Program Overview

Mission
Our mission is to foster an understanding of and appreciation for global uniqueness and differences.

What We Do
Arts Midwest World Fest presents global musical ensembles in intensive week-long residencies in smaller Midwest communities.

Who We Serve
Since Arts Midwest World Fest’s inception in 2003, we have served over 650,000 individuals, including 450,000 youth, through over 280 public performances and 2,300+ educational events.

The program has featured ensembles representing Israel, Québec, Japan, Mexico, Somalia, Egypt, China, Pakistan, Indonesia, Brazil and the Gullah culture of the South Carolina Sea Islands. In total, these artists have visited more than 60 communities across Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Ohio, and Wisconsin.

During the 2019–2021 cycle we will bring four international music ensembles to communities of Ames, IA; Carbondale, IL; Rushville, IN; Ironwood, MI; Fairmont, MN; Williston, ND; Bellefontaine, OH; Huron, SD; and Menomonie, WI.

Our Unique Approach
Each cycle of Arts Midwest World Fest occurs over a two-year period in which four global musical ensembles conduct week-long residencies in selected communities throughout the Midwest. The residencies consist of school concerts, workshops, and outreach activities, and culminate in a public concert.

To extend the cultural experience to the classroom, Arts Midwest provides participating communities with study guides that help students and teachers better understand and appreciate the customs and traditions of the visiting ensembles. We hope that studying other cultures will spark a lasting curiosity in both teachers and students that will result in further exploration of the diverse and fascinating cultures of the world.

Our Goals
Arts Midwest World Fest seeks to
- present high-caliber, accessible global artists to small- and mid-sized Midwest communities;
- provide a multifaceted experience to community residents, particularly young people;
- integrate the artists and their music into a broader social, cultural, political, and historical framework;
- encourage young people to explore issues and understand concerns of diverse cultures; and
- create a lasting musical and cultural impact on participants.

Partnerships and Support
A program of Arts Midwest, the 2019–2021 Arts Midwest World Fest cycle is generously supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, 3Mgives, the Kaufman Family Fund for Israeli Cultural Exchange, and the Japan Foundation through the Performing Arts JAPAN program. Additional support is provided by the Ministry of Culture of the People’s Republic of China for Choor, and by the Consulate General of Israel to the Midwest, the Israel Lottery Council for Culture & Arts, and Music Port for Hadar Maoz. This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund.

Arts Midwest is also generously supported by Illinois Arts Council Agency, Indiana Arts Commission, Iowa Arts Council, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Minnesota State Arts Board, North Dakota Council on the Arts, Ohio Arts Council, South Dakota Arts Council, and Wisconsin Arts Board.

Please visit www.artsmidwest.org/worldfest for more information about Arts Midwest World Fest. Contact Ken Carlson at ken@artsmidwest.org or 612.238.8020 with any questions about the program.