



**PEACE DRUMS
PROJECT**

PEACE DRUMS PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT 2025



Letter from the Executive Director

Welcome to the Peace Drums Project Annual Report.

For thirteen years, we have been building connections among young people in Israel and the West Bank through the universal language of music. Today, the forces of division and hatred may seem stronger than ever, but so too is the growing belief that a different future is possible—one built on understanding, respect, and hope for our children. The Peace Drums Project has never been more relevant or more necessary. More than two years after the tragic events of October 7, 2023, our work continues unabated. **Each week, approximately 150 children and teens** participate in our musical ensembles in Israel and the West Bank, learning, growing, and creating together through the vibrant sounds of steel drums from Trinidad and Tobago, featured on this report's cover.

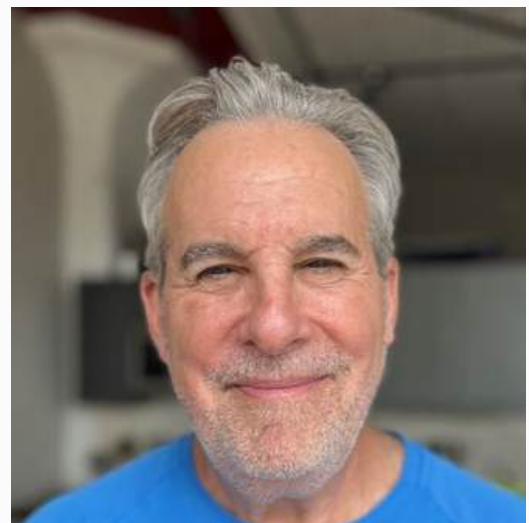
Our students, ages 8 to 16, come from diverse communities including Haifa, Hebron, Beit Jala, Ibilin, and Bethlehem. They are Christian, Jewish, and Muslim. While many have not yet had the opportunity to meet one another in person because of the ongoing conflict, they share a common bond through music and benefit from the guidance of our talented and dedicated instructors.

The Peace Drums Project remains one of the few after-school programs that has continued to operate and thrive throughout this challenging period in Israel, and it remains **the only instrumental music education program serving youth in the West Bank**. This achievement is made possible by our exceptional staff and teaching artists—many of whom were trained through our own programs and now serve the communities in which they live and work.

Despite extraordinary challenges, we have remained fully operational, providing stability, creativity, and connection for the young people we serve. Looking ahead, we are excited to advance plans to bring together students from all of our communities, creating opportunities for meaningful interaction, collaboration, and friendship.

As you read this report, you will discover the impact your support has made possible and learn about the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. Together, we are helping young people build bridges where others see barriers and creating a foundation for a more peaceful future.

Thank you for being part of this journey.



Harvey Price
Founder and Executive Director



Our Mission

To bring young people together through facilitated group learning and performance in steel bands to have positive experiences and build community, regardless of religious, cultural, and social differences.



Connection through Music

Music is a proven and powerful tool for breaking down barriers, encouraging social inclusion and prosocial behaviors, fostering a sense of belonging, and increasing teamwork. Peace Drums offers connection to students from different religious and ethnic backgrounds through high-quality music education.

Civil Society

In a region being torn apart by war, religious and sectarian violence, and a breakdown of trust between communities, Peace Drums is one of many civil society programs on the ground in Israel and the West Bank that are working to bring positive experiences to children across the divide.

Musical excellence

Using steel drums, a culturally neutral instrument in the region, our young students learn about the principles of making music at a high level with the expert instruction of our teachers.





Program Overview

Every year, for the past 13 years, Peace Drums has been making connections between young people from different backgrounds, religions, and cultures using the following activities:



Rehearsals

Weekly rehearsals in Haifa, Ibillin, and Beit Jala.



Transportation

Students travel, sometimes for hours, from Hebron to Beit Jala weekly for rehearsal.



Community Building

Making connections with other civil society groups through the Alliance for Mid-East Peace.



Performances

Performances in Nazareth, Haifa, Ibillin, and Beit Jala.

a year in numbers

150

STUDENTS

10

WEEKLY CLASSES

4

**PARTNER
SCHOOLS**



2025 Highlights

Peace Drums continues to grow its student population, identify and train new teachers, and build partnerships in the region.

During the month of November, 2025, Executive Director of Peace Drums Israel, Michael Chacour (pictured below), went on a speaking tour of communities and houses of worship in the Philadelphia, PA, Buffalo, NY, and Detroit, MI., areas. This tour raised awareness, brought together new partnerships and laid the groundwork for an upcoming July 2027 tour to the US.

60%

of students are from Israel, including both Arab and Jewish youth.



50%

of students who are able, pay a monthly fee of \$50 for classes.

40%

of students are from The West Bank.

70%

of students performed in four concerts this past year.





