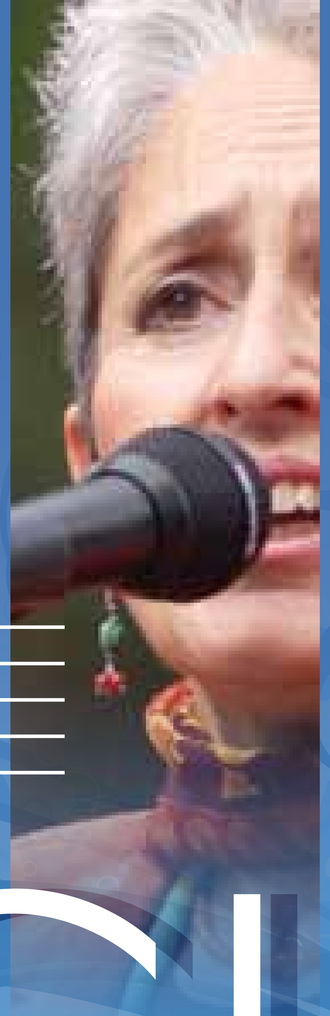

VOICES OF CHANGE

THE POWER OF WOMEN

Throughout history, women have worked tirelessly—often behind the scenes—for the peace and safety of their families and their communities. Today women are taking leading roles in the quest for peaceful solutions to problems as well as equal rights.

Musical performers have a unique forum for expressing their commitment to charitable causes and to peace. The talented women portrayed here devote themselves to causes ranging from the plight of homeless women to AIDS awareness.

All of these women are, in their own ways, **ambassadors for peace.**

"The worst disease in the world is hate.
And the cure for hate is love."

INDIA.ARIE

India.Arie (she added the period because it looked good in a logo) is a singer-songwriter, and a "hot and hip" performer with a trademark blend of R&B, jazz, folk, hip-hop and pop.

Born in Denver, CO, in 1975, music was always in Arie's life. She began playing the guitar at 13, and her first album, "Acoustic Soul," (2001) brought her seven Grammy nominations—the most of any solo artist in a single year. Her fourth album, "Testimony: Vol. 2, Love & Politics," (2009) expresses what she says is her real self – the album stresses planetary interconnections and the importance of worldwide dialogue. Arie also appears on Herbie Hancock's 2010 "Imagine Project." She has four Grammies and a number of other music awards including two "Best Female Artist" BET awards.

Arie is a UNICEF Ambassador and travels to Africa on behalf of AIDS awareness. She starred in an AIDS awareness TV special and regularly performs on behalf of causes including breast cancer awareness, and fundraising for Oprah Winfrey's Leadership Academy for Girls as well as at many UNICEF events.

"That's all nonviolence is — organized love."

JOAN BAEZ

Joan Baez, (b 1941) has been called "a force of nature." For more than fifty years, she has devoted her career and fame as folk-rock singer to peace and to human rights.

Inspired by a Pete Seeger concert when she was eight, as a teenager Joan gave her first concert in a Cambridge, Massachusetts coffee shop and had her first recording contract at 20. Her "otherworldly" voice made her a star in the American folk revival of the 1960s and 70s. Through the years Baez has continued to record and perform in concerts and has released more than 50 albums. Baez has numerous honorary degrees and awards. In 2011, she was the first recipient of Amnesty International's "Joan Baez Award for Outstanding Inspirational Service in the Global Fight for Human Rights."

Baez says that social justice is the true core of her life. In the 1960s, she marched with Martin Luther King, and later was a prominent supporter of Cesar Chavez and the farm workers union. She has long been the voice of anti-war movements, and has appeared at events supporting gay and lesbian rights, environmental causes and against poverty and the death penalty.

"Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."

ELLA FITZGERALD

Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1997) was known as the "First Lady of Song." During her 59-year recording career she was known for her vocal purity and astonishing range.

Fitzgerald suffered many traumas during her early life – she was raised on the streets of New York, in an orphan asylum, and a state reformatory. After she escaped from the reformatory, she was homeless for a time. She made her singing debut in 1934 at the famed Apollo Theater in Harlem, sang with big bands, and launched a solo recording career. In 1956, her career took a leap forward when she released "Ella Fitzgerald Sings the Cole Porter Songbook," launching a series known as "The Great American Songbook." Her more than 70 recordings include three from Montreux. Fitzgerald won 13 Grammies, the Congressional Medal of Freedom, a Kennedy Center Honor and many other awards.

During her long life, Fitzgerald played hundreds of benefit concerts and contributed to numerous causes, particularly those caring for needy children. In 1993, she established the Ella Fitzgerald Charitable Foundation to continue her work on behalf of children, providing health care and musical education to at-risk young people.

