



# New Year Issue



**Keys of Change**  
Can music change the world? We believe it can.



THE FUKUSHIMA YOUTH SINFONIETTA  
MARCH 2014



THE KOLKATA YOUTH ORCHESTRA  
NOVEMBER 2014

## It's been a very musical year for us!

As 2014 comes to a close all of us at Keys of Change feel very proud for where music brought us and how many young people around the world felt their lives getting better because of music.

Our main project for this year was working with young musicians from Fukushima, that made up the Fukushima Youth Sinfonietta. In April 2014, in an accumulation of our work in Japan over the past three years, and after four visits to Fukushima, we are able to invite 37 of them to London for a weeklong musical activities, including performances on BBC Newsnight, Kings Place, a London charity supporting young children at risk,

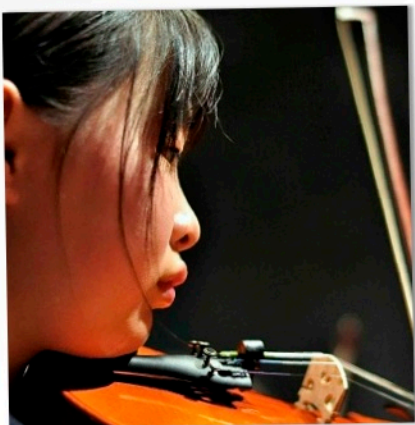
and Queen Elizabeth Hall, one of the greatest musical venues in the world. Only a few months later, in November 2014, a team of six Keys of Change musicians travelled to India joining forces with the Kolkata Youth Orchestra, for two weeks of daily coachings with young musicians and rehearsals culminating efforts in a joint performance. The result was the biggest western classical music orchestra Kolkata has seen in over 20 years, and similarly for audience size.

Other journeys brought us to Siberia, Greece and Peru, playing music for children living in extraordinary circumstances, be it because of poverty, discrimination, or illness.

We would like to continue using music as an important agent for bridging people of different backgrounds, demonstrating that the preparation for a concert can bring varied communities together for the common purpose of listening to music - an act so simple and so powerful, yet so under-appreciated.

Thank you for your continuous support. It is only because of this support that we have been able to bring music to thousands of people around the world, improving their lives and making the world a better place.

*Panos Karan, Keys of Change founder*



MUSIC IN FUKUSHIMA



MUSIC IN KOLKATA



MUSIC AROUND THE WORLD

TARIQ ZAIDI PHOTO  
WWW.TARIQZAIID.COM

# Music from Fukushima in London: Middle school musicians from Fukushima win the hearts of audiences in Britain's capital.

After four visits to Japan since 2011, in March/April 2014 Keys of Change brought 37 middle school musicians and their teachers from Fukushima to work with the UK musicians of the Orpheus Sinfonia and perform for various audiences in London, culminating in an unforgettable performance by the Fukushima Youth Sinfonietta in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, on April 2nd 2014. As numerous testimonies from the students, teachers and parents have shown, the 2014 project was a life-changing experience for many of the Fukushima students. Not only did it help with the healing process after the events of 2011, it also brought the individual students closer together, helping them express themselves freely, and in addition contributed hugely to their musical and personal skills. The project also positively

**"OUR LIFE WAS SEVERELY AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE ACCIDENT AT THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT. HOWEVER, THERE WERE PEOPLE WHO SUPPORTED MY LIFE. KEYS OF CHANGE IS ONE OF THEM. I WOULD LIKE TO DO MY BEST TO EXPRESS JOY AND WARMTH TO THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT. ALSO, THE VERY GREAT EFFORTS WE ARE MAKING WILL SHOW OUR APPRECIATION TO MR. PANOS KARAN AND ALL OF THOSE WHO PLANNED THIS WONDERFUL COLLABORATION WITH A PROFESSIONAL ORCHESTRA IN LONDON."  
MAYUKO SHIO, CELLO**

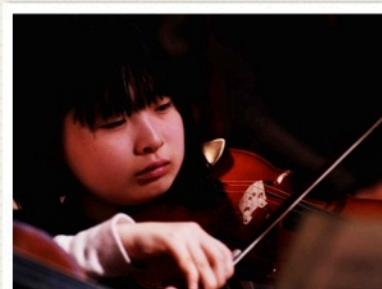
affected parents, teachers and friends of the students in Fukushima, as well as young musicians and audiences in the UK.

