

Roger Waters performs in `Oasis of Peace` village in Israel



Tel Aviv, June 25: Pink Floyd's frontman Roger Waters chose to have his solo concert in Israel at a village called `Oasis of Peace`, a mixed Arab-Jewish community living side by side.

The concert was originally planned for a Tel Aviv stadium but Waters changed the location to the peace village near Jerusalem, following criticism by fans in Britain and in the Palestinian territories.

When news came about Waters' expected performance in Israel, a group of Palestinian artists from the West Bank sent a letter to the internationally renowned rock star, urging him to cancel his planned performance in Israel.

The appeal, sent in March by a Union of Palestinian Artists, said: "How can the artist whose name around the world was for many years associated with breaking walls of injustice be in any way complicit with the monstrosity of Israel's wall, declared illegal by the International Court of Justice at the Hague?"

Waters has recently expressed strong opposition to Israel's separation barrier.

He is the writer of the famous song `Another Brick in the Wall`, which protests all walls of oppression and subjugation and calls to bring all walls down.

Upon his arrival to the region, Waters toured a segment of the barrier separating Israel and the West Bank at the town of Bethlehem.

Waters, who inspired the Pink Floyd's iconic album `The Wall`, scrawled `Tear Down the Wall` on the concrete panels of Israel's barrier.

In his reply to the Palestinian protesters, Waters wrote that the decision to move the concert to a more ethnically diverse village was made `as a gesture of solidarity with the voices of reason of Israelis and Palestinians seeking a non-violent route for a just peace`.

Neve Shalom / Wahat al-Salam village inhabits 220 people, 50 Jewish and Palestinian Arabs (holding Israeli citizenship) families. The residents adhere the co-existence of different faiths and races.

The show's venue, at the foot of the village, was set up on a chickpea field. Organisers had to construct the performance grounds from scratch to allow some 50,000 people to attend.

Waters kicked off his three-hour-long show with `In The Flash`, from `The Wall` album.

Other pieces performed included `Set the Controls for the Heart of the Sun`, `Wish You Were Here`, `Shine On You Crazy Diamond`, `Have A Cigar` and `Leaving Beirut`.

Images of Osama Bin Laden, Saddam Hussein and George W. Bush were shown on a video screen on stage while Waters performed `The Fletcher Memorial Home`.

The second part of the show included the whole `Dark Side of the Moon`.

After playing `Another Brick in the Wall`, Waters addressed the cheering crowds, telling them: "We and the rest of the world need this generation of Israelis to tear down the walls".

Israel has built almost half the planned barrier, which has the stated aim of keeping suicide bombers out of its cities.

Condemned by Palestinians as a land grab, the barrier has been branded illegal by the World Court because it cuts through occupied territory. Israel is rerouting some sections after a Supreme Court order to lessen Palestinian hardship.

In 1990, Waters performed "The Wall" along the Berlin Wall that separated East and West Germany to celebrate reunification.

He told reporters that he hoped Israel's barrier would also be brought down one day.

"It may be a lot harder to get this one down, but eventually it must happen," Waters said.

Bureau Report

Source: http://www.zeenews.com/znnew/print_articles.asp?aid=304790&ssid=2&sid=ENT

Roger Waters calls on audience to 'tear down the walls'

By [Ben Shalev](#), Haaretz Correspondent and AP

About an hour after his concert began, Roger Waters told the audience about a trip he took to the Middle East when he was 17. For some reason, he got stuck in Beirut and had to hitchhike home to England. The wonderful hospitality of a Lebanese family during that hard time "changed my life," he said.

Just before the end of the concert, Waters addressed his audience again. "I believe we need this generation of Israelis to tear down the walls and make peace with their neighbors," he said, setting off a round of cheers.

Tens of thousands of Israelis flocked to the mixed Arab-Jewish town of Neveh Shalom last night for the single performance by the British rock star - the founder of Pink Floyd, which produced the legendary album *The Wall*.

