

Deseret Morning News, Friday, August 13, 2004

Unlikely trio is perfect mix

By **Carma Wadley**

Deseret Morning News

Marvin Goldstein believes that music is more powerful than hate, that it is stronger than dissension, that it can overturn despair. If he had his way, he'd sit every enemy in the world down and make them listen to music together. Maybe then, he says, there would be peace.

In the meantime, he's working to change things one heart at a time.

Through his Peace With Music Foundation, Goldstein has set out "to bridge the cultural, religious and political differences of people everywhere through the medium of music."

A recent concert in Los Angeles that featured both an Israeli singer and a Palestinian singer is one example of what the foundation does. Another is the "Friends & Brothers: A Unique Blend of Gospel Favorites" CD and an upcoming concert that features Goldstein on the piano with singers Billy Dean and Thurl Bailey.



Thurl Bailey, left, Marvin Goldstein and Billy Dean are "Friends and Brothers."

Deseret Morning News

"I don't think you could find a more diverse group. If they gave awards for the most unlikely collaboration of artists, we'd win hands down," Goldstein said by phone from his home in Florida. "We have a short Jewish/LDS piano player; a tall, LDS African-American former basketball player who's into soul and R&B; and a Southern Baptist country singer.

"It just shows how music can bring together people who might never have come together otherwise."

The three will be performing at the Sandy Amphitheater Saturday in a concert that will highlight each performer individually, as well as bring them together for some of the gospel songs and hymns that are on the CD. They are also thinking about taking the show on the road, and are already talking about a repeat performance in Abravanel Hall for New Year's Eve.

Fate, determination and airports all played a part in getting the project off the ground.

Billy Dean had a layover at the Atlanta airport when he ran into Goldstein. The two grew up in the same area in Florida. Goldstein remembers when he was in his honky-tonk period, playing and jamming in Tallahassee, and a teenager would join in. "We said, 'This kid's got a future.' After Billy became a country singer, I always had it in the back of my mind that I'd like to do

something with him."



Marvin Goldstein brings his diverse "Friends and Brothers" concert to Sandy Amphitheater on Saturday.

Deseret Morning News

So, when they met at the airport, the two sat down to talk. "I'd known Marvin most of my career," Dean said from his home in Nashville. "But I didn't really know what he did. He told me about the Peace With Music Foundation."

Then Goldstein met Bailey in a Delta Crowne Room when the two were waiting for a flight. It turned out that Bailey and Dean knew each other and had worked on other projects together.

Then it just became a matter of getting together. They were all so busy that finding a time when their schedules would mesh was a challenge. But, eventually, it all worked out. They went into the studio in May for the CD, which is now hot off the

press. "We felt an absolute power in the recording process," said Dean. "We came from diverse backgrounds. We had never played together. But once we got behind the studio doors, it was like we had never *not* played together. It was really a great experience."

"It was a blast," said Bailey, adding that it was amazing that such different people could come together and have such a good time. "It just shows how music breaks down barriers. Very few things have so universal a language."

When he lived in Europe for four years, "there were people who didn't speak any English. But they knew the words to a lot of American songs."

Bailey has always felt the power of music in his life. "I wanted to be a musician even before basketball." Bailey's most recent solo CD, "I Am Not The Same," goes back to his own roots. "I've tried to modernize, to add my own flavor to some of my favorite R&B songs. It's been received really well."

He's also busy with corporate and church speaking assignments, and he co-hosts "Jazz Tonight" on KJZZ-TV during the basketball season.

Dean made a huge splash on the country music scene in the early '90s with such songs as "Somewhere In My Broken Heart" and "Billy the Kid," and he has continued to be a much-in-demand singer and songwriter. He does a version of his latest single, "Let Them Be Little," on the CD.

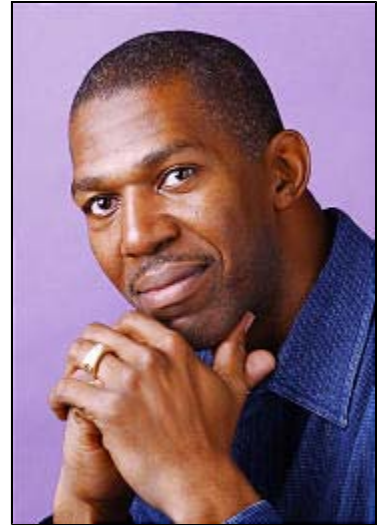
He grew up singing in church, "but this is my first full gospel CD." The album includes songs such as "Amazing Grace," "How Great Thou Art," "In The Garden" and "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

Dean's favorite song is "I Am A Child of God," which "was new to me but had such a simple, powerful message."

