



## **HONORING REFUGEE VOICES**

### **MUSIC, SEL, and the Power of Connection**

### **Collaborative Workshop**

*featuring*

**IRIS: Integrated Refugee and Immigration Services**  
**Afghan Children's Songbook Project: Louise Pascale**

**Kevin Bishop, Executive Director of Cuatro Puntos**

**Arson Fahim, Afghan Musician**

**9:00-3:00 November 8, 2022**

**Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, CT**

*JOIN CTAOSA at CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL (Hartford)  
for a unique interdisciplinary professional development opportunity!*

The CT Chapter of the American Orff-Schulwerk Association is excited to co-host a daylong workshop alongside IRIS (Integration Refugee and Immigration Services) and led by refugee and ally musicians and educators. The day brings together resources, people, and ideas to foster understanding, support learning communities, and build relationships through music. Hear from refugees and those who work to support them and amplify their voices. Explore cultures while building community through music and compassion.

This interactive interdisciplinary workshop weaves together the National Arts Standards of Creating, Performing, Responding, and Connecting while intersecting with the CT State Social Studies Framework and SEL Initiative.

A MUSIC – BASED WORKSHOP for MUSIC EDUCATORS &  
CLASSROOM TEACHERS embracing an INTEGRATION MODEL!  
INDIVIDUALS as well as SCHOOL-BASED TEAMS are encouraged to attend!

CTAOSA Workshop Registration Forms: [www.ctaosa.org](http://www.ctaosa.org)

**CTAOSA – IRIS**  
**Collaborative Professional Development Workshop**  
**HONORING REFUGEE VOICES**  
**MUSIC, SEL, and the Power of Connection**

**Please register by OCTOBER 31<sup>st</sup>**

Cost (lunch included): \$45

- Plan on arriving by 8:30 AM – allow for traffic and parking. This will facilitate registration and help us start on time.
- Voucher for free parking at the Hartford Stage Garage (MTA) included.
- Morning welcome coffee/tea.
- Lunch provided by Sanctuary Kitchen of City Seed (Refugee & Immigrant-led Catering).
- Verification of attendance forms will be available at the end of the workshop.

[www.ctaosa.org](http://www.ctaosa.org)

Information:

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IRIS empowers refugees and immigrants to become self-sufficient and integrated into their new communities. At the same time, newcomers enrich our communities, making this a better place for all of us.

“Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS) is a non-profit agency whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, and contribute to the vitality of Connecticut’s communities. Welcoming persecuted people from other countries is America’s most noble tradition. IRIS helps newcomers on the road to self-sufficiency by providing lifesaving support during their transition to life in the United States.”

[www.irisct.org](http://www.irisct.org)

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**Arson Fahim** is a pianist, composer, and conductor from Afghanistan. He was born in the year 2000 as a refugee in Pakistan where his family had fled due to the war in Afghanistan. In 2012, he started taking piano lessons and a few months later, he received admission at Afghanistan’s only music school, the Afghanistan National Institute of Music where he also composed and arranged music and eventually became the

conductor of the Afghan National Youth Orchestra and the Afghan National Symphony Orchestra. In 2021, only two weeks before the Taliban took control and once again banned music, Arson arrived in the US and started his studies at the Longy School of Music where he was awarded a scholarship.

Arson believes in the power of music to bring social change and considers music a vital weapon against fundamentalists and radicals who try to silence it. His music is inspired by the tragedies in Afghanistan and beyond. His compositions such as “Farkhunda”, “Freedom”, “Dreams of Peace” and “The Lost Dove” are a way for him to protest and raise his voice for justice through music. Arson hopes to help young, underprivileged Afghans discover music and help them change their lives through learning music.

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### **Louise Pascale, Founder and Director of the Afghan Children's Songbook Project**

Dr. Louise Pascale, Professor Emerita for Lesley University, has worked in the field of arts in education for over 25 years. In 2005 she launched the Children's Afghan Songbook & Literacy Project, an internationally recognized project that strives to preserve and redistribute traditional Afghan children's songs and folktales that were almost completely eradicated due to the devastation that has afflicted Afghanistan over the past 30 years.

**AFGHAN CHILDREN'S SONGBOOK PROJECT** "Hearing your favorite song brings up memories of happy times. For Afghans, whose songs have been intentionally eradicated,

hearing a familiar childhood song is a much more powerful experience. The sound alone can bring them to tears. As one Afghan stated after the first takeover of the Taliban in the late 1990's, "They bombed our homes, destroyed our roads, left buildings in a rubble, but when they took our music, they took our soul."

The Founder and Director of this project, Louise Pascale, lived in Afghanistan in the late 1960's working as a Peace Corps volunteer. Working with an Afghan poet and musician she collected traditional Afghan children's songs and shared the songs with children in schools around Kabul. Many years later she found her old copy of the songbook and made a commitment to return the songs to the children of Afghanistan. She founded the non-profit, the Afghan Children's Songbook Project and the first book printed in 2008 was Qu Qu Qu Barg-e-Chinaar. The songbook has vibrant illustrations of 16 songs in Dari, Pashto, Haragi and Uzbeki and includes a CD of Afghan children singing. The second songbook Awasana, Seesana, was printed in 2013, and it too includes a CD. In 2018, a third book, Bood Nabood, was published, and includes six delightful traditional Afghan children's folktales, in Dari and Pashto with beautiful illustrations created by a talented Afghan woman illustrator.

