



UN DAY CONCERT 2023

The Frontlines of Climate Action

Tuesday, 24 October
General Assembly Hall
New York



Welcoming remarks:

Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications,
Ms. Melissa Fleming

Speakers:

H.E. Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

H.E. Mr. Dennis Francis, President of the General Assembly

H.E. Mr. Viliami Va'inga Tōnē, Permanent Representative
of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations

Performance:

Tuikaepau, Mana Academy Scholars

Invocation of the Earth, Michael Fitzpatrick, cello

Environmental Symphony: The Movement

A multimedia symphonic experience

Julien Benichou, conductor

Preface

1st Movement (Creation)

2nd Movement (Industrial Revolution)

3rd Movement (The Calm Before the Storm)

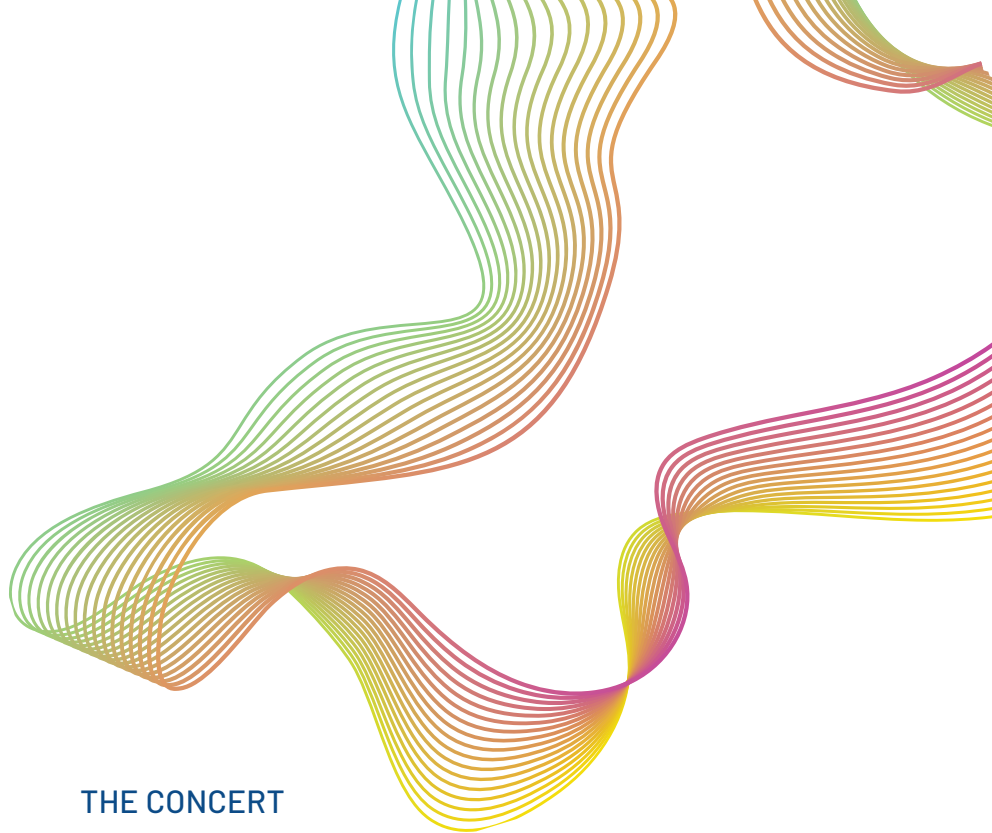
4th Movement (Global Warming, Final Warning)

5th Movement (Preservation Sensation)

Presented by the United Nations and the Permanent
Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations.

Support provided by PVBLIC Foundation,
Family Offices for Sustainable Development (FOSD),
Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations
The Permanent Mission of Antigua and Barbuda to the United Nations



THE CONCERT

The UN Day Concert presents an opportunity each year to reconfirm the value of international cooperation in the service of people and planet.

The 2023 UN Day Concert, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga, will not only provide a moment to celebrate and reaffirm the principles of the UN Charter that have guided humanity for the past 78 years, but also to mobilize world leaders around climate action in the lead up to the 2023 UN Climate Change Conference in Dubai, UAE, in December 2023, and the 4th International Conference on Small Island Developing States in Antigua and Barbuda in May 2024.

Under the theme of *The Frontlines of Climate Action*, the concert will present the power of the human spirit to combat the climate crisis, while highlighting the challenges faced by Small Island Developing States and other frontline communities across the globe that bear the brunt of the devastating impact of climate change.