An estimated 50,000 gathered in a hastily prepared outdoor venue in a field near Neveh Shalom, which is located between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. Hours before the performance, cars were gridlocked in all directions in one of Israel's worst traffic jams ever.

There was nothing surprising in the first part of the concert. Waters's band was super-professional, the sound was perfect. The stage and set looked like the sum invested in them could finance a small state in Africa.

Rogers sounded hoarse and his neck muscles bulged every time he sang. Those who were still stuck in traffic jams could only try to imagine what it felt like when tens of thousands sang together, "Shine on, you crazy diamond."

At 6 P.M., three hours before Waters was due on stage, Yoram Friedman was already standing right in front of the stage, surrounded by teenagers. The 50-year-old member of Kibbutz Givat Haim came with his son, a beginner guitarist. He said that he would stay as long as his strength held out, "because that is the only way to experience a rock concert."

Friedman has seen Pink Floyd four times, including on two consecutive days in London in 1982. He heard the album *The Dark Side of the Moon* (1973), considered by many fans to be the band's magnum opus, when he was 16 - his son's age today.

Friedman was in a minority in the huge concert compound. Most of the crowd were born after Waters, David Gilmour and the rest recorded *The Dark Side*. But the old-timers made their presence felt. Some wore long hair and tee shirts with the famous prism from the album jacket. Others were more conservative-looking.

Still, all had one thing in common: The music of Pink Floyd and the other great bands of the 1960s and 1970s was the backdrop and soundtrack of their lives. They came to remember, to relive their youth for a few hours.

Yossi Naor, for example, could not be missed. With his long hair, mustache and a 1960s-era floppy black hat, he looked like the fourth member of Crosby, Stills and Nash. He and his wife Mary, from Tel Aviv, are "50 plus." For them, Pink Floyd's music was "the end of an era. It was 1973, but for us it was the end of the 1960s, the end of the Beatles era."

Avi, 45, who came from the Galilee with his 14-year-old son, said that he has been waiting for this concert all his life.

Source:<http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/objects/pages/PrintArticleEn.jhtml?itemNo=730470>

Steve Weizman, Canadian Press, Thursday, June 22, 2006

JERUSALEM (AP) - Veteran British rocker Roger Waters, co-creator of the legendary Pink Floyd album The Wall, performed for Israeli fans Thursday after urging Israel to tear down the concrete barrier walling off parts of the West Bank.

Tens of thousands gathered in a hastily prepared outdoor venue for the concert, next to the Jewish-Arab village of Neveh Shalom in central Israel. Israeli performers warmed up the crowd before Waters appeared.

In the hours before the performance, cars were backed up for many kilometre in all directions in one of Israel's biggest-ever traffic jams.

Waters refused to appear at the usual venues for outdoor concerts in Tel Aviv, citing his opposition to Israel's policies toward the Palestinians. He agreed in the end to the field about halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

One of the concert site staff, identified only as Amit, told Israel Radio that monks at a nearby Trappist monastery had given their blessing to the concert and its powerfully amplified message of coexistence but, as members of a silent order, "It's not likely that they'll sing along."

On Wednesday, after arriving in Israel, Waters visited a walled section of Israel's West Bank separation barrier running through the Palestinian town of Bethlehem and spray-painted a line from the title song of The Wall - "No thought control" - on the towering concrete blocks.

"It fills me with horror," Waters told reporters at the site. "You can see photographs of something like this, but until you've seen the actual edifice itself and seen what it's doing to these communities . . . It's hard to comprehend that they could be doing this."

In 1990 he performed music from the album at a site where the Berlin Wall once ran, to celebrate the reunification of East and West Germany.

Israel says it is building the wall to keep out Palestinian attackers. Suicide bombers have killed more than 500 Israelis and maimed many more since the September 2000 outbreak of fighting between the sides.

