

Hyo Jeong Cheon Won and the History of the Performing Arts in Unificationism

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Dr. David Eaton and Ms. Lee meeting United Nations' Secretary General Ban Ki Moon

"People often think that politics moves the world, but that is not the case. It is culture and art that move the world. It is emotion, not reason, that strikes people in the innermost part of their hearts. When hearts change and are able to receive new things, ideologies and social regimes change as a result." -- As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen -- Sun Myung Moon

This quotation of our True Father appears in the chapter from his autobiography in which he recalls the founding of the Sun Hwa Arts School and its resident performing arts troupe, the Little Angels. At that time, there was little understanding among the church membership as to why Father would invest so heavily in a school of this sort at a time (1958) when the

church was in its earliest days. Korea was still recovering from the forty-year Japanese occupation and a dreadful war that devastated much of the country. Resources were scant and given the severe economic realities of that time, not many early church members were fully supportive of this initiative.

Still, Rev. Moon pressed on with the establishment of the school, and the rest, as they say, is history. Both the Sun Hwa Arts School and the Little Angels are now the source of immense pride, not only within the unification movement, but also throughout Korea. The Little Angels have become among the finest cultural ambassadors for the vision of our founders, acting as a "secret weapon" that opened the doors for our founders to carry God's messages of true love and peace to the most recalcitrant of opponents. Indeed, culture and art opened the hearts and minds in ways that politics and even religion could not.



David Eaton conducting the Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus in a performance of the cantata for peace, Halelu: Songs of David in Sofia, Bulgaria with vocalists David D'Or and Ms. S. Lee in 2008

A new stage of development

In April of 2016, True Mother announced the establishment of a new arts initiative under the banner of Hyo Jeong Cheon Won (Garden of Filial Love). Citing the vision of Hyo Jin nim and the idea of using the arts to express the heart of filial love through art and music, True Mother asked me to move to Korea and take responsibility as the chairman of the music committee, with a special emphasis on Holy Songs -- old and new. There is also an effort underway to identify and collect songs that were composed for various providential events -- blessings, speech events and True Parents' tours, for instance.

The Hyo Jeong Cultural Committee (HJCC) consists of six departments that will forge a new cultural vision. These departments include

Music, Martial Arts, Fine Arts, the Little Angels, Theater and Media. The media aspect will include the development of social media and marketing as a way to promote the art that members of the HJCC and other talented artists in our movement create.

One significant endeavor will be the building of a new cultural center near the Chung Pyung campus that will feature a concert hall, recording studios, an art gallery, an academy and a museum that will highlight Hyo Jin nim's accomplishments. True Mother has also mentioned the idea of establishing an orchestra comprised of international musicians from blessed families. All of this has long-term implications beyond 2020; therefore, this is just the beginning.

Prior to being asked to take on this responsibility, I had several dreams of True Mother, two of which were identical. In those dreams, True Mother requested that my family and two other families who are involved in the arts providence join her at meeting over lunch. True Mother asked us how our music endeavors were progressing but then her attention quickly turned to our children. She asked if our

children were being educated in our faith traditions; if they were reading Hoon Dok Hae, studying Divine Principle and adhering to church practices. She then reminded us that before we are musicians we are children of God and True Parents and each a parent to our children and that we should remember that music was secondary. I was able to share these dreams with True Mother in a meeting in Korea.

In a meeting with True Mother upon my arrival to begin my new responsibilities, she mentioned how the atmosphere in the area around Cheon Jeong Gung was very conducive to creativity. Being surrounded by nature and being in a high spiritual atmosphere free from external distractions certainly makes it easy to focus on the creative tasks at hand.

A key aspect of this new cultural providence will be education. As mentioned previously a key aspect of the new Hyo Jeong Cultural Center will be an academy where the internal development of young artists will be highly emphasized. To that end, I have started to fashion a Hyo Jeong philosophy of music based on Father's teachings with regard to motivation and intention.

In 2009, I began writing a book on music and spirituality and this book will serve as the basis of a Hyo Jeong philosophy. In my investigation of the cultures of China, Greece, Israel and early Christianity I found that these cultures understood that there was a moral aspect to creativity in general, and music in particular. Traditional philosophy refers to this as axiology -- the study of values. As Unificationists we understand that motivation plays a great deal in our pursuit of love and proper relationships. As artists it is important understand that we don't create in a vacuum.

