



BETHLEHEM | Heartland to Holy Land Productions and the Bethlehem Development Foundation to Co-host a Virtual Concert Live from the Heart of Bethlehem's Nativity Church Courtyard

(Bethlehem, 24 December 2021) The [Bethlehem Development Foundation \(BDF\)](#) and the Nashville based Heartland to Holy Land Productions (H2H) www.heartlandtoholylanproductions.com have come together to produce a virtual Christmas Day concert to live-stream directly from Bethlehem's Nativity Church Courtyard, featuring a spectacular line-up of American and Palestinian performers. This virtual concert will be aired on the 25th of December 2021 at 17:00pm GMT. This is the first time Nashville, the Music City and the capital of Country music, comes together with Bethlehem, the iconic birthplace of Jesus Christ and the capital of Christmas, to produce a unique musical performance.

In the words of the legendary T Bone Burnett, the world-renowned music producer who led the production :

*"Let's make a future where we all want to live,
Let's make a past we don't have to forgive."*

Bethlehem has been a site of profound inspiration for millions of the faithful from across the globe. As bitter divisions and oppression of all kinds grip our world, we want to bring people to the birthplace of the Prince of Peace. The concert aims to demonstrate that collaborative music projects can bridge political, ethnic, and religious divides to promote peace.

Blessed by the Guardians of the Nativity Church (Greek Orthodox Church, Custody of the Holy Land and Armenian Church), the concert will kick-off live from Bethlehem with a series of artists performing from the US side, followed by The Terra Sancta Scouts Troop of Bethlehem, the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music ensemble and its choir the Chanters of the Church of the Nativity.

American Artists who will perform virtually include the Fisk Jubilee Singers, Colin Linden, This Love Thing, and Ashley McBryde, narrated by T Bone Burnett. Themes of love, unity, hope, peace, gathering, repair, forgiveness, and enlightenment will be projected on the wall of the Church in front a gathering of the children of Bethlehem. The concert will be live-streamed on several online platforms including [Circle TV](#), [Youtube live](#), and [Telos Group Facebook live](#).

"It is our hope this will be a precursor to a live event in 2022 and beyond, to bridge between the Heartland and the Holy Land. We are also envisioning this to evolve into momentum that restores the Church of the Nativity and the Bethlehem Region community to continue to stand as a shining icon of unity and all that is holy for generations to come." -Dr. Khoulood Daibes- CEO of BDF

About the Bethlehem Development Foundation:

The Bethlehem Development Foundation was established by the late Said T. Khoury, as the implementation arm of the Bethlehem Development Initiative that aims to transform Bethlehem into a vibrant international spiritual destination with a sustainable economy and infrastructure to make it more accommodating to the needs of its current residents, pilgrims and tourists. To implement this vision, a group of international and Palestinian philanthropists established a non-governmental organization called the Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF) in 2012. BDF is governed currently by a Board of Trustees chaired by Samer Khoury and a Board of Directors chaired by Hani Abu-Dayyeh.

About The American Friends of the Bethlehem Development Foundation (AFBDF):

The AFBDF (www.afbdf.org) was founded in 2017 to promote financial assistance, grassroots support, and recognition for the development of the Holy City of Bethlehem. AFBDF primarily supports the efforts of the Bethlehem Development Foundation (BDF), a non-profit organization headquartered in Bethlehem and founded by the late Said Khoury, whose ultimate vision is to create a sustainable economy and infrastructure for Bethlehem enabling the Holy City, the Birth place of Jesus, to sparkle as a beacon of peace and a unique world spiritual center for pilgrims of all faiths.

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