Upcoming projects and strategies



Our plans and projects for 2026 are well underway. We are undertaking a challenging cross-border project between our students in the West Bank and their counterparts in Israel. The goal is to make connections between groups of students who would otherwise likely never meet—brought together through the shared experience of performing on steel drums. Of course, we will continue our weekly music-making at all of our current locations.

“*We are capable of creating beautiful music together and are open-minded about getting to know each other.”* Peace Drums student

Connection over politics

01.

Making cross border connections between students from Israel and the West Bank planned for 2026

02.

More cross border connections with rehearsals and workshops planned for 2027

03.

U.S. tour to Philadelphia, PA; Buffalo, NY; and Detroit, MI. Thirty students and ten adults will make this historic two week trip planned for 2027



Thank you to our generous 2025 supporters

Our supporters are like our steel bands, each individual part, or voice, or gift, beautiful in its own right, contributes to the success of the whole band.

*The **LEADS** are the largest section of the steel band and carry the melody through the air.*

*Our **LEADS:**
up to \$99.00*

Marcia Acero
Bobbi Block
Joe Ambrosino
Jasmine Smart
Judy Tecosky
Robin Shaeffer
Andrew Narell
Bob Stoddard
Debbie Taylor
Julia Diebold
Kathleen Rewa
Ben Goldman
Loretta Bresh
Pauline Borgia
Francis McTamney
Sandra Idstein
Suzanne Grumbacher
Philip Brodie
Michael Sigman
Carol D Marsh
Mary Lou DeFino
Aidan Chamberlain
Heidi Rain Oleszczuk
Tom Palmer
Xufan Tian

*The **DOUBLES** add harmony and fullness to the leads*

*Our **DOUBLES:**
\$100 - \$249*

Sue Zatto
Brian Bersh
Lee Burstein
Marianne Andrulewich
Sharon Barr
Etheldra Templeton
Samuel Magavern
Kristine Qualls
Jon Cutler
John Krill
Edward Tucker
Carmelina D'Arro
Robert Vogel
Catherine Anderson
Rolf - Werner Waldhausen
Debbie Sakmar
Jane Miller
Walt Huzar family

*The **DOUBLE GUITARS** support the harmony of the **DOUBLES***

*Our **DOUBLE GUITARS:**
\$250-499*

Robert Hammond
Jessica Tuft
Richard Assoian
Ron Hamlen
Dale Hallerberg
Greg and Camilla Jones
Michael Cook
Liz Mongan
Anthony Orlando

*The **TRIPLE CELLOS** add beautiful counter melodies that support the **LEADS** and **DOUBLES***

*Our **TRIPLE CELLOS:**
\$500-\$999*

Dr. Stephen Gershberg
Nicholas Mattera
Pashanamaei Family Trust

*The **ENGINE ROOM** is the beating heart of the band. Drum set, congas, Iron, give the steel band its identity*

*Our **ENGINE ROOM:**
\$2500-\$4999*

Edwin Price
Linda Henderson and Harvey Price
Steven Wigrizer

*The **CONDUCTORS:***

*No ensemble can be at its best without a **CONDUCTOR** leading rehearsal and performances
\$5000 and up*

Peter Abrams
Claudia and Rich Fischer
John K and Elizabeth W. Knorr
Charitable Foundation

*The **BASSES** anchor the whole band, clearly defining the harmony and giving rhythmic punch to each tune*

*Our **BASSES:**
\$1000-\$2499*

Brent Gutmann
Robert Moskovitz
Samuel Blumberg
Lynne Kielhorn
William Metzger
Beverley Baxter
Joan Grace Marsh
Chinnis Family Trust
Sara Geuder



How you can help

Visit

www.peacedrumsproject.org or
scan the QR code to learn more.



Know others who would be
passionate about the work of
Peace Drums?

Email

harvey@peacedrumsproject.org
to connect and explore how you
can support this vital work!



As a 501(c)3 organization, your gift is tax-deductable and 100% of each donation goes towards making connections between the young people in our steel bands. All funds either pay for the weekly lessons, transportation to lessons and meet ups, or maintenance of the steel drums.



July 2027 US TOUR



Our first U.S. tour since 2016 will take place during the month of July 2027. Check our website <https://peacedrumsproject.org/> as the itinerary takes shape.





Board Members:

Joan Sparks. Professional musician, recording and touring artist.

Robert Moskowitz. CFO - ChannelPartners Capital

Brian Bersh. Music Department Head at Germantown Friends School in Philadelphia, PA.

Merideth Hite Estevez. Oboist + Author + Coach
Artists for Joy, founder

Faculty:

Reem Handal Music Faculty. Talitha Kumi School

Safi Daeem. Steel Band Director, Haifa

Adham Lala. Steel Band Teacher, Haifa

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"In Peace Drums, we didn't put the focus on the religion part, we just focused on the music so there was nothing to have a conflict about – we all had the same goal." Peace Drums Student