The Jerusalem Youth Chorus is a choral and dialogue program for Israeli and Palestinian youth in Jerusalem. Our mission is to provide a space for these young people from East and West Jerusalem to grow together in song and dialogue. Through the co-creation of music and the sharing of stories, we empower youth in Jerusalem to become leaders in their communities and inspire singers and listeners around the world to work for peace.

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus is the ensemble-in-residence at the Jerusalem International YMCA and has been featured on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert, as well as in the New York Times, on the BBC and on PBS, in Haaretz, Alhurra and many other news sources. We have recorded with multi-platinum Israeli artist and peace activist David Broza in Jerusalem and in London with Duran Duran. Our music video “Home” has amassed over 400,000 views. We have toured to Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Switzerland, and have performed at venues as celebrated as the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, the United Nations in Geneva, and as a featured ensemble at the Yale International Choral Festival. In 2017, our Founder and Director Micah Hendler was selected as one of the Forbes 30 Under 30 for his chorus work.

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus is unique in its combination of music and dialogue programming, providing a transformative experience for our singers that yields both friendship and understanding on an individual and collective level across lines of religion, nationality, language, and culture. We go beyond simply singing together, delving deeper into one another’s identities, life experiences, communal narratives, religious traditions, and national histories through dialogue, all within the safe space of the musical ensemble and the strong personal bonds and community it creates.

Musically, the Jerusalem Youth Chorus seeks to reflect the values of equality and inclusiveness upon which we are based, truly making manifest the concept of beauty in diversity. As our members come often from vastly different musical traditions, we draw heavy influences from both East and West in our repertoire and musical style. As such, we seek to innovate and challenge boundaries musically as we do in the non-musical elements of our program.

The Jerusalem Youth Chorus is inspired by and affiliated with Seeds of Peace. For more than 25 years, Seeds of Peace has trained the next generation of leaders to transform conflict, at its International Camp for Coexistence in Maine and locally in the regions of the world in which it operates. Micah Hendler is a graduate of Seeds of Peace and a GATHER Fellow. You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Jerusalem Youth Chorus through Seeds of Peace.

Help us change the dynamics of the Israeli-Palestinian relationship through song. www.jerusalemyouthchorus.org | micah@jerusalemyouthchorus.org
Be a Fellow with the Jerusalem Youth Chorus!

We are so excited by the potential opportunity to work with a graduating Yale senior in Jerusalem next year! There are many areas in which Fellows can contribute and grow during the course of a year with the Jerusalem Youth Chorus:

Be a part of the JYC Music Team!
• Help shape the vision and artistic direction of the Jerusalem Youth Chorus for our 2019-2020 season!
  o We are open to your suggestions of repertoire, stylistic approaches, performance techniques, and anything else you would like to bring to the artistic discussion from your own background and experience.
• Help lead rehearsals and concerts, and give private musical instruction!
  o Working directly with our Palestinian and Israeli youth singers, you can contribute your musical skills to teach music, musicianship, music literacy, vocal technique, performance, and more. You also have the valuable opportunity to learn from the unique diversity of their musical and personal backgrounds as well in the process.

Help us share our singers’ voices with the world!
• Help us build and execute a powerful multiplatform communications strategy!
  o Through your written work and photo, video and audio production (where relevant to your skills), help us share our songs and stories.
• Help us strategically develop the resources we need in order to continue to do this musical conflict-transformation work!
  o Through research and writing, help us find and seize the best opportunities to build partnerships and support for the chorus.
• Help us plan and execute international concert tours!
  o Use your own experiences (maybe even as a tour manager!) to help us bring our chorus, in person, onto the global stage.

Create your own JYC Special Projects!
• One of the most valuable things a Fellow can do is to bring their own initiative, drive, and talents to JYC! We would love to help you generate new, bold ideas for the chorus and be in charge of those special projects from beginning to end.
  o Examples of past special projects include music videos, album production, creating a 25-page JYC Press Kit, and more!

I would be delighted to discuss any and all of this with you! Feel free to reach out at micah@jerusalemyouthchorus.org and we’ll chat! – Micah Hendler ‘12