

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

WAR DIVIDES, MUSIC CONNECTS



*Musicians  
without  
Borders*

## Table of Contents

Foreword	3
<b>1. Programs</b>	4
1.1 Palestine Community Music	4
1.2 Rwanda Youth Music	5
1.3 Mitrovica Rock School	6
1.4 From Woman to Woman	7
<b>2. Community Partnerships</b>	8
2.1 Tanzania Youth Music	8
2.2 Music Bridge	8
<b>3. New Project Development - Refugees in Europe</b>	9
<b>4. Training of Trainers and Professional Development</b>	10

<b>5. Organization</b>	11
5.1 Professionalization	11
5.2 MwB UK Becomes Music Action International	11
<b>6. Communications and Fundraising</b>	12
<b>7. Events</b>	13
<b>8. Musicians without Borders- the People</b>	14
<b>9. Partners and Donors</b>	16
Contact Information	17

## Foreword

It was a year of many things, but mostly it was the year of the 'refugee crisis': in our view, not a 'refugee crisis' but a 'war crisis'. For many around the world, 2015 was the year in which the crisis of war gained a human face. With an unprecedented number of refugees worldwide-- more than sixty million, according to the UN-- increasing numbers of desperate people risked their lives to reach safety in Europe, the Americas, Australia or other relatively safe places. With heart-breaking photos spread through social media, they caught the world's attention. Official responses have been almost exclusively shameful. However, many individuals, communities and organizations have shown bravery, generosity and creativity in responding to huge numbers of fellow human beings in desperate need.

In our home base in Amsterdam, Musicians without Borders reached out to join other initiatives, considered how we could best contribute, and designed a project, aimed to support new refugees in Europe. We programmed musicians for benefit concerts and solidarity demonstrations, met with other organizations and brought small teams of MwB musicians to emergency refugee reception centers. By the end of the year, we had laid the basis for a new program, designed to train musicians to work with displaced and traumatized people, bringing inclusive music activities as a gesture of solidarity, comfort and welcome.

Meanwhile, most war refugees continue to flee within their own regions, and many are at least as desperate. In the Mahama Refugee Camp in eastern Rwanda, 50,000 Burundians, fleeing the violence in their country, shelter in simple tents with almost no services or infrastructure. At the request of UNHCR and Plan International Rwanda, MwB began a year-long training of 30 Community Music Leaders to work with the camp's 35,000 children. Our young Rwanda Youth Music trainees serve as assistant trainers and visit the camp regularly to help provide desperately needed positive activities for the children. The camp's youth workers tell us they are seeing the children smile and laugh for the first time.

While no single initiative or organization can reverse the dreadful pace of 'endless war', or solve the enormous problem of people on the run worldwide, we gladly add our experience, expertise and dedication to that of many other individuals and communities reaching out to fellow human beings who have lost everything because of war. We strive to make as much impact as possible, to bring as much singing, dancing and playing as possible, to include and empower as many people as possible. And we are gratified to see that, however grim their situation, people in desperate situations still experience hope, joy and connection from music.

Along with our other programs in the Balkans, the Middle East and Europe, we will build on this initiative, while we continue to raise our voices for a world of social justice, reconciliation and peace. So many thanks to all who, in so many ways, continue to help make this possible.

Laura Hassler, Director

## 1. Programs

### 1.1 Palestine Community Music

Our program in Palestine has trained more than 200 teachers, social workers and youth leaders in community music and nonviolence leadership skills since 2008. They, in turn, work with thousands of marginalized young children, some who live with disabilities, in West Bank refugee camps, isolated villages, schools, hospitals and orphanages.

In 2015, we integrated our years of experience delivering a wide range of musical activities across Palestine into a single, multifaceted program: The Musical Playground. We reached thousands of school children through regular music workshops, including dancing, singing, rapping and playing self-made instruments, culminating in school-wide performances.

We launched a new partnership with Sounds of Palestine, which uses music education as a medium for long term social change, offering regular lessons each week to the many participating children. Hundreds of children from Aida and al-Azzeh refugee camp in the Bethlehem area participate in music appreciation lessons, instrument instruction, folk dancing, choir, music theory lessons and orchestral training.

We also established a new pilot program with Music as Therapy International, in which three of our trainees, participated in a distance learning course on the use of music as a therapeutic tool.



Results in 2015:

- 8 Palestinian trainees (including one deaf woman) who received training from MwB trainers, 3 of whom enrolled in the distance learning course 'Music as Therapy' and will continue with an internship in 2016.
- 3,428 children, including 364 children with special needs, received music workshops and participated in a performance.

