

Music Bus on Tour

faces and stories behind the facts



March 2011



Training workshop leaders



Singing



Conducting



Percussion



Movement



Pedagogy and didactics



Nonviolence



Percussion with sticks



Body percussion



Fun

Ghirass Cultural Center

14 January 2011, a music workshop for 300 children and their mothers

MwB trainees Sa'da and Samar gave a music workshop for 300 children (age 5-13) and their mothers from the Bethlehem area. Both women work in the Ghirass Cultural Center, which hosted the event. Sa'da is a librarian in the center's library for children, Samar is the supervisor of the adult literacy program & the educational toys library program.

During their work in the center and the outreach program in the villages Battir, al-Khader and Zakaria, they taught the children songs from the MwB training. Today finally all the children could sing these songs together!



Al-Masara



Working with al-Masara's children, a village under threat of the Israeli army

Al-Masara is a beautiful village inhabited by about 850 Palestinians. Many villagers are farmers, cultivating their lands, growing olives, grapes and making honey. This might sound idyllic if it weren't for the Israeli separation wall which has cut farmers from their lands, and threatens to grab more land in the near future. Many of the children in al-Masara live under the poverty line and experience stress from the regular army incursions at night.

It was the first time for Zainab and Yasmeen to give a music workshop and they did a great job. After we finished, the village asked us to return every month to continue the singing and dancing with al-Masara's children.

Children with cancer

Saying farewell to Yasser

Fadi and a group of volunteers from the Basma Society, will give a workshop to the children in the hospital. The new volunteers are eager to see how we do music with the children, so they can use it as well during their weekly visits to the children with cancer. But when they arrive at the hospital, reality hits them in the face. Yasser, a four year old boy just passed away. Instead of playing music and having fun with the children, they sit with Yasser's mother and try to comfort her, as far as it's possible in such circumstances.



Playing for Qamar

“Play something happy!” Qamar's sister tells me. Qamar is 19 years old and in hospital because of cancer. She loves music and enjoys to sing with her mother and sister, Mwb trainees Seereen, Amira, and Fadi a joyful song of the famous Lebanese singer Fairuz. One week later Qamar died.

Little musical Tamara

Ameer loves the tambourine, and Tamara is very excited with her bell-shaker. At the end of the workshop she discovers that the guitar can make sound as well when you hit on it. She gives the shaker to her mother and hits the guitar carefully, playing with the beat of the song.

Sameera and Ameer can not leave their beds, so we sing every song twice, one time in front of Ameer's bed and one time in front of Sameera's bed.



Supporting the mothers

We should not forget the mothers. They are very strong, supporting their children day and night, while dealing with the emotions that come with a child that has cancer. When we sing the ‘bye bye song’ to Sameera and her mother. Her mother starts to cry. “She is only one year and seven months...”

What can we do? We give her a hug and continue to sing the song:

“Bye bye bye Sameera, How are you today? Insha'allah (in God's will) we will see you always healthy” (Translated from Arabic)

Kindergarten for every child



MwB trainees Fadi and Wafa' are invited to the house of Hassan in the village Abadiyeh. Wafa' lives in Abadiyeh and knows the road. At least, she knows it by daylight. But it's dark, and there are no lights outside.

We drive back to the entrance of the village, where we ask a man on the road for help. By chance, he Hassan's uncle and joins us in the car and shows us the way. We pass a road that is no road, we pass the olive field, and we pass the last houses of the village. In front of us is the desert, the dead sea, and Jordan. Suddenly, behind a hill, we discover some light. This is where the family of Hassan lives. The six year old boy has a severe skin disease and difficulties to breath. He can barely walk and his hands are misshaped. But what worries us the most is that he is not going to a kindergarten. We feel that Hassan needs to play with other children. His parents are afraid that the other children will be nasty to him because of his disease.

