



from Garth...

Song for Palestine

Garth's first live concert for 16 months!

Also being live-streamed



It was the 14th of March 2020 and I was due to do a concert in Swansea that night. Gill and I were in Bristol and were getting ready to come across to Wales. I was chatting with Alan Cram, organiser of the gig, and we hummed and hawed about what we should do over the concert. Events had begun to be cancelled - a major rugby match in Cardiff Arms Park had been postponed - and people had begun to be concerned about events and gigs. So we decided to postpone. Two or three days later everything stopped. So

that was it for sixteen

months. So I'm particularly pleased that we are planning to do a concert in Ipswich on the 23rd of July. Special thanks to Barbara Mayhew of Kevin Mayhew Publishing and Kevin Duncan of GingerDog Records who came up with the idea of doing a concert for Palestine. They had approached Rev Robert Hinsley of St Peter's Church Ipswich asking if his church could be the venue.

I first met Robert when he was helping at St George's Cathedral Jerusalem and I have twice done concerts for him in Ipswich - so I'm delighted to be giving a concert for Palestine in his church.

It will not only be a pleasure to have some "live" people actually in front of me! But also we will be live-streaming the concert. I will be joined by a band - Kevin has produced and played on all my recent albums and we'll be having a bunch of other musicians that I've worked with regularly.

I'm glad we're doing 'Song for Palestine' because Palestine can drift out of the news very easily. Attacks on the Palestinians are going on all the time but not being reported. This morning I was reading a report about demonstrators breaking into an Israeli arms factory in Tamworth - they did this in response to attacks on Friday in the West Bank village of Beita. I hadn't heard about this at all in the mainline press. However I checked the incident on Al Jazeera and discovered that 379 demonstrators were wounded in the incident in Beita, including 31 by live ammunition. Similar confrontations were going on in Kafr Qaddum and in Beit Dajan where dozens of Palestinians were treated for the effects of tear gas. Both Israeli and Palestinian estimates indicate that there are about 650,000 settlers in the Occupied West Bank including East Jerusalem. Under International Law all Israeli settlements in the Occupied Territories are illegal. The international silence over this by governments and media simply doesn't help either Palestinian or Israeli. Silence helps nobody. So 'Song for Palestine' will try to reflect aspects of their story - the need for justice and equality for all - and it will also be a prayer for peace. We have always maintained justice and equality and peace for Palestinians will also mean peace and security for Israel.

The livestream is free - you need to register here to receive the link.

Or if you are near enough to attend in person, order your tickets here

If you prefer you can simply email your interest in either the livestream or the

live performance by emailing info@garthhewitt.org

The concert will be recorded and the link to watch it will be sent out to those who have registered on Eventbrite

This is not what God intended

The church is sometimes also too quiet on this, but here are some prophetic words from US church leader, the Revd Dr Herbert Nelson of the General Assembly of the

Prayer

A line from the liturgy at St Botolph's Aldgate last Sunday jumped out at me! and sparked off a little prayer about Jesus the Liberator. It's called God of our Pilgrimage.

God of our pilgrimage
You lead us to living water
Refresh us and sustain us
As we go forward on our journey
Refresh us with your love and generosity
Inspire us to do the tasks that should be
done -

Deeds of hope, caring and justice In the name of the peacemaker And healer from Nazareth Jesus the Liberator

Amen



Coth Hewith

All proceeds of the concert will be going to Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza you can donate here

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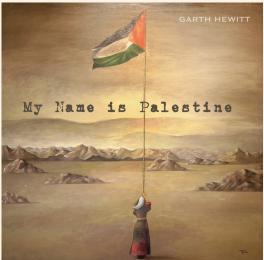
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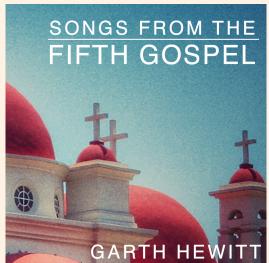
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isobel@garthhewitt.org for more info.

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A CD of songs emphasising the dignity and value of each human being, with a strong rejection of the arms trade and war - click here to order your copy



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