

Children of different faiths sing songs of peace, tolerance at Daniel Pearl World Music Day

By Caroline An, Staff Writer
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PASADENA - Christian, Jewish and Muslim children sang songs of peace and tolerance at Daniel Pearl World Music Day.

The sixth-annual event for students from St. Mark's School, New Horizon School and Weizmann Day School was held at the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center last week, where an hourlong children's musical performance honored Daniel Pearl, the Wall Street Journal reporter killed by terrorists in Pakistan in 2002.

Lisa Feldman, head of Weizmann Day School, said the concert is an effective way to teach students about tolerance.

"By singing songs of peace, it follows Danny's commitment to using music as expression for peace and love," Feldman said. "The students remember this program, even after they leave our school and move on."



A portrait of journalist Daniel Pearl in corner of auditorium, as students from New Horizon School at Daniel Pearl World Music Days Concert sing a song. (SGVN/Staff Photo by Walt Mancini)

Pearl would have turned 46 on Oct. 10. During the month, musical concerts - in large stadiums and more intimate gatherings - are held around the world to promote fellowship and friendship across cultures.

Each of the local schools' choirs performed songs of peace.

The children and adults warmed up with a Jewish song. Translated, the chorus said, "Peace will yet come. Peace for us, and over the whole world."



Judea Pearl, Professor-President of Daniel Pearl Foundation speaking to the audience at the Pasadena Jewish Temple in Pasadena, about his son, journalist Daniel Pearl Wednesday October 14, 2009. (SGVN/Staff Photo by Walt Mancini)

Together, children and adults, also sang "God Bless America" and "This Land is Your Land."

Judea Pearl, said afterward it was "very emotional" to witness the enthusiasm shown by the children.

"Danny's spirit is here," Pearl said, adding that music was one of his son's talents. "I hope next year that all of the schools in Pasadena will hold these types of concerts."

Noor El-Farra, an eighth-grader at New Horizons School, has participated in the musical celebration for three years. It's an event she looks forward to, she said.

"I feel so comfortable when I come here," Noor said. "We are all of different religions and everyone is so accepting of each other."

Since 2002, Daniel Pearl World Music Days has grown to include more than 3,100 performances in 85 countries.



Paul Angers, music teacher at Weizmann Day School in Pasadena, playing music on the guitar as he leads his students in a performance for Daniel Pearl World Music Days Concert held October 14, 2009 at Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center.