



“What could change the direction of today’s civilization?”

It is my deep conviction that the only option is a change in the sphere of the spirit, in the sphere of human conscience.” *Václav Havel*

Responsibilities within a Global Society

Humankind today is well aware of the spectrum of threats looming over its head. We know that the number of people living on our planet is growing at a soaring rate and that within a relatively short time we can expect it to total in the tens of billions. We know that the already-deep abyss separating the planet’s poor and rich could deepen further, and more and more dangerously, because of this rapid population growth. We also know that we’ve been destroying the environment on which our existence depends and that we are headed for disaster by producing weapons of mass destruction and allowing them to proliferate.

And yet, even though we are aware of the dangers, we do almost nothing to avert them. It’s fascinating to me how preoccupied people are today with catastrophic prognoses, how books containing evidence of impending crises become bestsellers, but how little account we take of these threats in our everyday activities. Doesn’t every schoolchild know that the resources of this planet are limited and that if they are expended faster than they are recovered, we are doomed? And still we continue in our wasteful ways and don’t even seem perturbed. Quite the contrary: Rising production is considered to be the main sign of national success, not only in poor states where such a position could be justified, but also in wealthy ones, which are cutting the branch on which they sit with their ideology of indefinitely prolonged and senseless growth.

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Theme for 2010: Pioneers of World Culture

Aim 3. To honour through appropriate observance the contributions of men and women of all ages to world culture — Declaration of Interdependence

UPCOMING EVENTS



Thirty-Six Facets of Glory: The Unaccompanied Cello Suites of J.S. Bach

Seminar & Musical Performance:

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2010

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Concord House

1407 Chapala Street

Santa Barbara, CA

**Presenters: Joseph Miller and
Rachel Galvan**

This seminar will feature live performance, recordings and discussion of the six cello suites of J. S. Bach. Long hidden in obscurity, and mistakenly considered mere technical studies, these suites were mostly ignored until resurrected in the 20th century by the genius of Spanish cellist, Pablo Casals. Likely composed during the period 1717–1723, when Bach served as Kapellmeister in Cöthen, these pieces – each with six movements – are masterworks of the solo repertoire. Special guest violist, Rachel Galvin, will play selections from the Suites.

“It is like a great diamond, with so many different cuts that reflect light in so many different ways.” - cellist Mischa Maisky



Bach and Friends

Film:

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2010

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Concord House

1407 Chapala Street

Santa Barbara, CA

Moderator: Joseph Miller

This new documentary (2010) by Michael Lawrence explores the power and genius of the music of J. S. Bach through interviews and intimate performances by world-class musicians. Luminaries include not only concert presences like John Bayless, Philip Glass, Joshua Bell, Richard Stoltzman, and The Emerson String Quartet, but also cross-over artists like Edgar Meyer, Bobby McFerrin, Bela Fleck and the Swingle Singers. The performances themselves are, for the most part, filmed in the living spaces of the musicians, with multiple creative camera positions that bring the viewer into personal presence. Accessible to classical lovers and newbies, this film is an immediate visceral immersion into the timeless reality of Bach's brilliance.

For program information, please call (805) 967-1055, or visit the IWC's website, www.worldculture.org.

Responsibilities in a Global Society

The most important thing we can do today is to study the reasons why humankind does little to address these threats and why it allows itself to be carried onward by same kind of perpetual motion, unaffected by self-awareness or a sense of future options. It would be unfair to ignore the existence of numerous projects for averting these dangers, or to deny that a lot already has been done. However, all attempts of this kind have one thing in common: They do not touch the seed from which the threats I'm speaking of sprout, but merely try to diminish their impact. (A typical example is the list of legal acts, ordinances, and international treaties stipulating how much toxic matter this or that plant may discharge into the environment.) I'm not criticizing these safeguards; I'm only saying that they are technical tricks that have no real effect on the substance of the matter.

What, then, is the substance of the matter? What could change the direction of today's civilization?

