



To benefit CRES and the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council,
we present an event for all faiths:



A Concert-Dialogue
with the **Barclay Martin Ensemble**
premiering a new song commissioned by CRES

to recognize the wisdom of the world's faith traditions

as we face crises in the environment, in what it means to be a person, and in how society should govern itself.

April 18 Saturday 8 pm — All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 45th and Walnut, KCMO

For a free Poster, Call 816 753 1633.
Or download it from our website.

See inside for more photos



Buy tickets for your
friends — children —
parents!

Join us —

In addition to the new song, the Barclay Martin Ensemble will perform some of their popular favorites, and former Interfaith Council convener **David Nelson** will lead the audience and the Ensemble members in an engaging conversation about the creative process of songwriting and music performance as a spiritual exploration.

This special evening is designed to appeal to all who love good music, with the unique format of special interest to those young in age as well as those young in spirit.

Barclay Martin, who won the recent musician of the year award from *KC Magazine*, has also written the music for the soundtrack of a movie documenting work in the Philippines of the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging where he helped realize a concert attracting an audience of 10,000 in an extremely poor area of the country with Christians, Muslims, and indigenous folks threatened by terrorism. His Ensemble includes pianist **Mark Lowrey**, bassist/vocalist **Rick Willoughby**, and drummer/percussionist **Giuliano Mingucci**.



\$10 in Advance
Purchase your ticket today!

- Draw** your check to CRES.
Mail \$10 for each ticket plus 50 cents for handling your order to CRES, Box 45414, KCMO 64171.
- Or** contact the Interfaith Council person of your faith or Executive Director, Shannon Clark, 913.548.2973.
- Or** OpenCircle ticketing, 816.931.0738

Co-sponsored by
Cultural Crossroads, Diversity Coalition, HateBusters, the Human Agenda, House of Menuha, Friends of Jung, the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging; other co-sponsorships pending.

Thanks to All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church for donating the facility.

The paradox in a paradise

Two minutes after I met local singer/songwriter Barclay Martin at a party before I ever heard him play, he was talking about paradox. The logo on his business card is a lion with butterfly wings, a rather paradoxical creature.

Paradox is a key theme in many religions. For example, the paradox of the incarnation, God become human in Jesus the Christ, is at the heart of Christianity.

But what did Martin mean about paradox?

I listened to his new CD, "Dawn," and began attending performances of the Barclay Martin Ensemble around town.

One paradox is that, like much great art, his folk-jazz-world music transforms the ordinary thud of life, or even its horrors, into beauty and healing.

Take his song, "Are You Listening?" One of my friends said the song could have been written for President George Bush, but I think it addresses the paradoxical and confused energies in all of us.

Except for the musical frame around its text, the song's questions about the "religion of war" would be too much to bear. It pleads, "Please won't you say there's a better way to lead the world to freedom?" and hints at the paradox of "singing hymns" while the world is being destroyed.

Which takes me to a paradoxical phrase that appears in a preview of the documentary for which he is creating the sound track: "This is paradise in hell."

The movie is "Zamboanga: Poverty/War/Music," filmed in a poor region of the Philippines where terrorist groups are active. While the film still being edited, you can see the preview at zamboangathemovie.com.

Martin was invited to go to the Philippines by the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging, the agency producing the film. Founded locally by lay Catholics, CFCA helps impoverished people of all faiths in 25 countries.

Martin's assignment was to help create a concert to cele-

brate a concert to celebrate the beautiful community spirit that paradoxically is found among the people of the Zamboanga area, with its mix of Christian, Muslim and indigenous religious practices.

At an early call for musicians, some teens showed up with electric guitars. Martin connected them with Filipino folk musicians who taught them traditional instruments.

A year later, ten thousand people showed up for the concert.

The ultimate paradox is too big for this column and all the volumes of theology, but Martin's music hints at it, that even in the hell we have made, we may make a heaven if we listen and see what we have done, and help one another.

ENSEMBLE MEMBERS

Mark Lowrey is a pianist/bandleader based in the Kansas City Metro area.



Although his roots are in jazz

music, Mark performs solo piano and in a wide variety of highly acclaimed ensembles, such as: Shay Estes and the Mark Lowrey Trio, the Mark Lowrey Trio, the Barclay Martin Ensemble, Tango Lorca, the New Order Big Band, and the Lonnie Mcfadden Quartet.