Panos Karan, and Zach Tarpagos (flautist) spent two weeks in Fukushima City in order to prepare students from the four middle schools for the upcoming London visit. Although the group was only in London for five full days, they managed to give five performances in a variety of venues including at the Kids Company (UK organization looking after children at risk), the BBC, Kings Place and the Southbank Centre. Between rehearsals and performances, the group visited Trafalgar Square, Buckingham Palace, Fukushima Garden, a concert at the Royal Festival Hall, British Museum and Tate Modern, as well as shopping in Covent Garden and a farewell dinner at UCL.

More than anything, this was an invitation of help with the healing process after the tragic events of 2011. The music, the rehearsals and performances, were a tool to bring the individual students closer, to give them an opportunity to be heard, to help them express themselves freely, outside the (at times rigid) school environment. In addition, it contributed greatly to the development of particular musical skills, as well as to improving their leadership, collaboration and teamwork abilities.



## MUSICIANS



# Music in Kolkata: Young Indian musicians perform in packed auditorium and prove that “Music Can Change the World”

Keys of Change has visited Kolkata twice in 2013, bringing music to young people living in extraordinary circumstances in schools, slum communities, hospitals, orphanages. Through these visits we met Sanjib Mondal, a local musician that grew up with not much more than his violin and love for music. Sanjib has established the Kolkata Youth Orchestra, a group of young Kolkatan musicians, many of which come from very difficult backgrounds, that rehearse regularly and present programmes once or twice a year. When we got together last year, it was obvious that they were thirsty for music!

A group of six musicians from Keys of Change came to Kolkata in November 2014 for two weeks of rehearsals and coachings. Panos Karan (piano), Sun Roh (violin), Anna Rosa Mari (flute), Paul Grennan (cello), Jessica Heynes (violin) and Derek Robins (horn) joined forces with the musicians Kolkata Youth Orchestra in a preparation for a joint concert. The collaboration was intensive and very empowering. After hour long daily rehearsals, many of the young Kolkatan musicians would stay up late to practice on their own, before the next day's rehearsal.

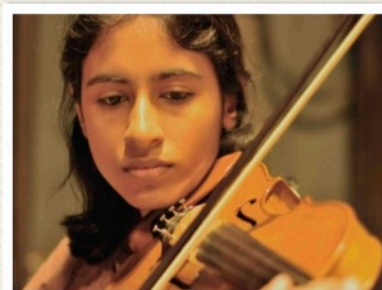
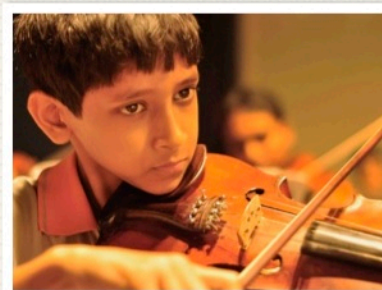
In between the busy schedule of rehearsal and music lessons, the Keys of Change musicians visited several locations around the city to play music for many underprivileged communities. This included the children's ward of the Gupta Cancer Research Centre and the educational projects HELGO and Sir Syed Schools, in Howrah and Khiderpo slum communities respectively.

The result of this collaboration was remarkable! More than 50 musicians from a huge variety of backgrounds on the stage playing for a packed auditorium: the largest orchestra and audience size Kolkata has seen in Western classical music in more than 20 years! We were particularly proud to arrange transportation and invite 200 underprivileged children from communities around Kolkata that we played music for in 2013 and also during this trip.