Goldstein enjoys "how well Billy and Thurl complement each other." And, he promises, "their personalities are going to come through at the concert. It's a wonderful dream come true to work with these guys."

For Goldstein, this marks the 35th CD of his prolific career, and he feels it is something special. "It just shows how, despite diversity of background, music brings us completely together."

"We just want to make a difference," added Bailey. "Whether it's through music or sports or the spoken word, we know we have a purpose here."



Thurl Bailey

► **If you go**

What: "Friends & Brothers," Marvin Goldstein, Billy Dean, Thurl Bailey

Where: Sandy Amphitheater, 9400 S. 1300 East

When: Saturday, 8 p.m.

How much: \$12-\$20

Phone: 568-2787

Web: www.sandy-city.net

E-mail: carma@desnews.com

Deseret Morning News, Monday, August 16, 2004

Trio makes beautiful music together

By **Carma Wadley**

Deseret Morning News

BILLY DEAN, THURL BAILEY, MARVIN GOLDSTEIN, Sandy Amphitheater, Saturday.

SANDY — When they first got together, Marvin Goldstein wanted to call them "the triplets," a nod to the DeVito/Schwarzenegger film "Twins." He figured that he, Thurl Bailey and Billy Dean were as unlikely a trio as you'd ever find.

But as the three proved Saturday, you don't have to look alike or be alike to make harmonious music together. They each brought something very different to the stage, but their differences tripled the impact, rather than dividing it. As Dean said, "Music knows no boundaries; music has no borders."

A self-styled "country redneck," Dean and his guitar started things off with a few of his hits: "Only Here For a Little While," "Billy the Kid," "If There Hadn't Been You," as well as "Thank God, I'm A Country Boy," from an upcoming CD.

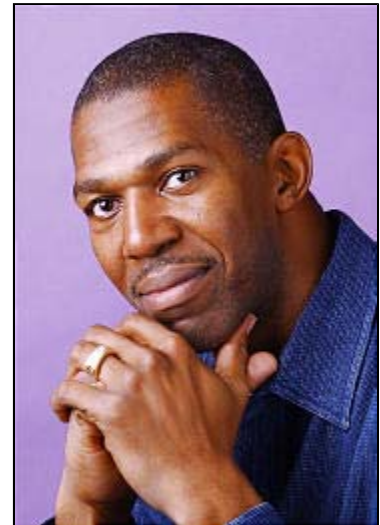
Pianist Goldstein joined him for the beautiful "Somewhere In My Broken Heart." And then Bailey (known for basketball as well as his soul and R&B music) completed the trio for a stylish "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot."

From there, the night offered a bit of everything — gospel favorites such as "Amazing Grace" and "How Great Thou Art"; a bit of soul ("Ain't No Sunshine"); tender love songs ("Love Saves the Day," co-written by Bailey; "I'm In Love With You," co-written by Dean).

Goldstein opened the second half with a medley of love songs. There were several selections from the CD the three have just released, "Friends & Brothers: A Unique Blend of Gospel Favorites," including Bailey's moving "I Need Thee Every Hour," Dean's tender tribute to childhood, "Let Them Be Little," and a special rendition of "I Am A Child of God."

Bailey and Dean, both with rich, strong voices, created sweet harmony, and Goldstein's flying fingers added a perfect complement on the piano. The entertainers were clearly having as much fun as the audience, with a lot of good-natured bantering and a few height comparisons. (So what if Goldstein had to stand on the piano to high-five Bailey.)

"Party of Four," composed of John and Mike Anderson, Howard Headlee and Ted Heap, opened the show with humor, energy and some great songs from the '60s to add to the eclectic



Thurl Bailey

Jeffrey D. Allred, Deseret Morning News

nature of the evening.

The CD and concert are a project of Goldstein's Peace With Music Foundation, which seeks "to promote peace and understanding among different cultures through the medium of music." If the three of them could come together, with different backgrounds, different races, different religions, said Goldstein, just think what else can happen.