Fadi talks with the parents and the uncle of Hassan. He explains to them the importance of a social environment. In the end, they agree that Hassan will try to go every day with his mother for two hours to the kindergarten. Wafa's mother works in the kindergarten and will explain to the other children that Hassan is a normal child, and that they don't have to be afraid of him, even if he looks different from them.

After this serious conversation, we start to sing for Hassan and his little sister. In no time, eight other children join. Hassan's cousins who live next door joined us, and together we sing songs and play small percussion instruments. For a moment, we form a group, a group of children, mothers, fathers, and grandparents. Hassan is included, smiling, and shakes two shakers together with the music.

Silwan - Dheisheh



Children from Silwan (near Jerusalem) and the refugee camp Dheisheh meet.

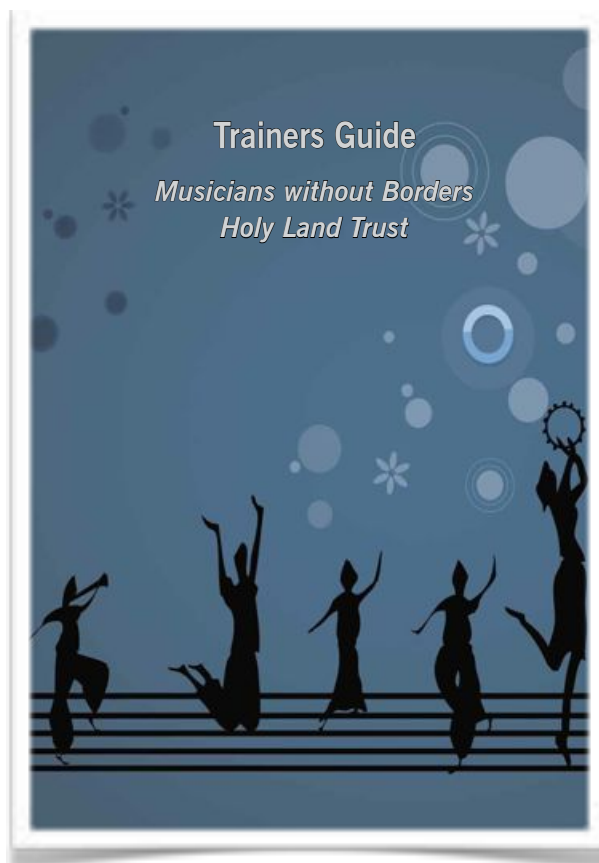
On Wednesday March 24, 2010 eleven students from the music project in Silwan (www.madaasilwan.org) visited Dheisheh Camp to join a music workshop given by Anas, Ahmad, Bassam, Hisham, Mohammad and Yousef. It was the first time the children from Silwan and Dheisheh met and actually the first time for the Silwan children to go to the Bethlehem area. Two children from Dheisheh spoke about their life in the camp, and two children from Silwan explained to the Dheisheh youth how it is to live in Silwan. The Dheisheh workshop leaders organized a great workshop with different musical games and songs in which the children were motivated to work together as one group and to communicate and listen to each other in a respectful manner. All the children were excited and very active during the different activities.

On the way back to Silwan, the children practiced their new beat-box skills which they learned from the Dheisheh children and they couldn't wait to get off the bus to tell their friends and family about the trip.

Curriculum development



Music Workshop Leader's Manual
Manual for trainees about workshops
and (musical) leadership



Trainer's Guide
Guide for trainers information about
the training, requirements of a
workshop leader and training set-up



Music Workshop Leader's Manual
Manual in Arabic

Dutch Website



Home

News, friends, maps and information about the website.



School program

Teachers can download a school program about children's rights and music including instruction video's.



Friends

Become friends of the Music Bus



Country information

Here you can find information, pictures, mp3's and films about the Netherlands, OPT and BiH.

Reflections Festival



Video Srebrenica, BiH



Concert in Waterland, NL



Flyer Reflections festival



Flyer Reflections festival