

Musicians without Borders Annual Report 2011



Musicians without Borders Foundation
Spoorstraat 38 1815 BK Alkmaar The Netherlands

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Introduction

War divides, music connects. Musicians without Borders uses the power of music to connect communities, bridge divides and heal the wounds of war and conflict.

For Musicians without Borders, 2011 was a year both of growth and of recovery. Our project work expanded in Palestine, where community music training activities were enhanced with rap projects for youth and children and a new initiative to introduce samba drumming to nonviolence movements in West Bank villages. In Kosovo, our Mitrovica Rock School began a talent development program and sent its first ethnically mixed 'A-team' band on tour. Meanwhile, we worked on plans for a second rock school in Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and a new community music training project in Rwanda.

We began the year with a substantial debt and a staff reduced in size by almost 50%. However, the new part-time, free lance and volunteer team that emerged proved equal to the challenge. The need to call upon Musicians without Borders' field workers for extra help also strengthened the connections among the core team.

The spirit of the year was one of hard work, long hours, and excitement and gratification as we saw many of our efforts rewarded and our organization growing, both in direct number of activities and in renown. By the close of the year, we had added a new region (Central Africa), while seeing our long-term projects in Palestine and Kosovo deepen their roots and expand their impact, in both cases despite ongoing local tensions and conflict.

New partners emerged and Musicians without Borders was represented around the world in meetings and conferences from New York to Spain to Australia.

With the expectation of a strengthened organizational infrastructure within a foreseeable future, the developments in 2011 make us confident that Musicians without Borders has earned its right to exist and its recognition as a pioneer in its field.

Laura Hassler, Director

1. Projects

Mitrovica Rock School (Kosovo)

In Europe's most divided city, Musicians without Borders and partners CBM, IKV Pax Christi and the Fontys Rock Academy have successfully run an interethnic youth project since 2008. The Mitrovica Rock School provides a neutral platform for youth from both sides of ethnically divided Mitrovica, to meet as young musicians and aspiring rock stars. Although political and social tensions in Mitrovica rose drastically in 2011—the result of police and military border conflicts—the school remained open and functioning. Working from separate branches on the two sides of the city, the Mitrovica Rock School relies on three yearly inter-ethnic events for actual face-to-face meetings: a training week for Rock School teachers at the Fontys Rock Academy in the Netherlands; a visit by a Rock Academy team to Mitrovica to work on both sides and the annual Skopje Summer School, held in neighboring Macedonia. All three events were held successfully and to great enthusiasm of the participants.



In 2011, the Mitrovica Rock School launched its talent development program, called the A-Team. Three highly talented Rock School students from each side of the city were selected to form a band. The resulting group, calling themselves the Artchitects, was given extra coaching, support in song-writing, assistance in recording their own songs and the opportunity to tour: the Artchitects visited the Netherlands twice to perform at peace festivals and Italy once for a week-long tour with other young bands.

Also at the management level, it was a year of talent development. Milos Dražević, local partner CBM's project manager since 2008, emigrated to the Netherlands. He was replaced by two young new management talents, Dafina Kosova and Nikola Radicević. Both trainee managers are being groomed to take over the running of the Rock School by Musicians without Borders project manager, Wendy Hassler-Forest.

The Rock School's north branch became affiliated with a new Dutch funded project, Bridging the Divide, leading to new and larger facilities—a proper home for the north branch. The south branch is pursuing similar dreams of a building in which not only music lessons and band practice take place, but which also serves as a social gathering place for a broad spectrum of local youth.

Music Bus Goes Middle East (West Bank, Occupied Palestinian Territory)

Music Bus Goes Middle East showed the exponential effect of training talented young Palestinians to work with young children: more than 5,000 children are now reached on a regular basis with workshops led by thirty Musicians without Borders trained workshop leaders. MwB music trainers Otto de Jong, Sherwin Kirindongo, Marijke Smedema and Hanno Thomassen provided training weeks spread throughout the year, while our Regional Representative and Music Coach, Fabienne van Eck, provided weekly guidance and support for the trainees. Central to the project is also training in nonviolence, offered by our partner Holy Land Trust. In addition to music and didactic skills, trainees learn principles of nonviolent communication, leadership skills and conflict resolution.