She was fortunate early in the project to meet Arsalan Lutfi and the Lutfi family who own and operate TriVision Studios in the U.S. and Afghanistan. TriVision generously offered to become a partner in the project, helping to design and facilitate the creations of the songbooks, printing, and distribution.

By 2020, 50,000 songbooks along with accompanying Teacher's Guide had been distributed to schools, orphanages, and family centers across Afghanistan.

Given the political situation in Afghanistan, we are now offering a new visual/digital format of all three books which is being distributed across the world. Afghans living inside and outside of Afghanistan can easily obtain these resources as well as educators or others working with Afghans or who are interested in learning more about the rich Afghan culture. We are excited to offer this newly designed format of the books and we are grateful to Trivision Studios for their expertise and creative input. This new format will guarantee that these delightful songs and folktales will be kept alive for generations to come."

[www.afghansongbook.org](http://www.afghansongbook.org)



### **Kevin Bishop, Executive Director of Cuatro Puntos**

Kevin's life work serves the ideal of "music as social action": the belief that long-term music education can aid community building, personal elevation, and reconstruction. His varied career as a violist, violinist, conductor, composer, educator, researcher, and arts administrator has taken him around the world to study, witness, engage with, and lead social music projects. Having grown up in a broken home amid a troubled

neighborhood near Los Angeles, his entrepreneurial career began young when he founded the *Western Society of Chamber Music* after tragedy caused the demise of his school's music program. He led this organization and its community-minded efforts for 8 years before moving to Connecticut and founding *Cuatro Puntos* in 2012. Via *Cuatro Puntos* he worked with an *El Sistema* program in Bolivia for two summers, then in Afghanistan for three. Kevin eventually became Director of *Orchestral Studies* at the *Afghanistan National Institute of Music*, living in Afghanistan for an extended period. During this time he led the country's only orchestra in numerous concerts for presidents and ambassadors. He prepared and led the country's first female conductors with the *Afghan Women's Orchestra "Zohra"* in concerts across Europe, including the closing ceremony of the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. As part of his founding and directing of *Cuatro Puntos* Kevin is currently music director and co-founder of the *Music Moves Hartford Street Choir*, a program in shelters and soup kitchens that serves adults in Hartford who face homelessness and displacement. He was previously Co-Founder and orchestra director of *Müzikhane Social Music School*, teaching local and refugee children while living near the Syrian border in Southeastern Turkey. Kevin composes and records music inspired by the traditions and people he encounters. He practices the *dumbek* for fun. Kevin has degrees from the University of California (BM), University of Hartford (MM) and Institute for Cultural Diplomacy. In all of his work Kevin aims to have fun and cultivate lasting friendships while exploring music's potential as one of many relevant, viable, and complementary methods for creating a more just and inclusive society.

**CUATRO PUNTOS** ("four points" in Spanish) is a non-profit organization that activates music as a pragmatic and universally accessible stimulus for social change, cultural awareness, and empowerment of the underserved. Based in Connecticut, *Cuatro Puntos* hosts a mixed-genre concert series in multiple cities as well as music/curriculum alignment programs in school classrooms in Hartford (in partnership with *Hartford Performs*) and beyond. *Cuatro Puntos* connects Connecticut residents with artists around the world by curating guest artists for in-person and virtual events, with an emphasis on artists who are cultural keepers of threatened art forms, or who are doing genuine work to serve others.

**"Cuatro Puntos is dedicated to intercultural dialogue and universal access through the performance, writing, and teaching of music."**

[www.cuatropuntos.org](http://www.cuatropuntos.org)





## SANCTUARY KITCHEN

• BY CITYSEED •

Partnering with immigrants and refugees to build economic opportunity and authentic connections through food.

“Through our culinary training program and social enterprise, Sanctuary Kitchen provides professional development and employment at an above-market wage for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the Greater New Haven area. Currently, 100% of Sanctuary Kitchen chefs are women. Sanctuary Kitchen chefs have reported reduced social isolation, increased financial stability, improved English language skills, professional culinary skills, and new relationships and networks that provide sustained holistic support. Since the program's founding, we have also hosted more than 700 refugee/immigrant-led culinary events, which have reached thousands of community members in New Haven, and across the world.

Sanctuary Kitchen, a program of CitySeed in partnership with a network of community volunteers, was formed in 2017 to promote and celebrate the culinary traditions, cultures, and stories of refugees and immigrants resettled in Connecticut. In addition to its historical leadership as an immigration hub, New Haven receives up to 500 resettled refugees annually. With this diversity comes opportunities for cultural exchange, enriching the community at large and building ties across demographic divides.

Refugees and immigrants arrive with the potential to contribute their unique skills and passions to the diverse and changing face of the Greater New Haven Area. Sanctuary Kitchen seeks to highlight these skills in economically viable culinary pursuits that provide personal income potential, while promoting culinary traditions, cultures, and stories to improve understanding and appreciation throughout our community. By attending a Sanctuary Kitchen event, you're helping refugees and asylum seekers receive training, support, income, and opportunities to share their skills in meaningful ways. We believe that sharing a meal and personal stories is a delicious opportunity for cultural exchange.”

[www.sanctuarykitchen.org](http://www.sanctuarykitchen.org)