E-mail: carma@desnews.com

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Tallahassee Democrat (FL)

February 13, 2004

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'LOVE SONGS' TO BENEFIT THE WINDS

Mark Hinson, DEMOCRAT STAFF WRITER

Forget Matt Lauer.

Where in the world is **Marvin Goldstein**?

The Tallahassee pianist and showman of a thousand songs recently played a series of shows way West in Montana, Utah, Seattle, Los Angeles and Calgary, Canada. This summer, he packs his bags for Alaska.

Goldstein is headed home in time for Valentine's Day, though.

He is the featured guest star with the Tallahassee Winds for a special, pops-oriented "Love Songs of the Twentieth Century" concert on, appropriately enough, Valentine's Day in Opperman Music Hall.

Speaking of going places, the Tallahassee Winds ensemble also has been bitten by the traveling bug.

The "Love Songs" show is helping the symphonic band, which boasts more than 100 members, raise money for a trip to Australia in July. The Tallahassee Winds will perform as a headliner act during an international band festival in the world-famous Sydney Opera House. The ensemble also will perform in another hall in Sydney and play a show in Cairns.

"Before we can go to Australia, we must raise quite a bit of money," Tallahassee Winds founder and director Bentley Shellahamer said in an e-mail. "Each member of the band who is going has committed to pay his or her share of the cost. But we are trying to raise \$90,000 to keep that share from being too high."

Besides the "Love Songs" celebration, the Winds is selling a compilation CD containing marches from around the world. It will be available at the concert.

The Winds began performing in the late '90s. Most of the members are music educators, former school-band directors, working band directors and advanced music students. The ages of the players range widely --- from a handful of high-school students to young married couples to retirees. To be part of the Winds, players must audition for Shellahamer. There's almost always a waiting list to get in.

Music fans also can catch the Winds in concert on Feb. 24 in Opperman Music Hall with a program that includes works by Dmitri Shostakovich and Sergey Rachmaninoff.

Anyone who wishes to donate a little traveling money to the Winds can call Shellahamer at 644-3885.

For more about **Goldstein** and his numerous CD recordings --- including two volumes of "Love Songs of the 20th Century" --- visit www.marvingoldstein.com.

IF YOU GO

What: "Love Songs of the Twentieth Century" concert with pianist **Marvin Goldstein** and the Tallahassee Winds.

Where: Opperman Music Hall, FSU music school.

When: 8 p.m. Saturday.

Cost: \$25 general admission.

Phone: 894-8700 or 644-3885.

Nov. 28, 2002

■ **Who:** Pianist Marvin Goldstein with singer Karen Larsen, presented by Titel Entertainment.

Where: Irvine Barclay Theatre, on the UC Irvine campus off of Campus and West Peltason drives.

When: Thursday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m.

Cost: \$19-\$27.

Information: (949) 854-4646.

■

Pianist with hopes of peace through music brings holiday concert to the Barclay Dec. 5

By Michael Rydzynski
For Irvine World News

Marvin Goldstein is a man with a self-imposed mission: no less than to bring peace to the Middle East through music.



Marvine Goldstein

"I have proposed to President Bush a peace concert at the White House," said Goldstein, a pianist and arranger, during a recent phone interview from Phoenix, where he was performing at the time.

"All the Middle Eastern leaders - kings, queens, presidents, ambassadors, magistrates, you name it - along with their Washington, D.C., counterparts, will be invited to this White House concert, which I will produce and perform, to experience music by an Israeli singer, Gali Atari, and a yet-to-be-named Palestinian singer, in a one-hour concert, which the president will be asked to introduce.

"This won't be entertainment but actually a medicinal, pointed effort for music to make them feel better while they sit together in the aisles, Israeli and Palestinians alike. We will be trying for a musical-cultural effort toward peace, where not much will be said and music will be dominant.

"This is to show how we can all participate together (to) avoid war (and) make peace, in the spirit of music."

While Goldstein's Irvine debut at the Barclay on Thursday, Dec. 5, won't have so lofty an aim, it nonetheless will also contain feel-good music the audience will enjoy.

"People will have a good experience with the music," Goldstein, 52, said about his holiday concert, which contains, in addition to Christmas and Hanukkah songs, patriotic melodies, show tunes, love songs and early 20th century pop music.

"There'll also be audience participation, audience requests, a little bit of humor. Yes, I'm really happy to be coming to Irvine."