Musicians without Borders and partner Holy Land Trust produced a new and revised Workshop Leaders Manual, in Arabic and in English, both printed and on-line, as a supplement and support tool for the trainings. Musicians without Borders also designed a project proposal for a Training of Trainers, which it submitted to the Netherlands Representative Office in Ramallah. In May, the famed Netherlands Wind Ensemble (NBE) added a three-day visit to Bethlehem to its Middle East tour. The NBE gave workshops to young children and performed with children and young rappers on two stages: on the central

Manger Square in Bethlehem and on the Aida Camp Stage, adjacent to the separation wall. The experience left a deep impression on the NBE musicians. It was immensely inspiring for the young Palestinian musicians to play with a world-renowned ensemble.

During the course of the year, the project grew to include two new elements: a rap project, introduced by several Musicians without Borders trainees who are talented rappers; and a samba project, designed to support Holy Land Trust's program, Youth for a Change, using percussion to raise spirits and bring community together during events and nonviolent vigils. First steps in both were taken in 2011, with expectations of growth in 2012.

At the end of the year, Musicians without Borders' Music Coach, Fabienne van Eck, worked successfully with a local foundation to develop plans for a recording studio for MwB's young rappers and the children with whom they work. Thanks to a grant from the Netherlands Representative Office, plans will be able to be realized and a studio will be built in the Deheisheh refugee camp in Bethlehem.

Music Bus/ Children's Music Theater Srebrenica (Bosnia-Herzegovina)

After more than eight years of presence in Srebrenica, Musicians without Borders ran a final capacity-building project for youth of Srebrenica. There were several reasons for the decision to conclude MwB's longest running project:

- While Musicians without Borders had been the first organization to offer music activities to children from the Srebrenica region, there are now a number of international and local initiatives offering similar types of activities in a region with a limited number of children;
- There is very limited local capacity for project management and organization; the very few people with management talents are already over-burdened with their own organizations;
- Without a reliable local partner organization, the financial management of the project became virtually impossible;
- Musicians without Borders's UK partner organization, Opera Circus, had come to take an active interest in, and responsibility for, guiding Musicians without Borders' Young Team in its further artistic development.

In its final project year, the Music Bus/ Children's Music Theater ran 3 trainings, organized 4 public events, ran regular workshops for hundreds of children and cooperated with the Srebrenica Youth Council in organizing Silvertown Shine, the annual Srebrenica rock music festival.

From Woman to Woman (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Rwanda)

The long-standing friendship between Musicians without Borders and the Bosnian women's health organization Snaga žene (Women Strength) had

resulted in a plan for a training program of female musicians and dancers to work therapeutically with women in Eastern Bosnia still suffering from trauma and grief since the fall of Srebrenica in 1995. Meanwhile, an assessment visit in 2010 to Rwanda, by Danny Felsteiner and Fabienne van Eck, had led to a cooperative relationship with WE-ACTx, an organization that cares for women and children suffering from HIV/AIDS. When WE-ACTx therapists witnessed the profound effect of music-making on the women in their program, the idea emerged to start a parallel project for women in Rwanda. WE-ACTx was enthusiastic and MwB worked with both local partners to develop similar plans for these two former sites of genocide and gender-related violence. During 2010 and 2011, Musicians without Borders worked to raise funds for an ambitious 3-year project; however these efforts were not rewarded.

In 2011, we decided to abandon the 3-year, 2-region project and revise the plan to start more modestly and only in Bosnia. During the course of the year, Musicians without Borders kept the contacts warm, visiting partner Snage Žene when possible as well as building a network of supporters for the project. We hope that From Woman to Woman can begin in 2012. In Rwanda, we will begin with youth and children in the hopes of including a women's project in the future (see below).

