

THREE FAITHS FORUM



Founders:
Sir Sigmund Sternberg KCSG, JP
Sheikh Dr M A Zaki Badawi, KBE,
Revd. Dr Marcus Braybrooke DD MA MPhil

Star House, 104 Grafton Road, London NW5 4BA, UK
Phone: +44 (0) 207 482 9549
Email: info@threefaithsforum.org.uk
Website: www.threefaithsforum.org.uk

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MEDIA RELEASE

'SACRED VOICES': CONVERGENCE AND CONTRAST IN THE MUSIC OF THE ABRAHAMIC FAITHS

An unusual and possibly unprecedented Conference with the above title will take place at St George's House, Windsor Castle between 30 January and 1 February – the fruit of close cooperation between St George's House, The Institute of Ismaili Studies, The Festival of Muslim Culture, The Jewish Music Institute and The Three Faiths Forum. The Chair of the Conference will be Professor Azim Nanji, Director of the Institute of Ismaili Studies.

Musicians and scholars from Europe, North America, North Africa and Asia will examine the role of sacred music in the Christian, Jewish and Muslim traditions; the way it has evolved, its different modes of expression, its contribution to deepening religious experience, its place in wider musical and general culture; and seek for evidence of cross-fertilisation and mutual enrichment. Attention will also be given to emerging trends in music with a devotional or spiritual purpose. The aim is to demonstrate that music is an art form which embodies and expresses affinities and convergence between three rich, distinctive and even complementary cultures.

A high point of the Conference will be a Concert of music from the three traditions, to be given in St George's Chapel at 1930 on 31 January, and already virtually a sell-out. Those taking part include the Choir of St George's Chapel; the gentlemen of the Choir of London; and the Badakhshan Ensemble from Tajikistan.

At a time when much of the tension in the world is attributed to clashes between religions and cultures, the intention of the organisers of this Conference is to identify factors which unite and reconcile, both in form and in substance, and thereby to contribute to a positive and fruitful interfaith and intercultural dialogue.

*For further information, please contact Sidney Shipton at:
Tel: 020 7485 2538 ext 5; or email Sidney@threefaithsforum.org.uk*

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