



MUSICIANS WITHOUT BORDERS

Musicians Without Borders is a global network organization that uses music for peacebuilding and social change.



**MUSICIANS
WITHOUT BORDERS**



OUR STORY: IT BEGAN WITH A BUS

- Established in **May 1999** by founder and director Laura Hassler, **Musicians Without Borders** is the world's pioneer in using music for peacebuilding and social change.
- Laura mobilized her network of socially conscious musicians to create an organization dedicated to using music to bridge divides, connect communities and heal the wounds of war.
- The organization's first long term project, the **Music Bus** in post war Bosnia, brought music, dance and theater to children in Srebrenica and its neighboring towns and refugee camps.
- Following the success of the **Music Bus**, **Musicians Without Borders** was invited to conferences and cultural events in **Kosovo** and in **Palestine**, which would later lead to two of its founding programs, the **Mitrovica Rock School** and **Palestine Community Music**.





MWB

MISSION

To use the power of music to bridge divides, connect communities, and heal the wounds of war.

VISION

To inspire people worldwide to engage as peacemakers and use music to transform lives.



WAR DIVIDES, MUSIC CONNECTS

Today, **Musicians Without Borders** engages with artists, social activists and communities worldwide. We share expertise as we work to enable musicians to be advocates, activists, teachers, and performers, with the message: **war divides, music connects.**



PRESENT & RECENT PROGRAMS

EL SALVADOR

ITALY

NORTHERN IRELAND

THE NETHERLANDS

GERMANY

BOSNIA & HERZOGOVINA

KOSOVO

PALESTINE

GREECE

UGANDA

RWANDA





ABOUT LAURA

Laura Hassler was born and raised in New York. From an early age, she was active in US civil rights and peace movements. She studied cultural anthropology and music and later worked for social change organizations in the US and Europe.

Laura moved to the Netherlands in 1977, where she developed a career as a musician, linking music to social causes, and specializing in cultural diversity in the arts.

Laura has been recognized for her vision and leadership as the recipient of the Reijer Jan Zwaan Culture Prize, Coornhert Prize, Joke Blom Award and the Arabella Carter Award.





MUSIC IS POWERFUL

“ Music is powerful. Music connects. Whether it’s a kid singing his heart out, a composer pulling out notes that will move and inspire, or a manager, promoting a band: we all know that music is a special space like no other. Whatever our professional connections to music, we are all working, one way or another, with the deepest levels of human experience and connection.”

Laura Hassler, Keynote, Canadian Music Week



TIMELINE

May - Musicians Without Borders (MWB) is founded

Musicians Without Borders celebrates 20 years

From Woman to Woman workshops in Bosnia-Herzegovina

August - Mitrovica Rock School opens its doors

Community Music for Community Health in Uganda launches

Art27 coalition is established

MWB registers as a charitable foundation

1999

2000

2003

2008

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

2019

MWB has its first tour in Sarajevo

October - Palestine Community Youth Music launches

Welcome Notes launches in the Netherlands, Italy & Germany

The Music Bus launches in Srebrenica

Rwanda Youth Music officially begins

Soy Música launches in El Salvador

Music Bridge launches in Northern Ireland



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