2. New Projects in Development

Rwanda Youth Music

Life in Central East Africa is marked by the effects of current and recent armed conflicts. Civil war and the (international) struggle for dominance over precious African resources have left populations in the region devastated by mass killings, gender related violence and the poverty, disease and despair that follow the ravages of war. In 2010, MwB trainers Danny Felsteiner and Fabienne van Eck spent 7 weeks in Rwanda and Uganda on behalf of Musicians without Borders to assess the needs and potential for MwB projects in this troubled region. Traveling through Rwanda and Uganda, they worked with hundreds of children, trained youth and identified several potential partners for future Musicians without Borders projects. In Kigali, Rwanda, they worked with WE-ACTx (Women's Equity in Access to Care and Treatment), an organization caring for more than 3500 women, youth and children suffering from HIV/AIDS, mostly as a result of the gender-related violence during the genocide in 1994. WE-ACTx therapists and staff were impressed by the positive effect of music on the women and children in their program and enthusiastic about the potential that music could bring to processes of de-traumatization and healing.



In 2011, WE-ACTx invited Danny to return for the annual Summer Camp. In addition to providing many music activities for hundreds of children, he worked with a group of 'peer parents': HIV+ youth between the ages of 15-25, trained by WE-ACTx as guides and role models for the younger children in their program. Together, they developed ideas for a training program, based on Music Bus Goes Middle East, to train the 'peer parents' as music workshop leaders, adding the creativity and joy of music-making to their skill sets for use with the younger children.

During the rest of 2011, Musicians without Borders staff and Danny worked together to develop a project proposal and began fundraising, this time starting with an on-line 'crowd-sourcing' campaign. By the end of 2011, this had brought in sufficient funding for a first week-long training, now planned for February 2012.

Mostar Rock School

As 2011 drew to a close, a new project began to take shape: the Mostar Rock School, a first 'spin-off' of Musicians without Borders's successful Mitrovica Rock School. Musicians without Borders had been invited by rock musicians from Mostar, another divided Balkan city with an urban youth culture and a proud musical tradition, to start a rock school in Mostar. A first get-acquainted visit in November seemed to point to the Pavarotti Music Center as local partner, as well as identify several key persons who could help to move the project locally.

A new rock school in Mostar could be the beginning of Musicians without Borders's conceived 'Rock School Roll-Out', a plan to bring youth in other of the world's divided cities together through the shared love of rock music.

3. International Representation

Musicians without Borders' role as pioneer in using music for peacemaking and reconciliation was recognized with invitations to present at various international seminars and conferences. Director Laura Hassler presented Musicians without Borders's work:

- In Barcelona from March 26-27- at a conference on choral singing and social inclusion organized by Moviment Coral Catala, the Mediterranean regional branch of Europa Cantat;
- At the UN in New York on June 23, for the launch event of Music as a Natural Resource <http://www.musicasanaturalresource.org/next-steps-in-2011/>, sponsored by ICCC (International Council on Caring Communities);
- In Gold Coast, Australia from July 2-5, as Keynote Speaker at the bi-annual ASME (Australian Society for Music Education) conference;
- In Sydney, Australia on July 10, as guest speaker at Sydney University's Center for Peace and Conflict Studies;
- In Australia from July 7-12 during three live radio interviews with ABC (Australian Broadcasting Company);
- At the UN in New York, on November 8, at a UNDP round-table discussion on film, music and peace-making.

Musicians without Borders was also partner in the EU sponsored project 'Wake-Up'. Lead partner was Opera Circus (UK), in a project aiming to train young Eastern European artistic talents and to help raise the visibility of trans-European arts projects to decision-makers. Koen Braak represented Musicians without Borders during a Wake-Up partner meeting from July 9-13 in Brijuni, Croatia.

Networking, program partners

Nederlands Blazers Ensemble (NBE)

From 2005-2009, the world-renowned Netherlands Wind Ensemble worked closely with Musicians without Borders to create Winds of Change in Bosnia-Herzegovina, bringing new approaches and repertoire to an exciting young inter-ethnic wind ensemble.

