

Mozart in the Middle East

Photo: Sophie Pickford ©



The Dean performs with the Choir of London during the **Palestine Mozart Festival**.

Over Easter, the Dean, Dr Peter Tregear, took up an invitation from the Choir of London to join them in touring Israel and the West Bank as part of a music festival to celebrate the works of W A Mozart.

One of the most ambitious collaborative arts projects ever staged in this region, the **Palestine Mozart Festival** brought together more than 200 musicians and students from the Middle East and Europe to present a series of over 25 public and educational events. The program included three performances of Mozart's *Requiem* (with the Dean as Bass soloist) and a production of *The Magic Flute* – the first ever fully-staged professional operatic production in the West Bank – together with lectures and master classes.

Peter reports initially feeling some scepticism as to the value of a music festival in such a fraught environment. 'I did wonder whether our presence would have any real impact,' he confesses.

'From the moment we arrived, however, it was clear that the whole venture had been superbly thought through and organised, in large part a testament to the efforts of the Festival's curator, former Trinity Chorister, Michael Stevens,' Peter says.

'It was clear that the Israelis and Palestinians alike valued the opportunities that the festival provided to work and share in music together. For the Palestinians in particular, the Festival provided welcome relief from the cultural blockade that has accompanied the physical one. For all participants it was a truly transformative educational and artistic experience.

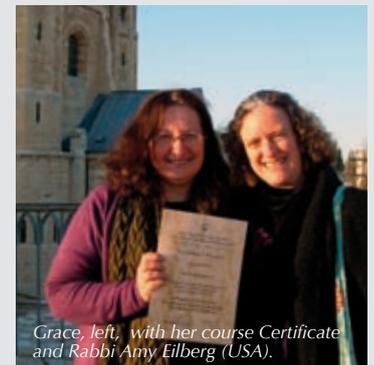
While in Jerusalem we were guests of St George's Anglican Cathedral, where we participated in the Easter Vigil Service. Coincidentally, Bishop John Bayton, who has been a guest Fellow of the Theological School in recent weeks, is a former Chaplain of St George's.'

Conflict resolution in Jerusalem

In today's troubled world, there could hardly be a more appropriate place than Jerusalem in which to conduct a course entitled 'Conflict resolution between the three religious traditions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam.' So **Grace Sharon**, resident theology student and ordinand in the Anglican Diocese of Melbourne, had no hesitation in accepting when invited to attend this event at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem in January, 2007.

She returned with an outwardly simple message: 'The first step in resolving conflict is to learn about the person with whom you are in conflict. Be aware of their needs, desires and teachings.'

Speaking at an event organised jointly by the Theological School and the Council of Christians and Jews on 20 May, Grace also pointed out: 'Conflict resolution is only successful when all parties to the conflict can live with the resolution.'



Grace, left, with her course Certificate and Rabbi Amy Eilberg (USA).

Photo courtesy Grace Sharon



TASQ represents Australia

Trinity's Quartet in Residence, the **Tin Alley String Quartet**, was the only Australian group to gain entry to the prestigious 2007 Melbourne International Chamber Music Competition in July. They are also the only Australian representatives chosen to compete in the 9th Banff International String Quartet Competition in Canada. To celebrate this recognition, members of the group, minus an unwell Kristian Winther (violin), joined Trinity musicians for afternoon tea in the Senior Common Room in July. The group rehearses regularly in the College's music practice rooms and has also performed in the Thursdays@Trinity lunchtime concert series, held from 1.10pm to 2pm in the Chapel during term.

 www.trinity.unimelb.edu.au/campus_life/choir/thursday_concerts
and
 www.tasq.com.au

Front, L – R: Lerida Delbridge (violin), Justin Williams (viola) and Michelle Wood (cello) with Trinity musicians,
Rear L – R: Director of Music Michael Leighton Jones, the Dean Dr Peter Tregear, and Paul E Tulloch (3rd year Arts/Music).