The Mana Academy Scholars

Mana Academy is an accredited non-profit college preparatory public charter school in West Valley City, Utah. Founded in 2013, Mana Academy is a community and family centered school committed to educational excellence and cultural sustainability. Mana Academy provides a learning environment that is academically rigorous, culturally relevant and inclusive. Mana Academy graduates are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills to be successful leaders and positive agents of change in their local, regional and global communities.



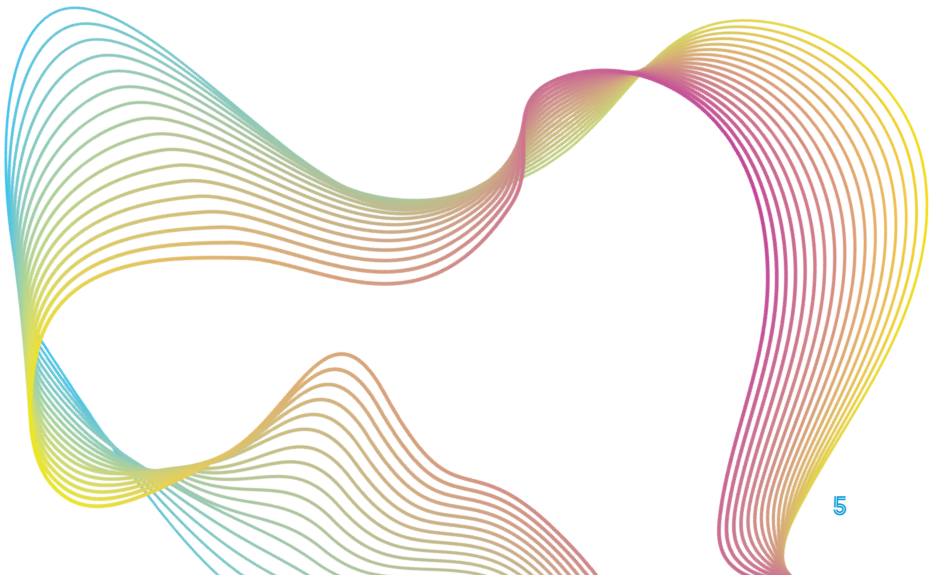


Michael Fitzpatrick

Virtuoso-cellist Michael Fitzpatrick performs as soloist around the world. He has performed at the Vatican for His Holiness Pope Francis, as well as at the United Nations, the United States Capitol West Lawn, the Rock&Roll Hall of Fame, the Hollywood Bowl, Times Square, for His Majesty King Abdullah II at the Royal Palace in Jordan, and with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in Jerusalem. He most recently performed for the Retirement Celebration of the 20th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the United States, General Mark Milley, and will perform the Musical Keynotes for the 80th Anniversary of D-Day in Normandy in June 2024.

Fitzpatrick is the Founder of Millenia Music, which brings healing music to people in need around the world. He is also the producer and featured artist of the newly released OMNISONIX recording designed to bring comfort to individuals suffering from PTSD, anxiety, grief, mental health challenges, and overall peace of mind and well-being.

He is a recipient of The Prince Charles Award, conferred by then HRH The Prince of Wales, now His Majesty King Charles III.





Environmental Symphony: The Movement

A multi-media symphonic experience featuring a live orchestral performance, thought provoking narration, and mesmerizing synchronized visuals, Environmental Symphony: The Movement is a creative vehicle designed to inspire global action.

A passionate composition created by the renowned Dr. Allan Zavod, this live performance follows in the footsteps of beloved classics such as *Carnival of Animals* and *Peter and the Wolf*. Immerse yourself in this epic musical journey as we watch the history of our planet unfold over billions of years – from its formation to the climate challenges of today.

Yet, amidst environmental devastation, hope remains, and it is here that the Environmental Symphony: The Movement takes us on a journey of music, visuals and story-telling that merge into a singular creative exploration like no other. Join us as we inspire, empower, and activate today's leaders for the benefit of a better tomorrow.



Julien Benichou

Conductor Julien Benichou is the Artistic Director of the Washington Opera Society (WOS), and Music Director of the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra (CYSO). In 2023, he became Music Director Designate of the Accord Symphony in Washington, DC.

Before coming to the United States, Benichou studied harmony and counterpoint with Pierre Doury at the Schola Cantorum in Paris. He received a Graduate Performance Diploma from the Peabody Institute and earned a Master's Degree from Northwestern University.