In 2011, the NBE added several days to a planned tour to Jordan, traveling to Bethlehem to meet and work with children and trainees in Musicians without Borders' music program on the West Bank.

In November 2011, the NBE was awarded the Radio 4 Prize (Dutch classical radio station). The NBE donated the prize money, EUR 5,000, to Musicians without Borders. The NBE has now formally declared Musicians without Borders to be its partner. We are honored.

Opera Circus

Opera Circus is a UK based contemporary opera company that works to integrate the arts and community work. Musicians without Borders and Opera Circus met in the context of projects in Bosnia-Herzegovina and agreed to collaborate. In 2010, Opera Circus invited Musicians without Borders to become partner in its 'Wake Up' project, connecting artists and talented youth from East and West Europe. Musicians without Borders organized the 'Wake Up' launch event in May 2010, and participated thereafter in 'Wake Up' events in Serbia, Vienna, Srebrenica and Croatia.

Cambridge University (UK) Faculty of Education

Laura Hassler met Professor Pam Burnard in Australia, when they were both keynote speakers at the ASME conference in July. Pam Burnard is professor of education at Cambridge University, with a specialty in creativity and the arts. They mused about a cooperative research project, investigating the methods and effects of Musicians without Borders programs. Professor Burnard subsequently invited Laura to present Musicians without Borders' work at Cambridge in September; she, herself, attended Musicians without Borders UK's performance of 'Stone Flowers' in Manchester. While the collaboration still needs to be defined and funded, we are optimistic about this new development, which could add significantly to academic understanding of the potential of music, while contributing to Musicians without Borders's credibility with 'result-based evidence.'

4. Organization

Head Office, Alkmaar, the Netherlands

It was a year of reorganization: scaling down internally, without reducing Musicians without Borders's output. At the end of 2010, we had been forced to lay off several part-time salaried staff due to changes in the donor world and several failed fundraising attempts. For 2011, Musicians without Borders relied on two central people—director Laura Hassler and free-lancer/ volunteer Koen Braak. To fill the gap, we recruited several professionals as part-time volunteers. While we were reliant on their shifting availability, the volunteers helped us greatly not only to survive the year, but to improve our communications and fundraising strategies. In addition, local project managers worked overtime with extra tasks in IT and fundraising. By the end of 2011, Musicians without Borders had managed to increase general contributions by 400% and reduce its shortfall by about 60% while increasing its contact level with its constituency.

Musicians without Borders UK

The relationship between the head office and Musicians without Borders UK were strengthened during 2011. Musicians without Borders UK director, Lis Murphy, visited the Netherlands for extensive discussions with Musicians without Borders staff. It was agreed to strive to synchronize plans and activities, to involve Musicians without Borders UK as much as possible in international project work, and to improve mutual promotion and visibility on the internet.

In September, Musicians without Borders Director Laura Hassler visited Manchester for the first performance of 'Stone Flowers', a series of songs written and performed by torture survivors. Musicians without Borders UK had worked in collaboration with the UK organization Freedom from Torture on the project, which resulted in the production of a CD and several concerts, performed by refugee torture survivors from around the world. 'Stone Flowers' is expected to tour the UK during 2012 and 2013.

Muzicari Bez Granica/ Musicians without Borders Bosnia-Herzegovina

Since the founding of Musicians without Borders BiH in 2005 as an independent Bosnian NGO, it has always been a challenge to raise sufficient funding to staff and equip a local office, in addition to funding projects. In 2011, this problem was exacerbated by major issues of management competency and financial accountability. After repeated failed attempts by Musicians without Borders to identify and correct the problems, we were forced to conclude at the end of the year that it was not justifiable to continue the relationship. In November 2011, Musicians without Borders disassociated

itself from Muzicari Bez Granica and withdrew its permission to use either the name or the logo of Musicians without Borders.

