

Conservation Concerts
Abaca Productions – Wendy Sayvetz, Director
711 West End Avenue, #7C-South
New York, New York 10025
(212) 316-6372 (917) 715-8506
wendy@abacaproductions.com
www.abacaproductions.com

Enjoy outstanding, affordable, close-to-home concerts with friends, neighbors and family while helping to protect and preserve the earth's environment. Conservation Concerts brings performing artists and audiences together to support environmental protection and conservation through an ongoing series of community based benefit concerts.

The Mission of Conservation Concerts is...

- To raise substantial funds for America's most active and effective environmental protection, conservation, and advocacy organizations.
- To raise awareness and inspire both individual and community action for/towards protecting the earth and all living things from the threat of global warming/climate change and other human-caused environmental deterioration and destruction.
- To provide people of all backgrounds and ages with enjoyable, communal, affordable, and inspiring entertainment that is *also* a meaningful way to protect/preserve our planet.

The Motivation Behind Conservation Concerts is...

- Climate change/global warming will – and is already beginning to – have devastating consequences on all living things in every corner of the globe
- Climate change impacts all of us regardless of nationality, race, class, or age and therefore can (and must) be a mission that unites EVERYONE.
- Environmental preservation and the creation of new clean energy sources is the single greatest source of new jobs for the 21st Century.
- Conservation of natural resources directly or indirectly impacts all major global issues/crises: including economics, poverty, disease, violent conflict, and terrorism.

How Conservation Concerts Works

Community organizations and individuals are enlisted to host/facilitate benefit concerts to raise money for reputable environmental protection/conservation organizations.

Logistics, production, and promotion (getting people to the concert) are managed and coordinated by Conservation Concerts together with the concert host(s). The primary responsibility of the concert host is to promote the concert within their organization or to invite people if the concert is being held in their home or some other private venue.

Venues can be almost anything/anywhere: churches, synagogues, and other religious organizations, social clubs, community centers, neighborhood or block associations, schools, colleges, college dormitories, theater groups, choirs, workplaces, private homes, apartment buildings whether tenants associations or co-op boards - basically anything/anyplace no matter how large or small where a group of people can gather to enjoy live music.

Performing Artists will come from a pool of New York City's finest free-lance musicians and actors. For the introductory/launch phase of Conservation Concerts, musicians will be either folk-singer, Wendy Sayvetz or 8 string guitarist, Andrew Schulman, performing separately as soloists or together. As we expand our network of concert hosts and obtain sponsorship, the roster of performers will expand greatly. Performers can provide their own portable sound systems if necessary.

Environmental Beneficiary Organizations will be among the most active, effective and reputable environmental protection/conservation/advocacy organizations and can be local, regional, or national/international. A beneficiary organization can recommended by Conservation Concerts and/or chosen by the concert host. For a partial list of suggested organizations with links to their websites, see "Potential Environmental Protection Beneficiaries" (link to this page of the section).

Financial Structure is based entirely upon ticket/admissions receipts and sales of artist CD's. As we expand, corporate sponsorship will be solicited to help cover certain production and artist costs. Suggested concert admission/donation: \$10: less or free if necessary; more if able; kids under 18 free. Artist CD price: \$10.

1. 50% of all receipts are donated to selected Environmental beneficiary organization
2. 50% of all receipts goes to Conservation Concerts for: a) artists' honoraria
b) administrative expenses c) any necessary expense reimbursement to host

The way you can participate is by facilitating or hosting a benefit concert as described in the top paragraph above. We'll work with you (or the organization) every step of the way to coordinate all production, logistics, and promotion details and to choose/liason with an appropriate beneficiary.

Contact Wendy Sayvetz at wendy@abacaproductions.com or call (212) 316-6372.
We welcome your participation and partnership!

How the Idea for Conservation Concerts Evolved

For the past 20 years I have had the incredible privilege of singing and playing guitar as part of MTA/Arts for Transit's "Music Under New York" program, performing several times a week in Grand Central Terminal and Penn Station. Being part of this program has been nothing less than a magnificent gift that I could never have planned in a million years. Over all this time, every single time I perform I am deeply moved by the kindness, generosity, and enthusiasm of the people who stop to listen, throw tips into my guitar case, purchase CD's, and/or share their appreciation. For 20 years I have earned my living from this extraordinary graciousness.

