



## Press Release

Contact: Ethan Gans-Morse  
Phone: 541-778-1211  
Email: ethan@animamundiproductions.com  
Web: www.AnimaMundiProductions.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Ashland, Oregon

### **Local Arts Organization Presents a Week of *Peace through Music* Events**

Anima Mundi Productions, a Rogue Valley-based nonprofit organization dedicated to “healing the soul of the world through the arts,” proudly announces *Peace Through Music*, a week of free events featuring Syrian-American pianist, composer, and peace activist Malek Jandali, culminating in a formal concert at SOU on October 6.

- **September 30-October 7:** Lithia Park and Corner of S. Pioneer and E. Main  
***Pianos for Peace Oregon***  
Anima Mundi Productions will make available two beautifully painted pianos for the general public to view and play during a week-long “Pianos for Peace” Festival in downtown Ashland. One piano, to be found in front of the Black Swan Theatre at the corner of S. Pioneer and E. Main streets, has been painted by a team of professional artists led by local painters Judy Grillo and Tiziana DellaRovere. A second piano, to be found near the playground in Lithia Park, has been painted by students of art teacher Jessica Rollins at North Phoenix High School. More information about Pianos for Peace further below in this Release.
- **Wednesday, October 2, 3:30-4:30 pm:** Thalden Pavilion on Walker Ave.  
***Pianos for Peace Oregon Launch Event***  
Anima Mundi Productions presents a brief program of musical performances by Malek Jandali, Michael Silversher, and the Rogue Valley Peace Choir. This “ribbon-cutting” event is produced in collaboration with the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission and marks the formal launch of Pianos for Peace Oregon. The program includes acknowledgment of the many visual artists who worked on the project, as well as the bestowal of Malek Jandali’s annual Pianos for Peace award to a Rogue Valley citizen in recognition of a career dedicated to promoting peace through the arts.
- **Wednesday, October 2, 7:00-8:30 pm:** Havurah Shir Hadash, 185 N Mountain Ave.  
***Peace through Music Interfaith Event***  
Anima Mundi Productions and the Havurah Shir Hadash Synagogue present an interfaith presentation on the theme of overcoming conflict through music. Malek Jandali will share profoundly moving stories of traveling the world to preserve the musical heritage of his native Syria through his compositions which incorporate ancient melodies from Aleppo, Damascus, and other stops on the Silk Road.



- **Thursday, October 3: JPR radio** (the program runs between 8:00-10:00 am)  
*Jefferson Exchange*

Malek will appear on the *Jefferson Exchange* morning program to talk about *Pianos for Peace*, his musical work, and his week of performances in Ashland.

- **Thursday, October 3, 7:00-8:30 pm: Peace House, 543 S. Mountain Ave.**  
*Overcoming War's Impact On Culture*

Peace House Director Elizabeth Hallett will moderate a discussion featuring Malek Jandali and members of the Rogue Valley Peace Community discussing how culture—while at risk of being annihilated by war—is nevertheless a powerful resource for promoting peace, even in the context of Syria's ongoing brutal Civil War.

- **Sunday, October 6: 3:00 pm: SOU Music Recital Hall, 450 S Mountain Ave.**  
*Peace Through Music: The Malek Jandali Trio*

Malek's time in Ashland concludes with a formal recital program of his original works. He will be joined by two longtime Ashland favorites, cellist Michal Palzewicz and former OSF musician and SOU professor David Rogers, who will perform on the oud, the Middle-Eastern ancestor of the lute. This is the only event requiring a paid ticket, which can be purchased at [humanitytickets.com](http://humanitytickets.com) or by calling (541) 833-3066.

### **Pianos for Peace Oregon**

Malek Jandali is the founder of *Pianos for Peace*, an Atlanta-based non-profit that runs an annual open festival of music using pianos painted by local artists and placed in public spaces for all to play and enjoy in order to unite people in the community. To date, *Pianos for Peace* has partnered with more than 20 non-profit organizations, engaged more than 50 artists in community volunteer programs, and donated 95 pianos to local community-based organizations in metro Atlanta.

Anima Mundi Productions is proud to collaborate with Mr. Jandali to create our Ashland-based *Pianos for Peace Oregon* program. More information at [PianosforPeace.org](http://PianosforPeace.org) and [animamundiproductions.com/p4p](http://animamundiproductions.com/p4p)

*Pianos for Peace Oregon* is generously sponsored by Sarah and Bill Epstein. Additional funding for Malek's performances in Ashland is made possible by grants from the Jackson County Cultural Coalition of the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Oregon Arts Commission, and the James F. & Marion L. Miller Foundation.

### **The Heart of Humanity Concert Series**

*Peace Through Music: The Malek Jandali Trio* is the first concert in a new series which will debut this fall in Ashland. All of these concerts will take place in the Oregon Center for the Arts Music Recital Hall on Mountain Ave. on the campus of Southern Oregon University. The upcoming 2019-2020 season will be the inaugural year for this series, with concerts planned on October 6, 2019, January 12, 2020, and April 26, 2020.



# ANIMA MUNDI PRODUCTIONS

Healing the soul of the world through the arts

Our concert co-sponsors for *Peace Through Music: The Malek Jandali Trio* are James Collier and Rita Reitz.

*The Heart of Humanity* concert series is distinguished for its strong emphasis on addressing an urgent social theme at each concert, often through the creation and premiere of new and inspiring concert works by composers who are directly involved in the concert.

Tickets to the inaugural season of *The Heart of Humanity* concert series are on sale at [www.HumanityTickets.com](http://www.HumanityTickets.com) or by calling 541-833-3066.

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Anima Mundi Productions is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to creating, promoting, and producing original works that harness the power of art to stir the soul, foster community, and address urgent social problems.

For further press inquiries, please contact executive director Ethan Gans-Morse: 541-778-1211 or [ethan@animamundiproductions.com](mailto:ethan@animamundiproductions.com)