Musicians without Borders will remain active in Bosnia-Herzegovina; however, future project work will be implemented in collaboration with established local partner organizations, as has proven successful in other regions.

Musicians without Borders USA

Musicians without Borders USA was started by Michael Greenwald, as a support and fundraising presence in the US for Musicians without Borders' international work. Despite modest success in fundraising, by 2011 no real gains had been made in establishing a viable organization. Regrettably, it had become clear by the end of 2011 that Musicians without Borders USA did not have a future and should be disbanded.

5. Finances and Fundraising

In 2011, Musicians without Borders raised a total income of € 365.443 and managed to sustain all projects and organizational costs, with an additional amount of € 71.227 reserved for projects in 2012. Project allocated funds from governments and foundations were the main source of income, with as main donors the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Dutch Children's Stamp Foundation, the Finnish Embassy in Pristina, the Robert Bosch Stiftung and the US Embassy in Pristina.

2011 saw an increase in general income as a result of improved communication tools: bi-monthly E-mail newsletters, direct mailings to all individual donors and personal communication with individual contributors.

Musicians without Borders is a project organization with low overhead (13,3%). Of the total expenses of € 388.150, an amount of € 293.794 was spent on projects and € 16.362 on advocacy. Risks for the organization's sustainability were reduced at the end of 2010 by reducing staff (from 3.1 FTE in 2010 to 1.6 in 2011) and by relying more on freelance and volunteer professionals who generously gave of their time and talent.

Musicians without Borders has now secured a reserve to guarantee liquidity. The balance shows a total allocation reserve of € 71.227, of which € 57.446 is allocated to the Mitrovica Rock School and € 13.779 to the trainings in Palestine. Musicians without Borders will strive to maintain this reserve and to build a continuation reserve from general income.

Fundraising strategy 2011

For 2011 we developed a fundraising strategy to expand our base of contributors with improved and targeted communication. We defined the following target groups: government backed funding, private funds and foundations, individual single contributors, on-line contributors, Friends of Musicians without Borders (periodic pledged donations), 88 Keys (major individual donors), service clubs in the Netherlands (Rotaries, Lions Clubs, etc.). For each target group, a different strategy was defined.

By the end of the year, we had seen our general fundraising increased and our financial base significantly diversified.

Fundraising strategy for 2012

Musicians without Borders' fundraising strategy going forward includes several different components:

- Tapping more deeply into global networks, initially based in Europe, Australia and the US, offering substantial numbers of likely targets;
- Cultivating more contacts with embassies and locally-based funds in project regions;
- Investing in and developing an online subscription program based on small monthly contributions from a large number of donors. When in place, this will provide a relatively steady, predictable stream of income, facilitating planning, budgeting, and orderly core operations.
- As these sources provide funding for stable organizational infrastructure, Musicians without Borders will be able to launch special campaigns to supplement foundation and government support for individual projects and program initiatives.
- Additional sources of funding will include: benefit concerts, fee-for-service training and consulting, merchandizing through an online store, music CD/DVD downloads, and online auctions of celebrity-used or autographed instruments.

6. Musicians without Borders- the People

Supervisory Board

José van Hussen, Chair
Johan Dorrestein, Vice Chair
J.J. Wortel, Treasurer
Fiona Campbell
Ian Ritchie
Michiel Scherpenhuijsen Rom
André Buitenhuis

Executive Board

Laura Hassler

Office

Laura Hassler
Direction, development, projects/ program supervision,
Koen Braak (free-lance/ volunteer)
Coordination of fundraising, financial administration, project
development/ support
Lilian Peters (free-lance/ volunteer)
OPT project- fundraising, grant writing, reporting
Srdan Kekanovic
Office support, store, outreach (events), Instrument Fund
Ineke Braak (volunteer)
Support OPT project, develop Training of Trainers
Stephan Wehnes (volunteer intern)
Assistant, newsletters, mailings, office support
Helen Langedijk-Berkhout (volunteer)
Data base
Mieke de Winter (volunteer)
Bookkeeping