I have also gotten to know countless people from this unique audience by way of performing at their weddings, birthday's and other parties, house concerts, christenings, confirmations, b'ar mitzvah's, workplace and holiday events, and even on a few occasions, funerals of loved ones. A few of them have even become close friends in the traditional sense and many more have become close friends by way of our seeing each other and often chatting about both everyday things and serious things week after week. When I went through a year of intensive treatment for (cure-able) breast cancer in 2008, and spent much of 2009 struggling with post treatment side-effects, a vocal chord problem, and a medical crisis of my husband's, many of these people encouraged, comforted, and supported me in ways that left me speechless with gratitude.

Having emerged from all of this AND having turned 50 last April, I now want to "evolve" my Music Under New York experience into something that expands upon and somehow "re-pays" the immense generosity – from people of all ages, backgrounds, ethnicities, and parts of the world – that has kept me afloat professionally and personally these past 20 years.

In President Obama's recent address to the UN General Assembly, he said "...let me put forward four pillars that I believe are fundamental to the future that we want for our children: non-proliferation and disarmament; the promotion of peace and security; the preservation of our planet; and a global economy that advances opportunity for all people". Personally, I want to put my focus on "preserving the planet" including: wildlife protection, conservation of land and energy, development of alternative energy sources, recycling, planting trees, etc. In short, everything that is required to address and hopefully prevent catastrophic climate change/global warming for the sake of ALL living things and every natural element of the earth overall.

Once or twice a year I make small donations to a few conservation organizations and as a result I get regular solicitations in the mail from them along with countless others. It is a source of great frustration to not be able to give large (or even small) amounts of money to all of them. I really HATE throwing those pleas into the trash. So I am launching a new venture called Conservation Concerts to facilitate environmental conservation/preservation benefit concerts at New York metro area community centers, cultural and religious organizations, schools, corporations, private homes, i.e. basically anywhere – featuring my singing, my husband Andrew's guitar playing, and eventually the music of many other fine local performers – to raise money and awareness for these and a limitless range of other environmental conservation/protection organizations. And to ideally contribute to the ongoing encouragement and stimulation of more and more individual and community actions that will preserve our planet.

Potential Environmental Protection/Conservation Beneficiaries

Please note: This a partial list only of a few suggested environmental protection and conservation organizations nationally, internationally and locally (New York City area).

This list will be continually expanded to include additional organizations serving any part of the country or world per the suggestions of our network of concert hosts.

National and International Organizations

(in alphabetical order)

African Wildlife Foundation www.awf.org

The Climate Project (Al Gore) www.theclimateproject.org

Defenders of Wildlife www.defenders.org

Earthday Network www.earthday.net

Earthjustice www.earthjustice.org

Environmental Action www.environmental-action.org

Environmental Defense Fund www.edf.org

Jane Goodall Institute www.janegoodall.org

National Wildlife Federation www.nwf.org

Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) www.nrdc.org

Nature Conservancy www.nature.org

Repower America (Al Gore) www.repoweramerica.org

Sierra Club www.sierraclub.org

Stop Global Warming www.stopglobalwarming.org

World Wildlife Fund www.worldwildlife.org

Local (New York City area) Organizations

(in alphabetical order)

Council on the Environment of New York www.cenyc.org

Hudson River Foundation/New York City Environmental Fund www.hudsonriver.org/nycef

Hudson Riverkeeper www.riverkeeper.org

Hudson River Sloop Clearwater www.clearwater.org

Million Trees NYC www.milliontreesnyc.org

New York Restoration Project www.nyrp.org

Sustainable South Bronx www.ssbx.org

Animal Welfare and Rescue Sanctuaries/Shelters

Although Animal Rescue Sanctuaries/Shelters do not technically fall into the category of Environmental Protection/Conservation, Wendy Sayvetz and Andrew Schulman have a special affinity for animals being completely fanatic about their two labrador retrievers, Dolly and Paco.

To us an essential element of preserving the planet is the compassionate and humane care and respect of ALL animals of every species whether they are living in homes with human companions, farms, zoos, working as service animals for the disabled, breeding animals, racing animals, etc. or living in the wild.

And so we include here as potential Conservation Concerts beneficiaries, the following organizations, some of which include in their missions/activities, the protection of wildlife habitats. This list will also be continually expanded per the suggestions of our network of concert hosts.

We greatly prefer to support only “no-kill” shelters...unless money raised by Conservation Concerts will help to eliminate or substantially reduce euthanization of animals.

(in alphabetical order)

ASPCA www.aspca.org

Best Friends www.bestfriends.org

Equine Advocates www.equineadvocates.org

Farm Sanctuary www.farmsanctuary.org

Hearts United For Animals www.hua.org

The Humane Society www.humanesociety.org or www.hsus.org

International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) www.ifaw.org

North Shore www.nsalamerica.org

SPCA www.spcai.org