

Culture in brief: MSU Chorale to Carnegie Hall in Concert for 'Beethoven for the Rohingya'



The Montclair State University Chorale, conducted by Heather Buchanan. COURTESY MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

On Monday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m., at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Montclair State University Chorale will perform in a benefit concert titled "Beethoven for The Rohingya."

The Montclair State University Chorale performs with conductor Dr. Heather J. Buchanan in its Carnegie Hall debut. The 160-voice chorale is the core choral ensemble and symphonic choir in the John J. Cali School of music.

The concert, presented by Music for Live International, is described in a release as :an urgent call to the global community to raise awareness for the nearly one million Rohingya refugees fleeing what the United Nations have defined as genocide in Rakhine State in Myanmar. Refugees, who are seeking safety in Bangladesh, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, and other nearby locations and are grossly lacking access to healthcare when it is needed most. Net proceeds from this performance will benefit Doctors Without Borders/Médécins Sans Frontières (MSF), which provides medical aid to those who are among the world's most vulnerable.

“Beethoven for The Rohingya” is the eighth in a series of global humanitarian concerts presented by Music For Life International at Carnegie Hall. Music for Life International. Beethoven's Ninth Symphony will be led by conductor and Music For Life Artistic Director, George Mathew, and will feature American violinist, Elmira Darvarova, soprano Indra Thomas, mezzo-soprano Sarah Heltzel, tenor Sean Panikkar, and bass Soloman Howard, with remarks by Dr. John Lawrence, President, Board of Directors of Doctors Without Borders.

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American composer and conductor David Amram will conduct his “Elegy for Violin and Orchestra,” with Darvarova as the soloist. “Amram's poignant and deeply elegiac poem of lyrical yearning is offered as a memorial for the dead for whom intervention comes too late,” the release states. It is Amram's first conducting appearance at Carnegie Hall

in more than 50 years, when he was the New York Philharmonic's first Composer-in-Residence, appointed by Leonard Bernstein.

For more information visit beethovenfortherohingya.org. For tickets, visit carnegiehall.org or call 212-247-7800. Carnegie Hall is at 881 Seventh Ave., New York City.