- 16 team members from Sounds of Palestine received training sessions in Nonviolence Leadership in music teaching.

More information: [mwb.to/palestine](http://mwb.to/palestine)

## 1.2 Rwanda Youth Music

In Rwanda, we use approaches in community music and music therapy to reach vulnerable and marginalized youth, many of whom are affected by HIV/AIDS as a result of the horrific acts that occurred during the Rwandan genocide. In August of 2015, twenty-eight new MwB Community Music Leaders graduated from our year long training course, equipping them to lead music workshops, projects and community events with children affected by HIV and their families.

In the fall of 2015, we began a new training in the Mahama Refugee Camp in partnership with PLAN International and UNHCR, training 30 young people from Burundi, currently living as refugees, in the principles of community music leadership. These young people provide weekly support groups and cultural activities to thousands of children in the camp.

To ensure the sustainability of our program and to raise the profile of music therapy services across Rwanda, we created a university-level course of study in Music and Health, which will be incorporated within the new BA Music degree program at the University of Rwanda as of September 2016.



#### Results in 2015

- We trained over 50 young community leaders from Rwanda and Burundi in community music workshop leadership
- Thousands of children received music workshops run by trainees during and between training weeks, reaching refugee children, former street children;

children living with HIV; and young people living with the trauma of genocide.

- Approximately 100 young people benefited from music therapy provision. Referrals focused on young mothers, orphaned children, vulnerable young people, and youth with dangerously low adherence to medications.

More information: [mwb.to/rwanda](http://mwb.to/rwanda)

### 1.3 Mitrovica Rock School

In Europe's most divided city, the Mitrovica Rock School uses rock music education and performance to bring Serb and Albanian youth together through music. Since 2008, more than 800 students have attended the Rock School, which combines serious, competitive rock music education and band coaching with structured interethnic activities.

This year, the Rock School celebrated its 8th annual Summer School, with an unprecedented number of ethnically mixed bands, recording a number of new songs and music videos and resulting in strong, long-lasting friendships across the divide.



## 1.4 From Woman to Woman

From Woman to Woman uses music to support the healing process of women who were victims of war and/or domestic violence in Bosnia-Herzegovina, in cooperation with local partner Snaga Žene (BiH). While the project officially concluded in 2014, we were able to extend choir rehearsals and selected activities in refugee camps through the end of 2015.

### Results in 2015

- Over 100 students received music lessons in two branches of the Rock School
- A record-breaking number of 45 students participated in ethnically mixed bands during 2015
- Five new mixed bands were established at the Rock School's annual Summer School in Skopje, Macedonia
- First training week for ethnically mixed bands organized within the Rock School's own premises, with students from both communities meeting on both sides of Mitrovica.

More information: [mwb.to/mitrovica](http://mwb.to/mitrovica)

## 2. Community Partnerships

### 2.1 Music Bridge

In Northern Ireland, where centuries-old divides persist, we train musicians, music therapists and community workers to lead cross-community music projects with children, youth and adults, in cooperation with local arts organization, Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin. In June, we partnered with jazz-based music education organization, Second Line NI, to facilitate a music workshop as part of their innovative approach to cross-community work during the annual Music City festival. Additionally, our team was invited to deliver two workshops to doctoral students at the Institute for the study of Conflict Transformation and Social Justice at Queen's University Belfast. Now in its second year, our program offers both an introductory and advanced level training, which is currently being considered for accreditation by the University of Ulster.

#### Results in 2015

- We trained over 30 musicians and community leaders in music workshop leadership
- We reached approximately 1500 children, youth and adults in community music workshops throughout Northern Ireland



More information: [mwb.to/musicbridge](http://mwb.to/musicbridge)

### 2.2 Tanzania Youth Music

Tanzania Youth Music was established in September 2014 in partnership with the FEMI Foundation and with support from the Fred Foundation, both of which support development projects in Tanzania. In 2015, the project trained 29 youth and community leaders from 21 organizations to integrate community music approaches into their support work with thousands of vulnerable youth in the Moshi and Arusha regions of Tanzania.