This was a life changing experience for young Indian musicians, many of which had never been in an auditorium before, let alone perform on stage. The creativity brought forward by these talented Kolkatan musicians was vividly mentioned in the local press and is already inspiring more young people to join the Kolkata Youth Orchestra.



## MUSICIANS



## Siberian Sounds - Russia

Our first project 2014 brought us on a musical journey across the largest country in the world. This was a project based on one of the most emblematic and historical train journeys. Panos Karan, and award winning photographer Tariq Zaidi, together with the unmissable blue case and keyboard, spent ten days traveling 9288km across Siberia, from Moscow to Vladivostok. With stops at Yekaterinburg, Irkutsk and Vladivostok, Panos performed for several orphanages and hospitals along the way, sharing vividly the message that music brings people together, from Greece, to the heart of Siberian winter.

One of the hospitals we visited was to play music for young patients undergoing cancer treatment. After a few performances in different wards, one of the doctors asked if we would consider going in the ICU, in order to perform for one patient. That is where we met Galina. It was clear that she was feeble and tired from prolonged treatment. After the first piece, she whispered: "Please play a bit more" and after the second work of music, with tears in her eyes she said, "I could listen to this music all day!" The short musical visit lasted almost an hour, as this audience of one was actively listening,

absorbing what this private recital was all about: communication, strength and hope.



## Minority Notes - Xanthi, Greece

In January 2014 Panos Karan and Ana Chifu travelled to Northern Greece, in the municipality of Xanthi, to perform for students of minority schools. The small Keys of Change team visited four schools in different communities, by invitation of the Greek charity "Anthropos", which has been operating in the area over the last year providing free vaccinations for minors.

The schools visited are set up as elementary minority schools, with a focus on Turkish speaking Roma population of the area. Most of the children in this part of Greece are living in difficult conditions, resulting from

poverty, while family problems include alcoholism, abuse, violence and others. This is a part of Greece where Greek is spoken little if at all. Music, however, is a strong part of Roma culture, and as such the mission "Anthropos" believed that this could be an interesting opportunity for Keys of Change to identify specific musical needs, and establish a direct link between the cultures with the use of music.

This new project for KoC, brought music to schools for more than 400 elementary and kindergarten students. Teachers were highly involved in the preparation of the activities asking

students to make drawings. There was an excellent welcoming atmosphere and a really enthusiastic response from the students.

Keys of Change hopes to return to Xanthi in the future with more sustainable musical projects.



## South American Rhythms - Ecuador, Peru

In April-May 2014 Panos Karan spent several days in Peru and Ecuador performing for several groups of vulnerable children and young adults, introducing them to classical music, sharing a message of positive interaction through creativity, and looking for possibilities to further KoC music programme in South America. Overall, Panos visited three locations in Trujillo (Peru) and two in Quito (Ecuador).

One of the musical visits took place at Hospital Eugenia Espejo in Quito. At the invitation of Fundacion Cecilia Rivadeneira, Panos, together with Edison, Joao and Eric (three boys taking guitar lessons at the Condor Trust, with

the support of KoC), went from room to room, playing music for the young patients. In total they visited five different rooms, including an isolation unit. Panos opened each activity with two short pieces on the piano and the three boys continued on the guitars. All the musicians took turns in introducing the music and talking to the children, most of them in bed. Panos closed each activity with one more short piece of music on the piano. One of the young patients, staying in the isolation unit, writes lyrics and plays the guitar, although he has never had music lessons. Edison helped him by showing him on paper and on the guitar several chords, and promised to return in a

week's time for more guidance. This was an excellent activity, giving an opportunity to the Ecuadorian young guitarists to connect with an audience of their country and give back to their own community.

Keys of Change wishes to continue its existing musical projects in Ecuador and plan more musical visits in South America in the future.



