

## Beethoven for the Indus Valley

A Concert for Life and Renewal in Pakistan after the 2010 Floods



Music for Life International Inc. and the American Pakistan Foundation presented a benefit concert titled, “Beethoven for the Indus Valley” on January 31, 2011 at Carnegie Hall in New York, supporting Acumen Fund. The idea behind organising this event was to raise global awareness about the magnitude of the natural disaster that hit Pakistan in 2010, as millions of flood affectees still require a gigantic amount of financial and infrastructural support to be able to rebuild their lives.

Acumen Fund CEO Jacqueline Novogratz gave the opening remarks on the occasion, emphasising the need for long-term solutions to poverty in Pakistan. She said, “The world generally gets to see only one perspective of

Pakistan. But there is a hidden story — that of its many citizens who want to see positive change and are willing to do something about it. Over the past eight years that we have been working in Pakistan, we have invested in dedicated entrepreneurs — leaders who are building real solutions to poverty. We are committed to Pakistan’s long-term future, and while the journey ahead is long, there are signs of progress.”

“Beethoven for the Indus Valley” featured Beethoven’s timeless masterpiece, *Ninth Symphony* — led by Singapore-born Indian conductor, George Mathew and brought together many of the world’s finest orchestral musicians. Principal artists gathered from the New York



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Philharmonic, MET Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, The Emerson Quartet, Orchestra of St. Luke's, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Youth Orchestra of the Americas, European Union Youth Orchestra, and other international orchestras and ensembles; students and faculty of The Juilliard School, the Manhattan School of Music, and other major music schools. The renowned Dessoff Symphonic Choir, led by Music Director Christopher Shepard was the chorus. A quartet of distinguished singers headlined by MET Opera National Council Winner soprano Laquita Mitchell, and bass Morris Robinson also joined the assembled forces. Glenn Dieterow, Concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic, served as Concertmaster, leading a violin section made up of concertmasters of leading American orchestras.

Speaking about the concert, George Mathew observed, "Beethoven himself makes a musical statement in the Finale of the Ninth Symphony that goes to the heart of our mission with this concert. Writing in an earlier era of tension between East and West, Beethoven uses the music of the Turkish military, music of the Islamic world, to provide stability and indeed possibility for the German (western) setting of the famous Ode to Joy tune. In that moment Beethoven seems to become the voice of a whole civilisation in that rare moment of embrace of another civilization. Two hundred years later, it appears we have still much to learn from this great wise man of music and the world." Mr. Mathew noted, "In gathering together as a community of musicians, listeners and supporters, we send a message



George Mathew, Artistic Director & Conductor,  
Beethoven for the Indus Valley

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of solidarity and human support to our fellow human beings in Pakistan who have been so hard hit by these devastating floods in addition to whatever financial support





we muster.”

The net proceeds from the concert benefitted Acumen Fund’s work in Pakistan. Beethoven for the Indus Valley was the fourth in a series of global humanitarian concerts that George Mathew has conceived and presented at Carnegie Hall.

### About Acumen Fund

Acumen Fund is a pioneering not-for-profit venture fund that is changing how the world addresses poverty. Acumen Fund invests patient capital in businesses that deliver critical, affordable goods and services to the world’s poor, improving the lives of millions. Since its founding in 2001, Acumen Fund has invested more than \$50 million in companies that provide access to water, health, energy, housing and agriculture inputs to low-income consumers in South Asia and East Africa. Acumen Fund has been working in Pakistan since 2002, with more than \$11m invested in organizations tackling some of the biggest local challenges. Acumen Fund’s Pakistan portfolio includes investments in housing, drinking water, health insurance, access to finance and agriculture solutions for smallholder farmers. □

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Acumen Fund’s activities and investments, visit  
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