

WELCOME TO

Grounds for Goodness

NOV 1, 2020

Opening words by
Olivia C. Davies

*Launching Jumblied's Virtual Residency
Grounds for Goodness Downtown Eastside
A Co-Production with Vancouver Moving Theatre
At the Downtown Eastside Heart of the City Festival:
-a chapter in Jumblied's multi-year multi-location
Grounds for Goodness Project*

Traditional welcome, story and song by
S7aplek (Bob Baker) of the Squamish Nation

 **IN THIS MOMENT - a work-in-progress presentation created for zoom**
Inspired by the accounts of 1995 Chicago Heatwave and stories from our choir

Composer Arie Verheul van de Ven
Choreographer Kevin Ormsby
ASL poet Tamyka Bullen

The Gather Round Singers
Director Shifra Cooper
Choir Coordinator Joanna Prescod
Outreach Coordinator Tijana Spasic

Anchor Singers

Hussein Janmohamed Natalie Fasheh Risa de Rege Sam Rowlandson-O'Hara

Singers

April Ichiki	Alma Lilia Yañez Gutierrez	Bernadette Shuman
Bettina Harrison	Catherine Moeller	Damien Scott
Daphne Morgan	Deepa Narang	Galit Zucker
Harshi Hemachandra	Herold van de Ven	Jon Field
Katherine Gombay	Lily Rovillos	Lisette Cogdell
Lorna Brown	Mario Pietrantoni	Marlene Sheehan-Carey
Margaret Bojin	Margaret Oldfield	Nura Nurhussen
Nada Nurhussen	Peace Johnson	Rachel Simon
Rafia Salam	Rakefet Arieli	Sally Wellen
Sandra Kanagasabai	Shelley La Hay	Summera Khan
Tamyka Bullen	Tanya Steinberg	Tasmeen Syed
Venetia Butler	Yan Deng	

 **BESA – world premiere performance - created for zoom**
Inspired by the rescue of Jews by Albanian Muslims during WW2

Composer Martin van de Ven
Choreographer Michelle Silagy
Text from 'Besa - Muslims who Saved Jews during WW2', by Norman H. Gershman, 2008
Overall concept and design Ruth Howard

Musicians

Martin van de Ven (*clarinet*) Arie Verheul van de Ven (*viola*)

Singers

Lisette Cogdell	Shifra Cooper	Sharada Eswar	Natalie Fasheh
Hussein Janmohamed	Risa de Rege	Sam Rowlandson-O'Hara	

Movers

Animikiikwe Couchie	Ahmed Hegazy	Alicia Hunt	Betty Carpick
Cameron Montgomery	Catherine Moeller	Karis Jones Pard	Liza Konovalov
Michelle Silagy	Miranda Bouchard	Rakefet Arieli	
Ruedi Narowowski-Vesely	Sally Wellen	Summera Khan	Tamyka Bullen
Tuija Hansen	Tijana Spasic		

Card Box Ruth Howard
Illustrations and border/text designs Karis Jones Pard
Graphics and Cardholder Adrienne Marcus Raja
Grounds for Goodness logo Sam Egan
Audio Technician Arie Verheul van de Ven



3 SHORT VIDEOS – from Grounds for Goodness episodes in other places:

Stories from Camp Naivelt, Brampton

Performers

Catherine Moeller Lisa Meschino Lev Jaeger
Rakefet Arieli Ruth Howard Zohar Segal-Jaeger

Filmed and edited by Adrienne Marcus Raja

Musical score by Arie Verheul van de Ven

Stories from the Ottawa Valley

Performers

Andy Trull Cameron Montgomery Dorian Pearce Emma Pinto
Matt Lenzo Roberta Della-Pica Ruth Howard

From story cards by Toronto and Ontario participants

Filmed and edited by Studio Dreamshare

The Whole Village, a short zoom video from AlgomaTrad

Telling an adapted Haitian folk tale mixed with participants' stories

Facilitators Ruth Howard, Shifra Cooper

Musicians Martin van de Ven, Arie Verheul van de Ven

Performers

Christen Kong Rakefet Arieli Ruth Howard
Eloise Remi Jake Senadee

Story Cards from Camp Naivelt community members

Illustrations Christen Kong

Video Editing Adrienne Marcus Raja



OVERALL EVENT CREDITS

Emcee Olivia C. Davies
Zoom Technical Director Sam Egan
Stage Manager Karis Jones-Pard
Tech Team Oshan Starreveld, Ahmed Hegazy, Dorian Pearce
Documentation Adrienne Marcus Raja
Assistant Choreographer Animikiikwe Couchie
Support Tijana Spasic, Catherine Moeller, Oshan Starreveld
ASL Interpretation Latasha Lennox
Scarves made by Marianne Alas, Arlette Ngung
Grounds for Goodness Lead Artist Ruth Howard

*Thanks to Theo Bell and the Vancouver Moving Theatre Festival live stream and event team!
For full Heart of the City Festival info and credits go to www.heartofthecityfestival.com.*

JUMBLIES FUNDERS





From the Artistic Director:

As the title of this event says; welcome to Grounds for Goodness!