Externals

Wendy Hassler-Forest, Kosovo
Mitrovica Rock School project manager, supervision Music Bus
Srebrenica project
Fabienne van Eck, Jerusalem
Music Bus Goes Middle East, music coach
Danny Felsteiner –Jerusalem (free-lance/ volunteer)
IT/ website support, development Rwanda project
Laura Visser (free-lance)
Graphic design, house style, printed materials, websites
Fred Abbingh (free-lance)

Graphic design, website support
Kick van der Mark (volunteer)
Communications/ PR advice, text writing
Michael Greenwald (volunteer)
US fundraising/ networking

Trainers

Marijke Smedema (Music Bus Srebrenica, Music Bus Goes Middle East)
Children: music, didactics, theory, dance
Otto de Jong (Music Bus Srebrenica, Music Bus Goes Middle East)
Children: music teaching, singing, body percussion, didactics
Sherwin Kirindongo (Music Bus Srebrenica, Music Bus Goes Middle East)
Percussion, body percussion
Hanno Thomassen (Music Bus Goes Middle East)
Community music, didactics, improvisation
Aidin Burke (Music Bus Srebrenica)
Community music, didactics
Vincenta Besteman (From Woman to Woman)
dance/ movement therapy



7. Partner organizations

Mitrovica Rock School

CBM (Community Building Mitrovica)

Fontys Rock Academy Tilburg

IKV-Pax Christi NL

Music Bus Goes Middle East

Holy Land Trust (Occupied Palestinian Territory)

Cultural centers of refugee camps Aida, Dheisheh, Al Azzeh (OPT)

AEI (Arab Educational Institute)- Musicians without Borders is associate in new music project

Music Bus/ Children's Music Theater Srebrenica

Dom Kulture (Cultural Center) Srebrenica (BiH)

Dom Mladih (Youth Center) Srebrenica (BiH)

Opera Circus (UK)

Theater Mimart (Serbia)

From Woman to Woman

Snaga Zene (Bosnia-Herzegovina)



8. Donors 2011

Mitrovica Rock School

Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Social Transformation 'MATRA' Program)
Embassy of Norway to Kosovo
Embassy of Finland to Kosovo
Embassy of France to Kosovo
Embassy of the US to Kosovo
Jack Daniels (sponsorship of studio Mitrovica Rock School)
IKV Pax Christi (tour of the Artchitects to the Netherlands)

Music Bus Goes Middle East

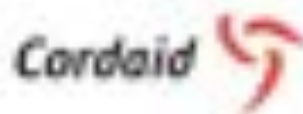
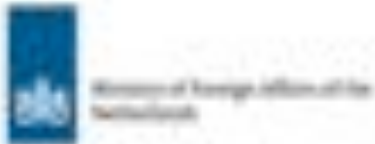
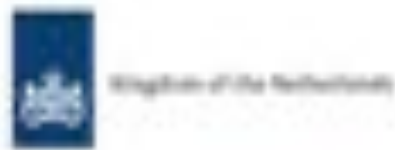
Dutch Children's Stamps Foundation (Stichting Kinderpostzegels)
Wild Geese Foundation (Stichting Wilde Ganzen)
Solidarity Fund
Dutch Mennonites (Doopsgezinde Gemeenschap)
Prince Claus Fund (visit NBE to Bethlehem)
Cordaid (visit NBE to Bethlehem)
Netherlands Representative Office (through local partner organization)

Music Bus/ Children's Music Theater

Robert Bosch Foundation
Nolte Foundation
The Two Dolphins Foundation
Klaske Fund
Private contributors

General

FEMI Foundation
Iona Foundation
88 Keys
Friends of Musicians without Borders
Jan Kortie, Stembevrijder
Marieke Ariaens Foundation
Townsville Grammar School, Australia
St. Hilda's School, Australia
Individual contributors



9. Contact information

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10. Financial Statement

See attachment