

International Peace Day Concert

4 p.m. Sunday, September 20

Livestreamed from oakland.edu/smtd

BACKGROUND: Established by a United Nations resolution in 1981, the International Day of Peace provides a “globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.” Celebrate Peace Day at Oakland University with Mark Stone, Associate Professor of World Music and Percussion, as he shares a program featuring original compositions for the newly-invented Array Mbira, an American-made 120 key lamellaphone. The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.”

PRESIDENT ORA HIRSCH PESCOVITZ’S REMARKS

- I am so pleased to be with you to honor International Peace Day, and to introduce the first concert on campus since the March shut down.
- Thank you to Dean Kevin Corcoran, Amy Tully and the School of Music, Theatre and Dance for coordinating this important observance.
- And thank you to Professor Mark Stone for arranging a program of globally-inspired percussion pieces that inspire us to think more broadly about the musical connections among world cultures.
- One of my greatest pleasures as president is to attend concerts, plays and events on campus. Like all of you, I value the shared sense of purpose and vital connection I feel from being a part of the OU community.

- At this coming together of International Peace Day, entitled “Shaping Peace Together,” let’s take a moment to share a hopeful intention for the day to arrive when the pandemic will be under control, and we will once again be together in classrooms, auditoriums, theaters and other venues.
- There is so much in today’s observance of the International Day of Peace that aligns with our values at Oakland University.
- We take great pride in being an open, accepting campus that celebrates diversity, equity and inclusivity – a campus that strives to be respectful to all, a campus where students, faculty and staff reflect the values of integrity, honesty, and the pursuit of knowledge and the truth.
- The International Day of Peace is a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. One day of non-violence is the goal. One day....What does that say about the need for each of us to address the ongoing violence and exploitation that troubles our world?
- Today, we face a common enemy in COVID-19. As we are seeing in this country and around the world, it’s a battle that must be addressed openly and collaboratively based on science and sound public health policies, not self-aggrandizing politics.

- As each of us wears a mask and maintain our “social distance,” we must be careful to become emotionally distant with each other. Our strength is remaining together as a community, and remaining aware, educated and engaged about the issues shaping our world – issues relating to human rights, climate change, the need for civility in our political discourse, and the need for more compassion.

- As we listen and appreciate Mark’s original compositions, let’s be reminded of the influence of global music on the minds and voices of people around the world working to “shape peace together”

- And on International Peace Day, let’s all stand together for peace and a better future.

- Thank you.