I conceived of this project several years ago after reading a couple of books about the rescue of the Danish and Bulgarian Jews during the Holocaust and becoming deeply interested in stories and thought on times and reasons that people sometimes act in good ways towards each other, including across differences and in times of need. I started to collect varied stories, historical and current, intimate and epic, on the theme of 'social goodness'. I gradually brought the project into the community arts activities of Jumblies, and into collaborations with partners in Toronto and beyond – and now with good friends in Vancouver.

In one of our early Grounds for Goodness explorations young composer, Arie Verheul van de Ven, brought ideas from a podcast he had heard about the 1995 Chicago Heat Wave, speculating on what sort of "social infrastructure" would keep people more safe in a civic emergency. This was pre-pandemic, and now these questions takes on new resonances. Our work-in-progress, *In This Moment*, sets words collected from conversation on this theme with our choir, in a musical approach that embraces the impossibilities of singing together over zoom.

During my research I discovered that another country that had protected its Jewish population during World War 2 was Albania. I read compelling photo portraits and first person accounts in Norman H. Gershman's beautiful book, 'Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews, WW11'. This book and its varied voices inspired and provided the text collage for our piece 'Besa'. This piece, composed by Martin van de Ven and receiving its world premiere performance tonight, is a contemplation through music and movement of a first encounter with this history and these voices, by people (us) across a gulf of space and time.

Grounds for Goodness has now engaged with many people in different places – really and virtually – gathering story cards and exploring ways to express them through a mix of art forms. Our three short videos give a glimpse onto some of these ongoing creative adventures.

Grounds for Goodness will continue for a week of residency at the Heart of the City Festival, in partnership with Vancouver Moving Theatre. Following that the project will continue, creating a suite of new works on the theme of 'social goodness', with a culminating event in June 2021. If you'd like to take part, please get in touch (info@jumbliestheatre.org).

Sincerest thanks to all who are part of tonight's performance, and all who have contribute to the project so far.

Ruth Howard



From the Composers:

Besa was a real labour of love for me, I was brought up in a tradition of the need to speak up for and protect the vulnerable in our community. Learning of the Albanian islamic tradition of Besa and its result of the saving of Jewish refugees was for me just another indication that empathy and community is a universal human value that should not only be explicit but taught as a cultural good. I've used the Phrygian dominant mode for the melody in Besa, this mode is commonly in use from India through the middle east into Eastern Europe. It's Jewish name is Ahava Rabbah and it Arabic name is Hijaz Nahawand, symbolizing a connection between two cultures.

~ Martin van de Ven

In This Moment was inspired by stories of resilience & community from the 1995 Chicago heatwave, and stories from members of the choir. This piece is the result of a long investigation into how we can continue to make music together while meeting on Zoom. Taking the challenges presented by remote music making and discovering what can be beautiful about them.

~Arie Verheul van de Ven



WORDS SUNG & SPOKEN

In This Moment

Composer: Arie Verheul van de Ven

Choreography: Kevin Ormsby & Tamyka Bullen

Musical Director: Shifra Cooper

Each group sings their words in sequence, with improvised interludes and a final movement sequence (mixing ASL and choreography) to the electronically looped music and sounds.

Yellow GROUP:

Cooking ladies
Stuck inside
Feeling of safety
Telling Stories
water

GREEN GROUP:

He remembered me
We were a unit
Art galleries
He remember me
Taxi driver
He remembered me

RED GROUP:

Water
Toronto
Parkdale
Hydro
Accessible
Meeting
Change
Toronto

BLUE GROUP:

Heat wave
Stuck inside
Heat wave
Stuck inside
Water
New Ways
Water

RUST GROUP:

I'm going to walk with you
Safe haven
Move in
Provide
Change Stuck inside
Tea
I'm going to walk with you



BESA

Composer: Martin van de Ven

Choreography: Michelle Silagy

Liberetto and Concept: Ruth Howard

The words are segments (translated from Albanian) from the book, *Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews WW11*, by Josh H. Gershman.

A slightly different selection and order of these phrases is used each performance.

Why we do it?

Our home was their home

We just did it.

It is our tradition.

We were never afraid.

We accepted no money.

We had only two rooms.

We sheltered them.

We had a large home.

We moved them from house to house.

They came out only at night.

We hid them in the attic, in the woods, in a cave in the ountains, in a barn where I kept the sheep.

We brought food to them there.

The children played with the village children

He secretly drove them to our home country, high in the mountain

He arranged for them to travel across the sea to safety.

Our neighbours never knew.

The entire neighbourhood knew.

We will defend you against peril at the cost of our lives.

Our doors are always open.

It was human-to-human - true to our faith

Any villager would have done the same.

We welcomed them all with bread, salt and our hearts.

Why should we be honoured?

I did nothing special.

We acted from our hearts.

If need be, we would do it again.

Without hesitation.