

Together for humanity

On December 20 a benefit concert was held with the Berliner Philharmoniker and world renowned artists, calling for the release of all hostages kidnapped from Israel into Gaza, and for the protection of the Palestinian and Israeli civilian population.

For more information please read [here](#)

Photo: Stephan Rabold

Tastes from the program

Noa, Mira Awad and Gil Dor | "There Must be Another Way" | "Think of Others" 

Martha Argerich and Iddo Bar-Shai | J.S.Bach/Kurtág: "Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit" 

Steven Isserlis and Iddo Bar-Shai | E. Bloch: "From Jewish Life- Prayer" 

To the concert's program



Photos: Stephan Rabold

The speeches

Efrat Machikawa | for the families of the hostages kidnapped from Israel 

Meera Eilabouni | for Women Wage Peace and Women of the Sun 

Andrea Zietzschmann | for Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra 



Photos: Stephan Rabold

News coverage



[View here a report about the concert by Deutsche Welle International TV Channel](#) 

It is in keeping with the Berliner Philharmoniker's high level of self-confidence that, four days before Christmas, they are still putting on an Israel benefit concert for themselves and their audience in the packed Philharmonie at 4 pm. "Together for humanity" is the understated motto... After Ernest Bloch's "From Jewish Life" for cello and piano and Martina Gedeck's Brecht recitation, Martha Argerich and Iddo Bar-Shai took György Kurtág's four-hand arrangement of the Sonatina from J. S. Bach's cantata "Gottes Zeit ist die aller- beste Zeit" almost into the realm of pious contemplation...

Süddeutsche Zeitung, Wolfgang Schreiber, 22.12.2023

It is impressive how many world-famous artists the Berliner Philharmoniker have recruited for their benefit concert "Together for Humanity" in the Philharmonie... This concert was necessary: this concert was necessary because Berlin's cultural scene has so far been relatively restrained with symbolic events, despite the ferocity and cruelty of this new Middle East war. As Berlin's undisputed cultural beacon, the Philharmonic Orchestra in particular can best muster the sovereignty to set a non-partisan example here. It has taken so long to achieve this. It has been a success.

Berliner Morgenpost Matthias Nöther, 22.12.2023

The Philharmonie was filled to capacity. 2200 people wanted to experience the Berliner Philharmoniker's benefit concert
We rightly criticized the highly subsidized Berlin orchestras for remaining silent for a long time after 7 October and not planning an event... But with this concert on Wednesday afternoon, which was organized in just a few days and sold out within hours, they exceeded all expectations. Martha Argerich, Thomas Hampson, Christian Tetzlaff, Steven Isserlis, these are all big names, icons, legends, world stars, cult figures of classical music, luminaries. Although these terms fit the artists at the "Together for Humanity" benefit concert, they do not describe the moving atmosphere in the Philharmonie.

Judische Allgemeine, Maria Ossowski, 21.12.23

An impressive crowd of artists has come together at short notice and the hall is sold out...

Efrat Machikawa, speaks on behalf of the families of the abducted Israelis. She took to the stage with a photo of her abducted uncle Gadi Moses and spoke about how her faith in humanity was attacked on October 7. The way Machikawa works her way out of her pain and towards a future with hope is moving... Musically, a touching two hours culminate in a polyphonic prayer... Finally, the whole orchestra pours onto the stage for Bruch's "Kol Nidrei". Kirill Petrenko and soloist Amihai Grosz play the "Adagio after Hebrew Motifs" like something fragile that must be protected at all costs.

Tagesspiegel, Ulrich Amling, 21.12.2023

All proceeds from the sold-out concert will go to a forum that supports the families of hostages and to two women's organizations working for peace. "We discussed this for a long time: What is the right message? We simply want to help the people whose family members are being held hostage and focus attention on the suffering in Gaza. We have to focus on humanity, dialog and hopefully a more peaceful future," said the Berliner Philharmoniker's artistic director. The concert, in which so many great artists wanted to take part, could easily have lasted eight hours - such was the demand and the musicians' desire to be there.

Bayerischer Rundfunk, BR-Klassik, December 2023

Many famous artists joined Amihai Grosz and pianist Iddo Bar-Shai, and the concert could have lasted eight hours instead of two. Oud player Taiseer Elias flew in from Israel to take part. The Israeli singer Noa and the Palestinian Mira Awad sang together: there must be another way. The audience sang along. Meera Eilabouni took to the stage on behalf of two Israeli-Palestinian women's organisations. "Mothers, Israeli and Palestinian, Arab and Jewish, are committed to creating peace until the conflict is finally over. Because there is no power in the world that can stop a mother if she wants to create a future for her children." The two organisations "Woman Wage Peace" and "Women of the sun" have been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Tagesschau, 21.12.23