Helping him celebrate the holidays at the Barclay will be singer Karen Larsen, a former Miss Utah with "a gorgeous voice," according to Goldstein.

"She'll be on with me for 15 to 18 minutes," he said. "She'll probably sing holiday and inspirational music from her latest CD, 'Once Again It's Christmastime,' which was released two or three months ago."

Facetiously calling himself an "overnight success in 52 years," Goldstein will sing selections from his latest recording, "Love Songs of the 20th Century, Volume 2," a two-CD set of 35 songs from the '70s and '80s, which will be released by the end of the year. This will bring his overall CD output to about 30, with potentially no end in sight for ideas and repertoire.

"I know 4,000 to 5,000 songs, so I don't plan a concert, I just go on experience, to see what the audience came to hear," he said.

Goldstein said he was "pretty sure" he would perform excerpts from "Fiddler on the Roof" and "The Sound of Music," a '20s medley of ragtime and Tin Pan Alley tunes, and medleys of Israeli and Palestinian songs, as well as traditional holiday fare.

Only three days after his Irvine concert, Goldstein will be in the Washington, D.C., area, not only to give a pair of concerts in Kensington, Md., but for a meeting with secretaries of an adviser to the president and two senators.

"I'm partially good friends with (Florida) Gov. Jeb Bush, the president's brother," Goldstein, who lives in Tallahassee with his wife, Lenae, and son Nicholas, said in recalling how the proposed peace concert came about. "It's an idea I've had for some time and I asked the governor, 'Can you help me look into this?'"

Gov. Bush contacted a couple of senators and ultimately his brother, who in January said that Goldstein's idea "sounds interesting" and, according to Goldstein, "fully expected to hold the concert in October or November, except for something called Iraq."

Being in regular communication with the White House, Goldstein expects the concert to happen - unless America declares war on Iraq.

"But that's the whole purpose of having this peace concert - to avoid war," Goldstein asserted. "I understand the power of music."

With a classical background in music - training at 9 on the accordion, attending Tel Aviv University School of Music on a scholarship at 18, studying at the Mozarteum in Salzburg, receiving his bachelor's and master's degrees in French horn at Florida State University in Tallahassee, and having performed with the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra - Goldstein has amassed a host of stories throughout his 43-year performing career (the last 36 as a professional) proving the power of music.

"Once, after I performed at a Latter-Day Saints church in Arkansas," he said, "a Jewish woman sitting in the front row - now that's a rarity, a Jewish woman in a Mormon church - came up to me with tears in her eyes - I had just finished playing Jewish and patriotic music - and said, 'Thank you for what you're trying to do with music of the Middle East.'"

"An elderly lady at a recent concert I gave at another church said to me that when her husband died a few years ago, there was no closure for her - 'until tonight,' she said. 'When you played, something made it come together for me, something told me that he's OK.' Also, I would see children with tears in their eyes, the music having moved them so much.

"On March 20 of last year, I performed at the YMCA in Jerusalem with Gali (Atari), and there were Christians, Arabs, Jews and Americans in the audience, and everyone was moved.

"And I gave a concert in July of 2001 in New York City before Chinese and Spanish groups, each with an interpreter. But once I played the music, they didn't need any.

"So I have personal knowledge that music is powerful and can do these things and it's all true, but I can't convince anyone of this unless they hear it for themselves," he said.

"I tell people, 'You have to listen to more than just the notes. Lean forward and listen more intently and more intimately.'"

The same goes for the White House peace concert.

"This is not just showing up and doing a jazz night for people after dinner to fall asleep, but done for a good cause," Goldstein said. "And I know I'm putting music to the test right now by going to a humanitarian way.

"But this is definitely a cut above the junk and rhetoric of current and past negotiations between Israel and the Middle East, all the while a commonplace culture of hatred is taught in their schools to hate the other side.

"At its best, world peace can finally be achieved through a series of these concerts all over the world. But even at its worst, there isn't going to be a single thing negative about it. So why not give this a chance? Nothing else has worked for the last 5,000 years.

"There's an old Yiddish saying, translated: It couldn't hoit!"

For the love of music

By Viva Sarah Press

March, 15 2001

(March 15) - When Marvin Goldstein and Gali Atari take the stage at Jerusalem's YMCA on March 20 it will be the culmination of a three-year dream for him, and for her it will be the first time she has been hosted by another musician.