As a guest conductor, Benichou has garnered acclaim through his work with the New York City Ballet, and Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's collaborations with Mobtown Modern Synchronicity. He has served as Music Director of the Mid-Atlantic Symphony for 17 seasons, as well as conducting operatic productions. With the Washington Opera Society, he recently concluded productions of *The Magic Flute*, *Aida*, and *Carmen* in Washington, DC.

In 2017, Benichou premiered *Way of the Rain* at Carnegie Hall, a climate change awareness project featuring Robert Redford and Vice President Al Gore. A repeat performance was held in 2021 in Monte Carlo, in the presence of His Highness Albert II, Prince of Monaco. Benichou serves on the advisory board of the Way of the Rain foundation.

Benichou is the lead conductor and creative partner for *Environmental Symphony: The Movement*. He brings natural musicality, infectious energy, and a creative approach that is fostering the next generation of classical musicians.

NARRATORS



Auli'i Cravalho

Auli'i Cravalho first came to prominence in the title role of Walt Disney Animation Studios' popular musical fantasy film *Moana* and can next be seen in the Broadway Video and Paramount Pictures film *Mean Girls the Musical*, in the role of Janis. She is an Executive Producer of Walt Disney Studios' upcoming live-action *Moana*. Cravalho was born and raised in Hawai'i and

focuses her time outside of film on ocean health and livelihoods, partnering with Sheba and Mars Coral Reef Restoration to announce the next extension of their Hope Grows project with Kuleana Coral Reefs, a nonprofit organization helping to restore and protect Hawaii's native ecosystem.



Lou Diamond Phillips

Since his emergence in Hollywood with the films *La Bamba*, *Stand and Deliver* (for which he received a Golden Globe nomination) and *Young Guns*, Lou Diamond Phillips has built a successful career spanning four decades as an actor, director and writer. On Broadway, he was nominated for Best Actor in the '97 Tony-winning revival *The King and I*. Phillips has long been active

in the charitable and social justice sphere as a supporter of Greenpeace, the World Wildlife Fund, Amnesty International and Oxfam International, among others. He currently serves as Governor for the Actor's Branch of The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.



Haloti Ngata

Haloti Ngata is an American former professional football player who was a defensive tackle in the National Football League (NFL). He was a member of the Baltimore Ravens team that won Super Bowl XLVII and was selected five times to the Pro Bowl, the NFL's All-Star Game, during his career. Ngata is of Tongan ancestry and founded the Haloti Ngata Family Foundation to provide charitable resources to deserving individuals and organizations throughout the United States and abroad.



Danielle Paige

Danielle Paige is the New York Times bestselling author of the *Dorothy Must Die* series, *Stealing Snow* series and *The Ravens* series, among others, and the upcoming *Wish of the Wicked*. In addition to writing young adult books, Paige works in the television industry, where she's received a Writers Guild of America Award and been nominated for several Daytime Emmys. She is a graduate of Columbia University and currently lives in New York City.



Zainab Salbi

Zainab Salbi is an activist and writer who co-founded Daughters for Earth, a fund and movement of women worldwide that advocates for climate solutions. She has been named a leading changemaker by publications including *Newsweek* and *The Guardian* and she received the TIME100 Impact Awards in 2023. At the age of 23, Salbi founded Women for Women

International, a humanitarian organization that distributed more than \$146 million in aid to women survivors of wars. Salbi is the author of several books, including the best seller *Between Two Worlds: Escape from Tyranny*, and her latest, *Freedom is an Inside Job: Owning our Darkness and Our Light to Change Ourselves and the World*.



MESSAGE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON UNITED NATIONS DAY CONCERT

On United Nations Day, we celebrate the ideals of the United Nations and the spirit of hope and unity that marked its foundation 78 years ago.

Only through global solidarity and collective action, as set out in the United Nations Charter, will we overcome the many challenges of our time, from the climate crisis to conflicts old and new; from unprecedented levels of inequality to the risks posed by new technologies.

People of all backgrounds and nationalities are brought together around music, which reflects the profound diversity and unique contributions of cultures around the world. Music is a universal language that bridges divides, helping to lay the foundations for a culture of peace.

The same spirit of universality, diversity and peace is at the heart of our United Nations. So it is entirely fitting that we mark the 78th anniversary of the UN Charter's entry into force through a musical performance together in the General Assembly Hall.

I thank the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga for sponsoring this year's UN Day concert with the theme *The Frontlines of Climate Action*, and all the talented performers for their part in tonight's celebration.