"**I believe** AIDS is the most important issue we face, because how we treat the poor is a reflection of who we are as a people."

ALICIA KEYS

Alicia Keys (b 1981) grew up in the Hell's Kitchen area of New York City. She was raised by a single mother who struggled to provide Alicia with singing and piano lessons. At age seven Keys was playing classical music on the piano; she had a recording contract at 16. Keys studied at the famed Professional Performing Arts School where she was valedictorian of her class.

In 2001, Keys first studio album, "Songs in A Minor," sold more than 12 million copies and won five Grammy awards. Since then, her albums have sold more than 30 million copies. She was Billboard magazine's top R&B artist of the 2000-2009 decade and in 2010, she was named one of VH1's 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

Keys uses her fame to support many charities and causes. She co-founded "Keep a Child Alive," providing medicine to people with AIDS and HIV in Africa, where she frequently travels. Keys and U2's Bono's recording of "Don't Give Up" raised money for African relief. Keys performs in and sponsors many charity concerts and is a spokesperson for "Frum tha Ground Up," dedicated to inspiring American youth.

"My parents taught me to be a person with a social conscious — and that what you give is never lost."

ANGELIQUE KIDJO

Angelique Kidjo (b 1960) has been called "Africa's premier diva." A singer-songwriter and activist, she is noted for diverse musical influences and groundbreaking music videos.

Kidjo was born in Benin and grew up listening to Beninese traditional music and a wide range of pop and jazz musicians. She made her first album as a teenager, moved to Paris in 1983 where she studied jazz singing and met and married producer Jean Hebrail. By the end of the 1980s, she was one of the most popular live performers in Paris, where she made her first recordings. Her eleven albums and dynamic live performances have made her an international star. Winner of a Grammy for Best Contemporary World Music Album (2008) and many international awards, Kidjo is the Fourth laureate of the Antonio Carlos Jobim Award for world music.

Kidjo is known for her outspoken commitment to social justice and human rights. She is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, and has delivered countless speeches on issues facing women and children. Her foundation, Batonga, supports education for girls in Africa. She regularly performs in concerts to aid UNICEF, and supports LiveEarth, Amnesty International, and OXFAM.

"I look at an ant and I see myself: a native South African, endowed by nature with a strength much greater than my size so I might cope with the weight of a racism that crushes my spirit."

MIRIAM MAKEBA

Miriam Makeba, (1932 – 2008)) the legendary "Mama Africa," began her career in her native South Africa, singing a blend of jazz and South African music.

Makeba went to the United States in 1959. When she attempted to go home, she discovered that because of her anti-apartheid work, the South African government had revoked her citizenship. In exile, Makeba continued to perform in America where many of her most famous hits were recorded. She moved to Guinea in the 1970s and to Brussels in 1985. She toured the world with Paul Simon and the "Graceland" Tour. Nelson Mandela persuaded her to return to South Africa in 1990, where she appeared in films and concerts. Makeba received numerous awards and honors, including the Dag Hammarskjöld Peace Prize and the Otto Hahn Peace Medal.

In addition to her anti-Apartheid activities, Makeba had many charitable interests. She was a Goodwill Ambassador of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, and worked on behalf of children suffering from HIV/AIDS. In 2005, she began a worldwide farewell tour, preparing to devote more time to her center for homeless girls in Johannesburg. She died in 2008, following a charity concert in Italy.

"You can only grow as an artist as long as you allow yourself the time to grow as a person."

SADE

Sade (b 1959) is a singer-songwriter, composer and record producer. She is the most successful solo female artist in British history, having sold over 50 million albums worldwide.

Born in Nigeria to an African father and an English mother, Sade was raised in England by her mother and grandparents. She and her band produced a series of hit albums, beginning with 1984's "Diamond Life." Her Grammy-winning 2010 album, "Soldier of Love," is the sixth album the group has released. She says "I only make records when I feel I have something to say. I'm not interested in releasing music just for the sake of selling something." Among her numerous honors, Sade has won four Grammies, and was named to VH1's list of 100 Greatest Women of Rock and Roll. In 2002 she was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to popular music.

Sade regularly appear at events supporting her favorite charities, including performances for LiveAid, a Voices for Darfur concert in London, and a 2010 charity ball to support the Keep A Child Alive Foundation. She sings on the 2011 "Songs for Japan" album, a compilation made to support Japanese earthquake and tsunami victims.

"I speak of the women of Africa and of the whole world. I fight for the improvement of women's situation. So I sing her cause."