# We are proud of our young musicians

Music education is an integral part of our activities for empowering young people around the world to enhance their lives. Our musical programme in Ecuador continues, together with our partner The Condor Trust for Education. We now have 15 students learning the guitar in Quito – three quite advanced, including Erick and Edison, and 12 who are enthusiastic beginners. They are all very regular attendees at the Saturday classes given at the Condor Trust Centre by teachers Hansel and Julio.

Thanks to his musical progress, Edison has this month started a university course in Music Technology – a dream come true.

## LOOKING AHEAD IN 2015

### MUSIC EDUCATION

✓ We are committed to continue and expand our projects in Ecuador, while assessing a musical education project in Sierra Leone and Xanthi, Greece. Also, we are hoping to have a continuous support for the KYO in Kolkata for 2015.

### PROJECTS

✓ Fukushima Youth Sinfonietta: 70 young musicians from Fukushima will come together for three weeks of rehearsals with professional musicians, preparing for concerts in Fukushima Concert Hall and Tokyo Opera City on 20 August 2015.

✓ Kolkata Youth Orchestra: We will continue working closely with KYO. We want to put together a joint concert at the end of 2015, involving up to 70 talented young Indian musicians.

✓ Indian Odyssey: A road trip across India, involving musicians from Keys of Chang and the Kolkata Youth Orchestra, performing for children in need in orphanages, schools hospitals from Kolkata to Mumbai.



## GALINA VLADIVOSTOK

"THE PERFORMANCE WAS UNFORGETTABLE. I REALISED IT IS IMPORTANT TO LISTEN TO THIS MUSIC. IMPORTANT, SO AS TO WANT TO CARRY ON LIVING."

AFTER A PRIVATE PERFORMANCE IN THE ICU OF VLADIVOSTOK CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL.



## KYOSUKE TAKANO FUKUSHIMA

ONLY MUSIC GAVE ME COURAGE AND STRENGTH WHEN I CHANGED SCHOOL FROM MY HOME TOWN, MINAMI SOMA, BECAUSE OF THE RADIATION. I FEEL VERY NERVOUS TO PLAY IN SUCH A PRESTIGIOUS HALL, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY MY APPRECIATION TO MUSIC. I HAVE BEEN PRACTICING HARD WITH MY FRIENDS, AIMING TO BECOME A SYMBOL OF RESTORATION OF FUKUSHIMA. I WISH THE AUDIENCE TODAY WILL SHARE OUR EXCITEMENT.

# How together we make this happen!

Apart from traveling all over the world playing classical music there has been a lot of work going on in London. Keys of Change organized a series of events, private and open to public, to fundraise and to share our stories and passion. Panos Karan and Zach Tarpagos have given dozens of fundraising recitals, speeches, interviews and lectures.

Keys of Change has featured on BBC World, NHK, national television in Greece, Peru and Sierra Leone, radio in Greece, India and Ecuador, in numerous publications including the International Piano Magazine and recently Panos Karan was a speaker at TEDxTokyoTeachers.

We thank our partners - the Condor Trust for Education in Ecuador, the Fukushima Board of Education, and the Kolkata Youth Orchestra - for their help and empowering collaboration. We also

thank our project managers, translators, volunteers, music teachers and photographers around the world for their hard work in making everything possible.

And the most special thanks goes to you - our supporters, who donated generously, strongly believed in our cause and encouraged us every step of the way! It is only because of you and your help, that we are able to continue bringing music to young people that need it around the world.

We wish all our enthusiastic supporters, partners, listeners, and all the devoted music students around the world a happy and healthy New Year filled with more and more music!

Keys of Change team

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN ANY OF OUR PROJECTS PLEASE EMAIL US ON [INFO@KEYSOFCCHANGE.ORG](mailto:INFO@KEYSOFCCHANGE.ORG)

Keys of Change  
UK Registered Charity No. 1141861  
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# Another day in the office...



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Can music change the world? We believe it can.

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