

# **International Perspectives on Peace and Reconciliation Conference Dinner**

**7:00pm  
Plaza Ballroom  
Regent Theatre  
191 Collins St, Melbourne**

Musicians Jackie Bornstein (vocals), Rodrigo Aravena (bass), Glen Cannon (guitar), Phil Collings (drums) will introduce guests to the Plaza Ballroom with a relaxing jazz set. During the evening they will present 3 performances of Peace Songs from around the globe.

## **Dinner Keynote: Arnold Zable - The Healing Power of Story**

Award winning author and storyteller, Arnold Zable, weaves tales of love, migration, Greek madness, Yiddish curses, wanderers and dreamers, displaced peoples, and epic voyages to the Great Southern Land. To be a storyteller requires first, an act of listening, and an entering into relationships over time. Zable has listened to countless tales told by refugees, asylum seekers, holocaust survivors, travellers, street people, family and friends. He has listened in living rooms, cafes, kitchens, pubs, detention centres, on the road, on boats and trains, in hospital corridors, and the various places where people meet. Stories identify moments that are both terrifying and wondrous, and the shades of light and shadow that make up all our lives. We are, as a nation, the sum total of all our stories.

## **Evening Performance Pieces**

### **1. Shir Hashirim / Love Song (Ofra Haza)**

✂ Ofra Haza was of Yemenite Jewish decent and embraced both her Arabic and Jewish culture. Ofra's songs expressed faith in God, and hope for the Israeli and Arabic people to embrace each other as allies and friends. These lyrics are taken from the Jewish text 'Song of songs' (third century B.C.) which expresses the theme that love is the strongest and holiest human emotion given by God to sweeten our lives of toil and trouble.

### **2. Gracias a la Vida / Thanks to Life (V. Parra)**

✂ Violetta Parra was one of the artists that inspired the popular song movement '*Nueva Canción*/New Song' in Chile that was so important in the years leading up to the election of President Allende. *Nueva Canción* songs were poetry and social commitment set to the traditional music of Latin America. This is a song of solidarity, a celebration of life that echoes the struggle for freedom in Central and South America.

### **3. What's Going On? (Gaye/Cleveland/Benson)**

✂ Recorded in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, and written from the viewpoint of Gaye's brother who had just returned from service, the album "What's Going On" contains tales of social unrest, urban decay, unemployment, environmental problems and the need for people to get together.