November 2019 (departure). After the 4<sup>th</sup> November, the main activity will be sightseeing in Israel; the rehearsals and performances are before that.
- It begins with 2 days of intensive rehearsals, including spiritual fellowship (teaching, worship, prayer for Israel together with local messianic Jews). Followed by 2 days of flashmobs and worship at special places in Jerusalem, such as the Mount of Olives, Gethsemane, the Garden Tomb, the Davidson Center. After that 4 «concerts», all with the same programme, in Jerusalem, Nazareth, Haifa and Tel Aviv. The «concerts» are of a special kind, not like secular concerts. Finally, 5 days of sightseeing.
- Financially, the procedure will be as always with NEO/NEuO: each person pays his/her own project costs. A tip: ask friends, your own groups or churches make a financial contribution. And simultaneously request prayer support for you personally before and during the tour.

Please let us know as soon as possible if you are moved by the idea and decide to come. I am aware that Oct./Nov. is not a holiday time, but I will apply for special leave from my music school. Since this project involves concert activities, the chances are very good that leave will be granted.

One can register – by 15<sup>th</sup> July at the latest – at this website:

<https://www.worthyisthelambisrael.com>

There you will find further info/details on the tour.

Perhaps this question has crossed your mind: «Travelling to Israel when the political situation in the Near East is so critical?» I was there in May 2018 during all the celebrations for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Israel's founding (incl. march through Jerusalem with 6000 Christians and Jews, opening of the US Embassy, beginning of Ramadan) – there were no problems of any kind. Security personnel and military are «everywhere» and well trained!

Please get back to me with any questions you may have.

And also please tell all your musician friends about it.

I am enthusiastic and expectant about what God is going to do and would be delighted to see many of you again as participants!

With hearty greetings,  
Brigitta Hofer

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