



A project of the  
Custody of the Holy Land



## Music and Life in Jerusalem

### Fundraising to support the activities and the future of the Magnificat

*I trust that the harmony of music, which knows no social and religious barriers, is a constant invitation all people of good will to seek together the universal language of love that makes them capable of building a world of justice and solidarity, of hope and peace. Pope Benedict XVI*

The complex and unresolved political situation in the holy city of Jerusalem is a cause of great social instability affecting primarily young people who are easily influenced to become involved in organized crime. Unfortunately, this usually involves the consumption and trafficking of drugs. For many young people, there just seems to be no viable alternative. Opportunities for public education are few and there are no places to gather, to say nothing of employment opportunities. Many find themselves living in a state of high neglect and poverty. However, notwithstanding these negative factors, the close physical proximity of Jews, Christians, and Muslims, in this ancient area of the city, can be seen as an opportunity for dialogue, exchange, and acquiring knowledge of the other.

### The Project

Music is the Art that unites, brings together, overcomes differences, and challenges standard ways of thinking, even those most common in the Holy Land: those that pit Arab against Jew. The Magnificat Institute of Jerusalem was founded in 1995, thanks to the work of musician and composer, Fr. Armando Pierucci. Currently, the Institute counts among its ranks 200 Muslim, Christian, and Jewish students studying various disciplines. The musical activities outside of school provide great opportunities and hope for the children of the Old City, and for their families.



The main objective of the project Music and Life in Jerusalem is to sustain the activities of the Magnificat Institute whose primary goal is to foster encounter, dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and human and social development amongst people of diverse cultural and

religious backgrounds. Learning music provides a very worthwhile alternative to the abandonment and organized street crime that has rapidly spread throughout the Old City of Jerusalem.



The Magnificat Institute has as its goal the promoting of knowledge about music with particular attention to the cultural heritage of various local communities. The target goals at the heart of the Institute are as follows:

- Prepare teachers capable of teaching and transmitting love for music in schools;
- Singing and playing in shrines and parishes of the Holy Land, in particular the Holy Sepulcher;
- Creating opportunities, both choral and instrumental, to break down the cultural, religious and linguistic barriers and foment peaceful and friendly relationships.

Given the critical social context in which the Magnificat Institute finds itself, only some of the students are able to pay the tuition to attend the Institute. So that Magnificat can continue its vital work, it desperate needs the support of people of good will.

To find out more: [www.proterrasancta.org](http://www.proterrasancta.org)

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**Support the Holy Places. Maintain the Christian Community in the Holy Land.**

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**ATS Pro Terra Sancta** is the non-governmental charitable organization of the Franciscans in the Holy Land. The mission of the NGO is to serve the Custody of the Holy Land in its proper task of: maintaining and promoting the Holy Places, keeping up the Christian Community in the Middle East, advancing peace and dialogue.