Mark also occasionally performs with the likes of Bobby Watson, Dave Stevens, Angela Hagenbach, and the McFadden Brothers. Mark frequently performs cabaret shows with some of Kansas City's finest actors including: Missy Koonce, Jessica Dresler, and many others.

In Nov/Dec 2007 he was the pianist for the Coterie Theatre's world premiere of the Harry Connick Jr. written musical "The Happy Elf."

Mark performed with Tango Lorca at the Argentine Consulate in New York city at the First Annual Tango Ensemble Competition. (2005) Tango Lorca received the second highest honor. In 2006, Mark was included in the Kansas City Star's "30 under 30." Most recently, he was nominated in the Pitch Music Awards in the category "Best Jazz Musician" (2007).



Rick Willoughby graduated from the



University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory of Music with a Jazz Performance degree in

2004. Rick has been studying string bass since the age of 11. Throughout his career, Rick has studied and taught various styles of bass technique. He has served on the faculty of the Kansas City School of Music.

Most recently he studied with Gerald Spaits, a Kansas City native and one of the foremost bass players in the area.

For the last ten years Rick has served as a band leader and a side man around the greater Kansas City area.

Rick is also the bass player and a composer for the performance art group, Quixotic Performance Ensemble.

Currently Rick is playing for the Kansas City Repertory Theater *Winesburg, Ohio* show at the Spencer Theatre.

In addition to playing bass with the BME, he also does vocals.

A bio-sketch of Giuliano



Minigucci, drums and percussion, to follow.

Barclay Martin Ensemble: A Concert-Dialogue April 18

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (March 3, 2009) — CRES, in cooperation with the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council, presents a special benefit concert April 18 Saturday 8pm at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut. The Barclay Martin Ensemble performs the world premiere of a song commissioned by CRES to recognize “the wisdom of the world’s traditions as we face crises in the environment, in what it means to be a person, and in how society should govern itself.

“These three themes arise from the Concluding Declaration of the 2001 Gifts of Pluralism interfaith conference,” said the Rev Vern Barnet, D Mn, who founded both CRES, a multi-faith community resource for exploring spirituality, and the Interfaith Council.

In addition to the new song, the Ensemble performs other selections from their repertoire, and David Nelson, former convener of the Interfaith Council, leads the audience and Ensemble members in a discussion of some of the lyrics, the music and the creative process as a spiritual exploration.

“The concert is designed to appeal to all who love good music, and the unusual format will be especially interesting for young people,” Barnet said.

The Barclay Martin Ensemble is an eclectic blend of multiple musical styles which emphasizes high-energy performance and fine musicianship. Their sound is a dedication to the soul of acoustic music, while pushing the boundaries of a genre often limited by tradition and convention. The audience is sure to experience a surprising and unique blend of folk, pop, world and jazz, with an insatiable energy that binds them together. With only two years together, the band was nominated for the ‘Best Folk/Americana’ group designation in *The Pitch* 2008. A ‘Best Local Entertainer’ 2008 Silver Medal came from *Ingram’s*. Martin won the Musician of the Year (2008) award from *KC Magazine*. Their CD “Dawn” was released at the Spencer Theatre at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in June, 2008.



Martin has appeared on “Up to Date” with Steve Kraske on KCUR-FM Radio, and articles about him have appeared in *The Kansas City Star*, *Present Magazine* and other publications. The group has performed at The Record Bar, Jardine’s, Bar Natasha, JP Wine Bar, and Blayney’s of Westport, Crosstown Station, Czar Bar, Prospero's Books and other venues here and around the country.

Martin has also written the music for the soundtrack of a full-length movie documenting work of the Christian Foundation for Children and Aging in the Philippines, where Martin helped realize a concert that attracted an audience of 10,000 people. The concert took place in a poor area, where

Christians, Muslims and indigenous people are threatened by terrorism. A pre-release preview of the film, entitled “Zamboanga,” will be shown at the concert.

In addition to Martin on vocals and guitar, the Ensemble includes

Mark Lowrey on piano, Giuliano Minigucci on drums and percussion, and Rick Willoughby on bass and vocals.



“Dawn” CD cover

Tickets for the event, which will benefit the Interfaith Council and CRES, are \$10 in advance. They are available from members of the Interfaith Council and from CRES. To receive tickets by mail, send a check payable to CRES for \$10 per ticket plus 50 cents for postage (regardless of the number of tickets purchased) to CRES, Box 45414, Kansas City, MO 64171.