Results in 2015:

- 29 trainees graduated from a year-long training in community music workshop leadership
- 400 children were engaged in a large-scale community music event as part of the final training week
- 4 Rwandan Community Music Leaders and 2 Rwandan musicians facilitated cultural exchange activities as assistant trainers

### 3 New Project Development- Refugees in Europe

With a view to supporting people displaced by war with music activities, MwB explored the situation of refugees in Western Europe. We developed a project proposal on request of a private donor for MwB-style trainings and music workshops in Germany, Sweden and the UK; were approached to help train musicians wanting to work with refugees in Italy; and developed a pilot project in the Netherlands for newly arrived refugees. At the request of local authorities, and to better understand the situation of current refugees, we organized music workshops at emergency shelters in the Netherlands. These were very enthusiastically received, both by the participants (from small children to adults), and by the local authorities. Meanwhile, we approached several interested donors and developed a one-year pilot project for the Netherlands, planned to begin in 2016. This project will train professional musicians to organize and lead music activities in the centers for diverse groups of new refugees. The training will focus on group leadership, creativity, teamwork, and working with people in fragile circumstances. The project will be called Welcome Notes.

## 4 Training of Trainers and Professional Development

In July 2015, Musicians without Borders organized its first Training of Trainers held at the Lioba School for Peace in Egmond-Binnen, the Netherlands. The week began with a three-day professional development training for our current trainers and staff by experts in the fields of nonviolence, risk management and Psychological First Aid. These trainings will help us to formalize our policies and methods for working in regions affected by conflict.

Following the internal professional development sessions, Musicians without Borders provided an intensive training to 27 music professionals from around the world in approaches to using music as a tool for peacebuilding in places affected by war and armed conflict. Drawing on successful MwB community music training projects in the Balkans, Palestine, Rwanda, Tanzania and Northern Ireland, MwB trainers shared methods and skills with participants from Korea, South Africa, Lithuania, Iceland, Mexico, Palestine, Germany, the US, the UK, Ukraine, Czech Republic, Northern Ireland, and the Netherlands. Ten MwB trainers led the course, offering diverse skills in nonverbal teaching, creativity, singing, song-writing, percussion, event management, basic understanding of trauma, didactic and pedagogical approaches and the theory and practice of nonviolence.



Through sharing our expertise in didactic, pedagogical and musical techniques, we are now able to expand our pool of trainers, thus making a significant contribution toward our goal of reaching thousands more people each year who have been affected by conflict. In addition, we are glad to contribute our expertise to other valuable music initiatives around the world.

This training was the first of its kind to be organized by Musicians without Borders, and made a profound contribution to building the capacity of the organization to deliver community music programs within current and post conflict regions. Reactions and evaluations will be used to fine-tune the training curriculum. By the end of 2015, we were exploring training collaborations with the US-based conflict transformation training program, CONTACT, and the SOAS department of the University of London.

## 5. Organization

### 5.1 Professionalization

As our programs expand in scope, and as more musicians and other professionals are attracted to our work, we dedicated time and attention in 2015 to developing needed formal guidelines and protocols. While most of the actual practices had become second nature to our small staff and trainer community, the organization's growth means codifying not only principles, but also practices as well as increasing our own expertise in risk management, safety and security and working with people in traumatized settings. We are deeply thankful for the voluntary advisory support of two expert consultants: Mr. André Oostrum, Safety and Security trainer and specialist at Free Press Unlimited; and Dr. Leslie Snider, internationally active psychiatrist, trainer and author of 'Psychological First Aid', a training for those working with people who have experienced traumatic events.

Thanks to the advice and support of Mr. Oostrum and Dr. Snider, MwB now offers its project managers, trainers and volunteers the following protocols, guidelines and tools:

- Musicians without Borders Safety and Security Policy
- Musicians without Borders Code of Conduct for Trainers, Staff and Volunteers
- Staff, trainer and project manager training- Psychological First Aid (July 2015)
- Staff, trainer and project manager training in Safety and Security (July 2015)

### 5.2 MwB UK Becomes Music Action International

After six years of collaboration, our UK affiliate, Musicians without Borders UK, has decided to continue as a separate organization under the name Music Action International. Separation agreements were finalized early in 2015, and all formal connections, including shared social media and data management, will be terminated as of February 2016, giving the new organization time to re-brand. We wish Music Action International success with its work and projects, and hope that we may cooperate again in the future.

## 6. Communication and Fundraising

MwB's E-newsletters and social media outreach grew significantly this year. By the end of 2015, the numbers of subscribers to our electronic newsletter and Facebook page and other media followers had increased exponentially, affirming the success of our communications policy. The newsletter is sent once per month, with two more intensive periods per year-- in May- June and November- December, which are dedicated to fundraising.

Our increased on-line visibility (also thanks to Google Ad Words) led to contact with Spotify, who reached out to Musicians without Borders, as its first designated charity under its new Social Awareness policy. Spotify has offered MwB free ads to be broadcast during its programming.