It is my deep conviction that the only option is a change in the sphere of the spirit, in the sphere of human conscience. It's not enough to invent new machines, new regulations, new institutions. We must develop a new understanding of the true purpose of our existence on earth. Only by making such a fundamental shift will we be able to create new models of behavior and a new set of values for the planet. In short, it appears to me that it would be better to start from the head rather than the tail.

Whenever I've gotten involved in a major global problem – the logging of rainforests, ethnic or religious intolerance, the brutal destruction of indigenous cultures – I've always discovered somewhere in the long chain of events that gave rise to it a basic lack of responsibility for the planet.

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In September

Anniversaries

- 6th Jane Addams, American progressive reformer, one of the founders of the U.S. Settlement House movement, Nobel Laureate b. 1860
- 7th Queen Elizabeth I, Queen of England and Ireland
- 9th Luigi Galvani, Italian physician, physicist b. 1737
- 9th Leo Tolstoy, Russian author, essayist b. 1828
- 11th Vinoba Bhave, Indian scholar, social reformer, writer b. 1895
- 14th Dante Alighieri, Italian poet d. 1321
- 18th Samuel Johnson, British author b. 1709
- 21st Kwame Nkrumah, African politician, leader of Ghana b. 1909
- 22nd Michael Faraday, British physicist, chemist b. 1791
- 25th Dmitri Shostakovich, Russian composer b. 1906
- 26th T.S. Eliot, British poet, playwright, Nobel laureate b. 1888
- 29th Miguel de Unamuno, Spanish novelist, playwright, philosopher b. 1864
- 29th Enrico Fermi, Italian physicist, Nobel laureate b. 1901
- 30th Jalal al-din Rumi, Persian mystic, poet b. 1207

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 2nd Adoption of the Gregorian calendar by England in 1752
- 3rd French Civil Code renamed Code Napoléon in 1807
- 6th (2010) Labor Day celebrated in the U.S., established in 1882 to honor workers initiated in 1882

Responsibilities in a Global Society

There are countless types of responsibility – more or less pressing, depending on who’s involved. We feel responsible for our personal welfare, our families, our companies, our communities, our nations. And somewhere in the background there is, in every one of us, a small feeling of responsibility for the planet and its future. It seems to me that this last and deepest responsibility has become a very low priority – dangerously low, considering that the world today is more interlinked than ever before and that we are, for all intents and purposes, living one global destiny.

Václav Havel

Former President of the Czech Republic

Excerpted from “Introductory Essay” in Creating a World That Works for All, by Sharif Abdullah

Invitation to begin thinking about 2011...

Next year’s Institute of World Culture Programs will be related to Aim # 9 from the *Declaration of Interdependence*:

“To assist in the emergence of men and women of universal culture, capable of continuous growth in non-violence of mind, generosity of heart and harmony of soul.”



INSTITUTE OF WORLD CULTURE

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In September

Observances and Acknowledgements

- 8th International Literacy Day established by the U.N. in 1965 and celebrated annually
- 9th (2010) Rosh Hashanah, Jewish new year and beginning of High Holy Days
- 16th Mexican Independence Day celebrates Mexico's independence from Spain
- 16th Mayflower sailed from England carrying English Separatists to America in 1620
- 17th Constitution Day: the final draft of the U.S. Constitution was approved for submission to the states by the Constitutional Congress in 1787
- 18th (2010) Yom Kippur, Jewish Day of Atonement and end of High Holy Days
- 21st International Day of Peace established by the U.N. in 1981
- 22nd Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1862 declaring the freedom of American slaves in the Confederate states
- 22nd [\(2010\) Autumnal Equinox \(11:09 p.m. EDT\)](#)
- 23rd [\(2010\) Autumnal Equinox \(03:09 UTC\)](#)
- 23rd Planet Neptune discovered by the German astronomer Galle in 1846
- 23rd (2010) Sukkot, Jewish harvest festival, begins
- 25th Sandra Day O'Conner became the first women appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981
- 30th First astrophotograph of the Orion Nebula taken in 1880