For more photos and more information about the concert, visit www.cres.org or e-mail staff@cres.org.

For more information about Barclay Martin, visit www.barclaymartin.com or www.myspace.com/barclaymartin. For more information about the movie “Zamboanga,” visit www.zamboangathemovie.com.

Please subscribe. YOUR GIFT entitles you to **Many Paths** and supports our programs and activities. Thank you.

Please check your address label and notify us with any corrections. Our IRS 501(c)(3) tax number is 48-0953375.

Updated frequently: photos and news of recent events and a calendar of future activities, please visit www.cres.org.



CRES Benefit Concert
 with the **Barclay Martin Ensemble**
 Purchase your tickets now!
 April 18 Saturday 8 pm
 All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, 4501 Walnut

Many Paths
 Vol 25 #2 Special
 World Faiths Center for Religious Experience and Study
 Box 45414
 Kansas City, MO 64171

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
 US POSTAGE PAID
 Shawnee Mission, KS
 Permit 660

A Way of Looking at **Our Desacralized Society** and the **World's Religions** as a Whole System

Crisis	Examples of secularism's crises	Faith Family	Sacred is found in	Perversion
Environmental	pollution (toxic wastes, as from the auto) overpopulation; loss of diversity of species deforestation; global warming damaged and dying oceanic life	PRIMAL Ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Roman; Mayan, Incan; American Indian and Tribal African; and many others.	Nature (ecological interdependence)	Superstition
Personal Identity	addiction (substances, consumerism, power) dependencies (handling others' feelings) prejudice (sexism, racism, homophobia) loss of sense of vocation and direction	ASIAN Hinduism, Buddhism Jainism, Confucianism, Taoism, etc. See note, right, and below for Sikhism	Consciousness (inner awareness, Larger Self)	Narcissism
Social Cohesion	violence (in movies, games, real lives); terrorism exploitation (disparity between rich and poor) disengaged citizenry (private over common weal) using religion for political or partisan purposes	MONOTHEISTIC Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Sikhism, Bahá'í, Zoroastrianism, Unitarian Universalism, Marxism, American Civil Religion, etc.	History of covenanted community	Self-Righteousness

As with any generalization, exceptions and qualifications abound. For example, Shinto is Asian but is really a nature religion, Sikhism is sometimes regarded as syncretistic, and Marxism may be atheistic. Nonetheless, this scheme may be useful as a starting point for study.
 This outline does not characterize any faith; it simply suggests some ways of looking at similarities and differences from the point of view of some students of comparative religion, but it does not mean that anyone who follows any particular religious path will agree with the generalization. Indeed, in any richly developed faith, elements of many other faiths can also be found, though they may not be as frequently emphasized.

PRIMAL faiths emphasize	NATURE is to be respected more than controlled; it is a process which includes us, not a product external to us to be used or disposed of. Our proper attitude toward nature is awe, not utility.
ASIAN faiths emphasize	WHO WE ARE IS DEEPER THAN WE APPEAR TO BE; this mean our acts should proceed beyond convention, spontaneously and responsibly from duty and compassion, without ultimate attachment to their results.
MONOTHEISTIC faiths emphasize	THE FLOW OF HISTORY TOWARD JUSTICE is possible when persons in community govern themselves less by profit and more by the covenant of service.
Liberation movements demonstrate	Those disempowered by a secular age may, through the varied struggles, show THE IMPULSE TOWARD THE SACRED in fresh ways.

How terms are used	
<i>Secular</i>	fragmented, partial, divided, unrelated; the profane.
<i>Sacred</i>	ultimate worth, the network on which all depends, cornerstone of all values, holy, holistic, wholesome, sensed in "peak experiences," cosmic connectedness, which shape or direct or give meaning to life, opening us to the Infinite in nature, personhood, society.
<i>Religion</i>	arises from the search for, and encounters with, the sacred: we discover how to live in the world; the holy evokes wonder, grows in gratitude, matures in service.
<i>Spiritual</i>	breathing with a sense of what really counts.

This chart builds on the "Gifts of Pluralism" Conference held 2001 Oct. 27-28 (and part of Oct. 26), at Pembroke Hill School on State Line, with 250 people representing 15 faith groups — American Indian, Bahá'í, Buddhist, Christian (Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox), Free Thinkers, Hindu, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh, Sufi, Unitarian Universalist, Wiccan, and Zoroastrian.