While Atari's presence in the local music scene has been a mainstay for the last 20 years, Goldstein - an acclaimed pianist - heard about her only in 1997. He was given an old recording of Atari's winning performance of "Hallelujah" at the 1979 Eurovision Song Contest.

He fell in love with the song, and ordered the video. "As I watched it, I was enthralled with how much she seemed to be able to translate her emotion through song," says Goldstein, in a telephone interview from his home in Florida. "I said to myself that I need to get in touch with Gali Atari and do a musical effort with her."

Despite numerous failed attempts at contacting Atari, Goldstein persisted and finally got through.

Last year, while here on a visit, he met Atari at a luncheon in Tel Aviv and told her that he was inspired by her "intensity that represented her love for Israel."

"I thought we'd match up really well," he says, noting that he usually performs solo.

After a myriad of faxes, e-mails and telephone calls, Atari agreed to share the stage with the 51-year-old pianist.

Atari, used to hosting other musicians, says this is the first time she'll be hosted at a concert. "He'll play the piano while I'm singing, and he'll also play instrumental pieces. I'm excited to do the concert. It's a challenge... it's a different thing to do."

GOLDSTEIN has been playing the piano for 43 years. A national keyboard artist with Kawai America, he has performed throughout the US, Canada and England - sharing his love for music along the way.

"I get joy from what music does for other people," says Goldstein, who has nearly 30 albums to his credit.

His repertoire mainly consists of Broadway hits and classical compositions - many of which he wrote.

Goldstein first learned to tickle the ivories at the age of nine. At 18, he won a music scholarship to Tel Aviv University School of Music.

From here he went on to continue his studies at the "Mozarteum" of Salzburg, Austria; he then completed Bachelor and Master of Music degrees at Florida State University. His performance degrees were earned on the French horn.

"I always played both the piano and French horn," he says. "I felt I could make a better living through the French horn. But I was wrong."

He has a number of honors to his credit - and isn't shy about citing them - including being listed in Cambridge's "Who's Who in Music."

"I always wanted to be famous," he notes. "But I outgrew that when I got to be 30... Now what I do is for other people... I'm sensitive to what music can do for humanity."

According to one reviewer, "[Goldstein] has the unique ability to translate his ideas and emotions through the love of piano. In presenting a mood that may be happy or sad, the piano comes alive under his direction."

AS WELL as being known as a concert pianist, Goldstein is revered in his community for his devotion and leadership in the Church of the Latter Day Saints.

Born and raised Jewish, he converted to Mormonism in 1985 at the age of 35.

"I know it's a very difficult thing for Jewish people," he says of his conversion. "I feel very sensitive about it, not for myself but for people taken aback by it. My goal in the church is to explain to the 11 million members the validity of Judaism and how it is the basis of all religions, and how they should be sensitive and loving and kind and understand the pain and suffering Jews have gone through."

Though his testimonial on his Web site - www.marvingoldstein.com - exudes with pride of his conversion, Goldstein sounds somewhat uncomfortable when talking about it in his interview with The Jerusalem Post.

"My musical interpretations don't deal with practices or doctrines. My conversion has absolutely nothing to do with the concert," he says.

His co-performer, Atari, agrees. "It doesn't bother me," Atari says of Goldstein's conversion. "People can be whoever they want to be. If I were to duet with Bruce Springsteen, it wouldn't bother me that he isn't Jewish."

Anyway, says Atari, music can help unify people. "It's an international language. Music brings people together in the good sense of the word."

Goldstein, who is married and has one son, also notes that his conversion "doesn't mean [that I have] any diminished feeling for my family or Judaism or the Jewish people... I don't proselytize."

In fact, Goldstein goes on to say that he is very excited about his upcoming visit here - he has been here six times before - as he "loves the people [in Israel] so much."

"I love coming to Israel," he says, happily. "I'm not afraid [to come despite the unrest]. There are quite a few places in the US that are quite a bit more dangerous."

Then he adds, joyfully: "I'm so excited to be performing with Gali Atari. It's amazing that it's happening."

Marvin Goldstein hosts Gali Atari in concert on March 20 at 9 p.m. at the YMCA in Jerusalem. Tickets will be available at the box office preceding the show. Sponsored by The Jerusalem Post and the Jerusalem Hyatt Hotel, Goldstein will perform international love songs and Broadway musicals. He'll also accompany Atari as she sings some of Israel's most popular folk songs.