What we create and put before the public has consequences, therefore great care should be taken in our creative activities. In the context of Father's quotation about the power of the arts to influence people, having a principled attitude about creativity is paramount. This will be a point of emphasis of the Hyo Jeong Cultural Academy.



The Three Israels -- Meeting David D'Or

Late in the afternoon on September 6, 2004 I received a phone call from Dr. Michael Jenkins, vicechair of the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI). Dr. Jenkins and I go back about forty years and we had been to Israel on several occasions to produce interfaith events for MEPI, so the call wasn't completely out of the blue, and it went something like this: "David, I need you to catch the first flight you can to Israel. We're going to have a big peace concert in Jerusalem a week from Monday and we need you here to produce it. We're inviting a big-name Israeli vocalist as the featured performer. We're here now, so call me when you arrive." OK, see you soon!

I arrived in Israel on Monday, September 8 and after checking into my hotel I headed to the Jerusalem Convention Center where the concert was to take place to meet Dr. Jenkins and several other executive producers. After a brief site survey of the venue I asked the producers, "So, who is this big-name artist who's going to perform for us?" I am told, "We don't have anyone. You have to find someone."

I was astonished!

In a bit of a panic I called Asaf Cohen, a local producer whom I had met in 2003 while producing the Heart to Heart rally in Jerusalem. I asked Asaf to come to my hotel and bring a list of the top ten Israeli artists so we can get an idea of who might be our guest artist. Once Asaf arrives we huddle with Dr. Jenkins and several of the local MEPI VIPs to discuss options. Who is the best option? Are they available on short notice? What is their fee? What are their production requirements? Dr. Eliezer Glaubach, one of the key MEPI advisors quickly chimed in, "Dah-VEED DEE'Or! He's the one. He sings in Hebrew, Arabic and English. He's the best! We should get him." Asaf tells me he took voice lessons with David D'Or several years ago and knows him personally; so I'm thinking that this is a plus.

As it turns out, David is a major artist in Israel and had just performed a concert with the Israel Philharmonic. Upon calling him to inquire about his availability he told us that if we were willing have an orchestra accompany him on this concert he would do it. The date worked for him and the cost of the orchestra The concert took place on September 14 and by all accounts was a smashing success. It remains one of the most inspiring concerts I've ever witnessed. David and the Ra'anana Sinfoneietta Orchestra had the packed house on its feet at the conclusion and it was as if we floated out of the concert hall on clouds of celestial music and good will.

Upon my return home my wife and several of our close friends began a twenty-one-day prayer vigil. We had a list of friends and colleagues that we were going to pray for each day and we decided to add David's name to the list. On the twenty-first day of the vigil I received an email from David expressing his gratitude for being part of our concert and a query about the possibility of a musical collaboration. I let him know that this is an inspiring idea and asked him to send some musical ideas that could be the basis of this collaborative effort. This became the impetus for the creation of our cantata, Halelu-Songs of David. After the exchange of numerous emails, sound files and two subsequent meetings with David in New York and Tel Aviv we embarked on the creation of the Halelu music.

Once the music was completed we recorded the Halelu cantata in Tel Aviv in 2006. On that occasion it was mentioned to me that True Father in the 1970s had stated that the new music of heaven would be born from the spirit of the first Israel. I had not heard that before but upon reflection I realized that this made perfect sense. The spirit of Israel was connected to the welcoming and embrace of the coming Messiah. The etymology of the word "Hallelujah" is Hebrew---hallal, an exhortation of praise, and Yah, meaning God. From the perspective articulated by True Father, creating new music for heaven in the current age should also be connected to the welcoming of Lord of the Second Advent.

In a very real way, this unique musical enterprise represented a conjoining of "the Three Israels." In that context I felt strongly that we had succeeded in creating music that testified to the ideals of True Parents. The Halelu project can be viewed as a prototype for future collaborations with other artists who embrace principled attitudes about creativity and art. Through the unique power of music we can reach people by affecting "the innermost parts of their hearts" and fulfill our responsibilities as artist who can create "the new music of heaven." This is the underlying premise of the Hyo Jeong cultural providence.