

Country: *Israel and Palestine*

Name: *West-Eastern Divan Orchestra-Barenboim-Said Foundation*

Artistic Medium: *Music*

Contact:

BARENBOIM-SAID FOUNDATION

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http://www.qantara.de/webcom/show_article.php/_c-587/_nr-7/_p-1/i.html?PHPSESSID=5

<http://www.barenboim-said.org/>

Objective: To show that Israelis and Arabs can work and live together peacefully.

The « West-East Divan » was started by the Israeli conductor Daniel Barenboim and his Palestinian friend, the recently deceased writer Edward Said. The project organizes an annual music workshop originally in Weimar and Chicago and then after 2002 in Andalusia for young talent. The workshop does not only serve to provide music lessons but provides an opportunity to discuss the various viewpoints of the Arab Israeli conflict and to live side by side with those that they are traditionally in conflict with. At the end of the workshop which lasts several weeks, the musicians go on tour to show their understanding to more people and play in major cities all over the world as well as occupied Palestinian areas and its first Arab country, Morocco.

The only political aspect that permeates the Workshop is the understanding that there is no military solution to the conflict. An equal number of Israeli and Arab musicians provide the base of the orchestra, joined by andalusian players. An added group of students from Spain and Palestine attend the workshop as observers.

The Barenboim-Said foundation which was set up in Andalusia hopes also to set up an academy for orchestral study that will complement the studies of Andalusian music students. Seville seemed a natural setting as Jews, Christians and Muslims live peacefully together in that region.

In Palestine, with cooperation from the Edward Said National Conservatory of Music, professional musicians teach children and young adults from the refugee camps, mainly AmAri and Qadura. The program hopes to extend its operations to children in Jenin, Nablus, Al-Khalil (Hebron) and Gaza.