### **Long term engagement vs. short-term donor policy.**

We realize the inherent tension between MwB's commitment to long-term engagement for lasting and sustainable social change, and the policy of most institutional donors to fund only on a short-term 'project' basis. While institutional fundraising for our programs and projects will continue to be essential for their survival, we also realize the importance of building our own sustainable financial base. We look to the expansion of our regular base of private contributors

(such as our 88 Keys group and 'Friends of Musicians without Borders' monthly contributors), and to independent, private funds and foundations.

**Fundraising results.** We are delighted with the success of our fundraising strategies in 2015: despite the limitations of a small staff, and working within a generally negative fundraising environment, we succeeded in meeting our fundraising goals and even reducing a prior deficit, carried over since 2013, to approximately € 3000.

## 6. Events

- March 6: **Benefit Concert Syrian Refugees**,  
Dominicus Church, Amsterdam  
Music programming by Musicians without Borders,  
including MwB ambassador, Shura Lipovsky. Speakers  
included Eduard Nazarski, Director Amnesty  
International Netherlands
- May 4: **War Memorial Concert**,  
Alkmaar, NL including Shura Lipovsky, Maryana  
Golovchenko, Oene van Geel, Mehmet Polat, Bert  
Vos, Marjolein van Roon, Maaike Roelofs, Peter van Os, Paul  
Prenen, Sinan Arat
- May 16: **Missa da Requiem**, Verdi,  
Carré Theater, Amsterdam with soprano soloist Eva-  
Maria Westbroek, MwB Ambassador, Produced as  
MwB benefit concert by Toonkunstkoor Amsterdam
- June 21: **World Wide Music Day**-  
Benefit concerts around the world
- June 21: **Dawn to Dusk** (Longest Day)  
Splendor Amsterdam Music Marathon
- September 13: **Refugees Welcome Demonstration**,  
Amsterdam, music programming by MwB, including  
Orchestra Partout
- September 21: **World Peace Day**,  
Heroes of Peace conference, the Hague  
with Fearless Rose, MwB Ambassador
- September 30: **Marathon Benefit for MwB**,  
Zaal 100, Amsterdam with i.a. Corrie van Binsbergen,  
Oene van Geel, IX
- October 21: **Benefit House Concert**  
by Juan Pablo Dobal, Alkmaar (NL)
- December 10: **Human Rights Day**,  
Amnesty and MwB, Alkmaar, with Sherwin Kirindongo

## 7. Musicians without Borders 2015 - the People

### Ambassadors

Eva-Maria Westbroek  
Shura Lipovsky  
Yori Swart  
Fearless Rose  
Matthew Wadsworth  
Helen Botman

### Supervisory Board

Johan Dorrestein - *Chair*  
Jaap Wortel (*until July 2015*)  
Laila Abid  
André Buitenhuis  
Lynn Kaplanian-Buller

### Executive Board

Laura Hassler

### Head Office, Amsterdam

Laura Hassler - *Director*  
Ilaria Modugno - *Financial manager*  
Danny Felsteiner Mekori - *Communications, strategic development*  
Wendy Hassler-Forest - *Strategic development, fundraising*  
Meagan Hughes - *Training coordination, communications*  
Nanou Kurstjens - *Communications, event coordination*  
Laura Visser - *Graphic design*  
Srdan Kekanovic - *Office support, outreach (events)*  
Anna Rose Swinkels - *Volunteer, communications*  
Miguel Ortega - *Volunteer, communications, fundraising*  
Joe Chapman - *Volunteer, communications, events*  
Sophie Dorsman - *Volunteer, donor relations*  
Irma Kort - *Volunteer, Instrument Fund*  
Elisavet Vira - *Volunteer, events*  
Solene Mongiat - *Intern, events*  
Adela Cejnarova - *Intern, events*  
Katerina Spanarova - *Intern, event coordination*

### **Project Management/Regional Representation**

Wendy Hassler-Forest - *MwB Rock School Program Manager/Regional Representative South Eastern Europe*  
Eric Wels - *Program Coordinator Mitrovica Rock School*  
Fabienne van Eck - *Project Manager Palestine Community Music, Regional Representative Middle East*  
Chris Nicholson - *Project Manager Rwanda Youth Music/Regional Representative Central Eastern Africa*  
Meagan Hughes - *Project Manager Music Bridge (Northern Ireland)*

