



Dancing The Sacred, Moving The World...

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The Sacred Dance Guild, a member of the CID, is delighted to submit a video presentation titled "**HUMANKIND**" to the 60th World Congress of Dance Research Athens, 5-9 July 2023 as a distance conferee.

VIDEO: An edited version with excerpts from the full 45 minute performance including introduction and explanations throughout.

LENGTH: 19 minutes

SIZE/FORMAT: 745,186KB (MP4) 700683 (MPG)

BACKGROUND:

Humankind is a 45-minute dance performance piece focused on the treatment of refugees and immigrants; it is a response to the world crisis of more than 70 million refugees and displaced people. This performance piece is a collaboration between the International Sacred Dance Guild (www.sacreddanceguild.org) and the Trinity Movement Choir ([Congregational Arts | Trinity Church Wall Street \(trinitywallstreet.org\)](http://CongregationalArts|TrinityChurchWallStreet(trinitywallstreet.org)) and is the creation of Marilyn Green, the Co-Director of Resources for the Sacred Dance Guild and the Artistic Director of the Trinity Movement Choir in New York City. Marilyn's vision was born when the Movement Choir performed at the 2018 Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto, Canada where speakers at this conference described in horrifying detail the explosion of displaced people throughout the world and her personal rage took her on a creative process where the intention became clearer that the focus needed to show the possibility of transformation of humankind into a kind, caring, flexible and loving community recognizing the challenges but committed to compassionate solutions. The resulting performance – initially coming to life during the global pandemic - is an emotional and transformative personal and collective experience by the dancers and by the audience – both virtually and in person.

MUSIC:

Music was created by Debbie Danbrook (www.healingmusic.com), a composer, vocalist and first woman master of the shakuhachi flute. "Humankind" uses only the human voice, with no recognizable words so it cannot be tied to any national or ethnic group – but to all humans.

CHOREOGRAPHY:

The dance movement style is inspired by Butoh and Laban - slow, intentional and focused. The interconnection among all people is symbolized by a red circular cloth 30 feet in diameter with five "holes" where dancers put their heads representing the human community. In the community the dancers through the process are reminded that no one

dancer can move without have some affect on everyone else in the cloth. Choreography by Marilyn Green and Wendy Morrell of the Sacred Dance Guild.

Dancers – from the Sacred Dance Guild and the Trinity Movement Choir – represent four different aspects:

1. **The Holy Spirit** – The performance begins with a solo dancer invoking the Holy Spirit that sets the intention for the piece.
2. **The Gatekeepers** – Four dancers dedicated to “protecting” the desired community
3. **The Chosen** – Five initial dancers representing those who are part of the desired community.
4. **The Refugees/Displaced Persons** – Dancers in person and on screen representing the refugees and displaced persons of the world trying to get in to the desired community. At the beginning these dancers hold individual “cloths” in front of themselves symbolizing their origin and how they are often “seen” – not as an individual but only as where they are from or what group they are with.

PERFORMANCE NOTES:

A projected banner over the performance quotes Leviticus 19: 33-34 *“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”*

The 45 minute performance is broken into six sections

1. Dancing the presence and protection of the Holy Spirit and its overall intention.
2. The Gatekeepers bringing in and laying the ritual cloth – protecting and defending the “desired” community and turning away those who might compromise or change it.
3. The FIVE chosen dancers coming into the community and the relationship between and among them as they establish the community.
4. The FIVE dancers in their “bubble” show their love and care for one another but also experience the challenges of community.
5. The FIVE dancers becoming aware of the displaced travelers and reaching out to invite and include them in the now diverse and expanded society.
6. ALL – LOVE and ACCEPTANCE becomes contagious - the Gatekeepers and the Audience are invited to join the Community.

IMAGES:

Images by Kathy Bozzuti-Jones of people from very different cultures doing common things - eating, loving, fighting, caring for children, dying, loving, etc. - at the beginning and at the end of the live performance.

PERFORMANCES TO DATE:

1. **October 16, 2021** - Parliament of the Worlds Religions on line world wide conference - <https://www.parliamentofreligions.org/parliament/2021-virtual>). A hybrid version of the performance was recorded during the pandemic – parts in person, parts on line – and then were edited to create a full length video that was presented to the Parliament virtually. [Humankind - 2021 - Presented to the Parliament of the World's Religions - YouTube](#)
2. **September 22, 2022** – A live public performance at St. Paul's Chapel in New York City that included projected “videos” from the on line October 2021 version. [Human-kind - 2022 - Performed at St. Paul's Chapel, New York City](#)