



# The Jerusalem Youth Chorus Alumni Program California Tour January 2020

## San Francisco

January 4, 4:00 pm

***House Concert & Welcoming Reception***

Marin County, hosted by Maja Kristin

January 6, 7:00 pm

***“Singing Together for Change” Workshop***

Sacred Heart Parish, San Jose, Featuring Grupo Solidaridad and the Folklorico Youth of San Jose

January 7, 7:30 pm

***Concert at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church***

Sponsored and supported by “Terry’s Kids”

January 8, 7:30 pm

***Concert with the Stanford Middle East Ensemble***

Roble Hall, Stanford University

January 9, 7:00 pm

***“Harmony + Hope Benefit Concert” with Project Level***

San Francisco City Hall

## Los Angeles

January 12, 7:00 pm

***“Voices of Peace, Unity, and Social Justice Concert”***

Featuring Tonality and Ari Afsar  
Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue

January 14, 6:30 pm

***House Concert***

Beverly Hills, hosted by Lisa Greer

## San Diego

January 15, 7:00 pm

***“Voices of Peace Concert” with Voices of Our City Choir***

First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego



# San Francisco • January 3 – 9

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus Alumni Program's tour to California began in the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area, where we were invited and sponsored by the San Francisco Jewish Community Relations Council's [Invest in Peace](#) Project. They brought us together with [Project Level](#), a creative arts program for at-risk Bay Area youth. Project Level joined us in our first event on tour: a workshop from the incredible song-leader, composer, and vocal activist, [Melanie DeMore](#), where we learned songs such as "One Foot/Lead With Love" and "Standing Stone." These powerful songs became staples not only of our partnership with Project Level but also of our entire tour.

Our first concert of the tour was at Maja Kristin's home in Marin County, where we shared stories and songs with our welcoming and intimate audience. On our way to the concert, we stopped at the Golden Gate Bridge and [made the Bay Area our home](#). We continued our collaboration with Project Level by spending the day with their students, getting to know them, rehearsing music together, and even recording our own original song and music video together! Before our big City Hall concert with them, JYC traveled around the Bay Area to share our message of harmony.



In San Jose, we had the opportunity to learn from two special communities: the Islamic Networks Group and Grupo Solidaridad at Sacred Heart Parish. Both offered profound insight on interfaith solidarity work, and we actually hosted our first-ever joint-workshop—with Grupo Solidaridad—at Sacred Heart that evening (featuring the Folklorico Youth of San Jose). This inspiring workshop was our first in both Spanish and English, and it ended in the creation of a harmonious circle song using text from the stories that participants and JYC members shared with one another.

In Lafayette, we were graciously hosted by Terry Miller and his music education non-profit, "[Terry's Kids](#)." In collaboration with Ofer dal Lal's [WomenSing](#) and the LOPC Band and Choir, Terry Miller hosted a concert for us at the Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church. The choirs and band joined in on some of our songs, and it was a powerful musical collaboration for all. At Stanford University, we gave a workshop to various graduate students and then collaborated with the [Stanford Middle East Ensemble](#) in a concert at Roble Hall. It was a special opportunity for us to perform with an ensemble that already knew many of songs we typically perform and could highlight the beauty of the traditions we bring with us from Jerusalem.

Our week ended with a magical concert with Project Level in the spectacular San Francisco City Hall, hosted by the Jewish Community Relations Council. Welcomed by Mayor London Breed and hosted by social justice champion Paul Henderson, the event was an exciting way to conclude our time in the San Francisco Bay Area.



## Los Angeles • January 10 – 14

The Los Angeles portion of our trip was made possible by the support and contributions of Steve and Julie Bram, who also hosted us in their home for a special interfaith dinner with Aziza Hasan, the director of [NewGround](#): A Muslim Jewish Partnership For Change. We are also grateful to Sherry Agar and Rich Johnson for opening their home to us for another wonderful dinner and for the funding they provided alongside the Avi Schaefer Fund.



After checking out all of tourist spots in Los Angeles, we began our time in LA by collaborating with Sam Tsui, the artist who also worked with us on our classic song and viral video “[Home](#).” Also joined by Casey Breves and Jason Pitts, we spent an afternoon together rehearsing and creating a music video of “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough.” Check it out [here!](#)



Thanks to our friend Mohammed Al-Samawi, we had the opportunity to collaborate with another famous recording artist while in LA. Andy Grammer is not only very famous but also incredibly sweet. We spent the day at the historic [The Village](#) recording studios rehearsing and recording one of our new

favorite songs: Andy’s “Don’t Give Up On Me.” Look for a music video soon!

Valley Beth Shalom synagogue hosted us for our first concert in LA, “Voices of Peace, Unity, and Social Justice,” where we joined forces with “[Tonality](#)”, a professional choir focused on diversity and social justice, and [Ari Afsar](#), who played Elizabeth Schuyler in the Chicago production of *Hamilton*. Our last concert in LA was an intimate event at Lisa Greer’s home in Beverly Hills, where we shared stories and songs with our engaged audience. Both concerts were a really special way for us to engage with different communities in the Los Angeles area.



# San Diego • January 15



Our tour concluded in the beautiful city of San Diego, where we were hosted by the [Leichtag Foundation](#) and [Hands of Peace](#). After strolling (and biking!) along the beautiful Mission Beach, we made our way to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Diego for our collaboration and concert with the Voices of Our City Choir.



[The Voices of Our City Choir](#) is a program committed to helping San Diego's unsheltered neighbors reconnect with hope and possibility through the healing power of music. They are an amazing organization and we feel so lucky to have gotten to share the stage with them and learn from their stories. A huge thank

you to Susan Polis Schutz for bringing us together! Our joint concert with Voices of Our City was an amazing expression of the power of music to humanize all of us and change the faces of society, and put wind in our sails as we made our way back home to Jerusalem to continue spreading hope and harmony in our own communities.



*Help us continue to inspire change in Jerusalem and around the world:*

[jerusalemyouthchorus.org/involved](http://jerusalemyouthchorus.org/involved)