OUMOU SANGARÉ

Oumou Sangaré (b 1968) has been called the greatest female African star of her generation.

Sangaré was born in Bamako, Mali. She began her singing career at age six, and by the time she was 13 she was the family breadwinner. At 18, she was discovered singing on the street. Sangaré's first album, "Moussolou," (Women) made her a sensation in Mali. Her second album was voted "European World Music Album of the Year." Many of Sangaré's songs deal with the plight of women in Africa, forced into marriage as children and into servitude by their polygamous husbands. She was made a commander of the Arts and Letters of the Republic of France in 1998 and In 2003, she was appointed a United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization Ambassador.

Sangaré 's many charitable interests include fighting against female circumcision and supporting Mali's Mother and Children's Association, which donates food to mothers in need. A 2001 UNESCO Prize praises her contributions to "the enrichment of music as well as for the cause of peace, for the understanding among peoples and international cooperation."

"Those who have suffered understand suffering and therefore extend their hand."

PATTI SMITH

Songwriter, poet and visual artist Patti Smith (b 1946) has been called "the poet laureate of punk rock."

Smith was attracted to the arts and human rights issues from an early age. In 1967 she met and moved in with photographer Robert Mapplethorpe, and her first album, 1975's "Horses," had an iconic Mapplethorpe cover photo. Later albums established her status as a punk rock icon. Smith continues to record, to perform, to write and to create art. The author of more than fifteen books, she is currently working on a mystery set in London. Among her many honors, Smith was named a Commander of the French Ordre des Arts et des Lettres in 2005, and inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2007. She won the National Book Award in 2010 for "Just Kids," a memoir describing her tumultuous relationship with Mapplethorpe.

Smith is a human rights and political activist. She campaigned for Ralph Nadar in his 2000 US presidential campaign, worked for John Kerry's 2004 campaign and makes frequent appearances at anti-war events and rallies. She continues to write protest songs, as she has throughout her career — 1988's "People Have the Power" has become a populist anthem.

"To me, a feminist belongs in the same category as a humanist or an advocate for human rights. I don't see why someone who's a feminist should be thought of differently."

SUZANNE VEGA

Suzanne Vega (b 1959) writes and sings folk-inspired music with literate lyrics. A 2010 review says that her voice "conveys an inviolable purity of heart tinged with mystery and a faraway melancholy."

Vega began writing poetry at nine and wrote her first song at 14. She grew up in New York City, attended the High School of Performing Arts and went on to major in English literature at Barnard College. She began performing in small folk venues while she was in college and received her first major label recording contract in 1984. Her 1985 self-titled debut album was critically acclaimed. Vega emerged as a leader of the folk revival of the early 1980s, when two of her songs reached top-ten chart listings. She has released ten studio albums and also writes short stories and poetry. She is currently "re-imagining" and re-recording her work in a series of acoustic albums. Among Vega's honors are a 2010 National Music Council American Eagle Award and a Women's Project Woman of Achievement award.

Vega dedicates much of her time and energy to charitable causes, particularly Amnesty International, Casa Alianza, which works with street children and homeless young people in Central America and Mexico, and the Save Darfur Coalition.

"Throughout the long history of humanity, women have suffered the most whenever society has been wracked by war, violence, oppression, abuse of human rights, disease and famine. But it has been women, in spite of this, who have persevered in turning society in the direction of good, in the direction of hope and in the direction of peace."

DAISAKU IKEDA

ICAP

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ARTISTS FOR PEACE

ICAP Peace Concert with Herbie Hancock and Wayne Shorter in Hiroshima, Japan.

The International Committee of Artists for Peace (ICAP) is an organization of passionately committed individuals using the creative power of the arts to bring about a peaceful society. Collaborating with individuals and organizations that share its mission for peace, ICAP employs dialogue and the full creative power of the arts to instill the ideals of humanism and nonviolence in today's youth. Since 2002, ICAP has sponsored concerts, exhibits and dialogues in support of the United Nations Declaration and Program of Action on a Culture of Peace.

ICAP's mission is to establish peace and develop peacemakers through the transformative power of art. Its goal is to continue expanding circles of peace and friendship through culture and the arts around the globe.

Music legend Quincy Jones receives the ICAP Humanity in the Arts Peace Award.

Carlos Santana and Herbie Hancock, ICAP board members, present the Humanity in the Arts Peace Award to Claude Nobs, Founder and CEO of the Montreux Jazz Festival.

Nobel Peace Prize winner Betty Williams speaks at the Culture of Peace exhibit opening at the UN Headquarters in New York.

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