### **Local Management**

Dafina Kosova - *Mitrovica Rock School, Director*  
Aleksandar Sovrlic - *Mitrovica Rock School, Fundraising and Communications Officer (until April 2015)*  
Ahmad al Azzeh - *Palestine Community Music, Field Coordinator*  
Almerisa Delić - *From Woman to Woman, Music Coordinator*  
Allyson Shyaka - *Rwanda Youth Music, Project Assistant*  
Josie Nugent - *Music Bridge, Music Coach*

### **Trainers**

Marijke Smedema - *music, didactics, theory, dance*  
Otto de Jong - *music teaching, singing, body percussion, didactics*  
Sherwin Kirindongo - *percussion, body percussion*  
Hanno Thomassen - *community music, didactics, improvisation*  
Chris Nicholson - *music therapy*  
Chris Colleye - *percussion, body percussion*  
Danny Felsteiner Mekori - *music & dialogue, songwriting*  
Fabienne van Eck - *music pedagogy, children's workshops*  
Ruud Borgers - *rock music, band coaching*  
Eric Wels - *rock music, didactics, band coaching*  
Keren Rosenbaum - *composition, community events*  
Ya'ara Barbash - *percussion*  
Lucas Dols - *nonviolence, conducting, improvisation*  
Tom Freke - *conducting, composing*

### **Consultants**

Dr. Leslie Snider - *Psychological First Aid*  
André Oostrum - *Safety and Security*  
Lilian Peters - *Fundraising, Palestine program*

## 8. Partners and Donors

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR-USA) US Fiscal Partner  
Musicians for Human Rights  
NBE- Netherlands Wind Ensemble  
Splendor Amsterdam

### **Palestine Community Music**

#### Partners

Holy Land Trust, Bethlehem - Palestine  
Sounds of Palestine

#### Donors

Dutch Children Stamp Foundation (SKN)  
Talliq Foundation  
Doopsgezinde Wereldwerk Foundation  
Rotary Club of Rancho Cotati  
Rotary Amsterdam West  
Weeshuis der Doopsgezinden Foundation  
Triodos Foundation  
Prelude Foundation  
De Beuk

### **Rwanda Youth Music**

#### Partners

WE-ACTx for Hope - Kigali, Rwanda  
Oakdale Kigali Music School

#### Donors

Fondation Alta Mane  
Transpetrol Foundation  
FEMI Foundation  
Anonymous Giver

### **From Woman to Woman**

#### Partner

Snaga Žene - Tuzla-Srebrenica region, Bosnia and Herzegovina

#### Donors

Transpetrol Foundation (carried over from grant period)  
Netherlands Embassy Sarajevo (concluded 2014)

### **Mitrovica Rock School**

#### Partners

Fontys Rock Academy, Tilburg - the Netherlands  
CBM (Community Building Mitrovica)- Kosovo

### Donors

European Union  
Austrian Embassy - Pristina  
Robert Bosch Stiftung  
Stability Pact - German Embassy  
US Embassy Pristina  
Dutch Embassy Pristina - Matra  
UNMIK  
Haella Foundation  
Marky Ramone's Choice Beer

### **Tanzania Youth Music**

#### Partners & Donors

FEMI Foundation  
Fred Foundation

### **Music Bridge**

#### Partners & Donors

Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin

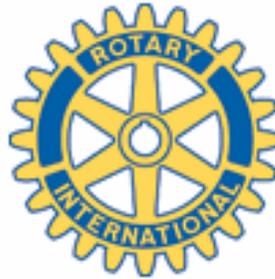
### **In Kind Donors**

Google  
Spotify  
D'Addario Foundation  
YPMA Pianos  
Chordastic  
Institut Français du Rwanda  
Hogan Lovells, legal counsel

## **Contact**

Musicians without Borders  
Tolhuisweg 1  
1031 CL Amsterdam  
The Netherlands  
T: +31 (0) 20 330 5012  
E: [info@musicianswithoutborders.org](mailto:info@musicianswithoutborders.org)  
W: [www.musicianswithoutborders.org](http://www.musicianswithoutborders.org)





Triodos  Foundation



Stabilitätspakt für Südosteuropa  
Gefördert durch Deutschland  
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe  
Sponsored by Germany



Robert Bosch **Stiftung**





Kingdom of the Netherlands



*Stichting Weeshuis  
der Doopsgezinden*

prelude



ÖSTERREICHISCHE  
BOTSCHAFT  
PRISTINA

**HAELLA**  
STICHTING



**DE BEUK**  
organisatieadvies



**Fred Foundation**  
inspiring the environment and environment