But because the barrier dips into the West Bank at several points, incorporating West Bank land on the Israeli side, Palestinians denounce the obstacle as a front for grabbing territory they claim for a future state.

Waters, 62, said he hoped that like the Berlin Wall, the Israeli barrier would fall.

"It may be a lot harder to get this one down, but eventually it has to happen, otherwise there's no point being human beings," he said.

Israel says the half-finished, 760-kilometre barrier will be 95 per cent electronic fence and only five per cent wall when complete.

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<http://www.canada.com/topics/entertainment/story.html?id=2685d604-4989-46ed-96b1-4542e7683903&k=45414>

Global Peace Project Launches at Pink Floyd Concert in Israel

Thursday June 22, 6:30 am ET

Humanitarian Initiative Announced at Joint Israel/Arab Rock Concert

NEVE SHALOM, Israel, June 22 /PRNewswire/ -- A global peace project called JAMOP (www.jamop.com) - Just A Minute of Peace, will be launched by Israel's David Broza and Palestinian Ebrahim Eid at a Pink Floyd concert taking place in Israel this evening, June 22, 2006.

The sold-out concert is featuring legendary musician Roger Waters.

The event will take place at Neve Shalom, an area where 25 Jewish and 25 Arab families have lived in peaceful coexistence since 1976. The artists will ask the audience to hold out cell phones and lighters and sing together for one minute for the official launch of JAMOP.

JAMOP is a Canadian non-profit humanitarian organization and peace initiative asking the whole world to join together on 07/07/07 to celebrate a minute of peace.

Noble peace prize winner Jose Ramos Horta drafted the JAMOP declaration, and 17 noble laureates have joined including the Dalai Lama, and archbishop Desmond Tutu, in addition to over 75 performers who have agreed to perform at this global event.

JAMOP is a grassroots movement that plans to hold thirty concerts simultaneously and link them together to celebrate a minute of peace. Over the course of this year every president and noble laureate will be asked to sign this declaration as a symbolic gesture of good faith and to demonstrate their genuine desire to live in peace.

About JAMOP

Founded by David Tenenbaum in 1997, Just a Minute of Peace (JAMOP) is a simultaneous, worldwide, humanitarian/entertainment event of unprecedented magnitude. Its mission is to initiate the global voice for peaceful solutions to international conflicts, to advance peace and human rights, and to promote responsible economic and social development. JAMOP is focused on mobilizing citizens of the world to represent their collective desire for peace, human rights, environmental reform, and sustainability.

About David Tenenbaum

David Tenenbaum is the founding President and CEO of JAMOP and Dove Productions Ltd. As a professional in the area of high-end residential/property management and real estate for more than 12 years, Mr. Tenenbaum has also been a key player in the organization of several non-profit and profit-making music and arts-driven events throughout the world. His work with various high-profile artists and charities led him to establish JAMOP in 1997 and subsequently, its affiliate, Dove Productions Ltd., an organization dedicated to staging large-scale, predominantly music-oriented benefits.

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Source: <http://biz.yahoo.com/prnews/060622/ukth007.html?.v=66&printer=1>

Pink Floyd's "The Wall" star marks Israeli barrier

Wed Jun 21, 2006 3:37 PM ET

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (Reuters) - Pink Floyd frontman Roger Waters, who inspired the rock band's iconic album "The Wall", scrawled "tear down the wall" on the concrete panels of Israel's West Bank barrier on Wednesday.

The barrier was the first stop on a visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories for Waters, who had been criticized by some fans for planning to play a concert in the Jewish state.

"It's a horrific edifice, this thing," Waters told reporters as he stood beside a section of the barrier in Bethlehem.

"I've seen pictures of it, I've heard a lot about it but without being here you can't imagine how extraordinarily oppressive it is and how sad it is to see these people coming through these little holes," he added. "It's craziness."

Waters added to graffiti with red spray paint and a marker pen. Waters was lyricist, songwriter and singer for Pink Floyd, the former British rock group famous for "The Wall" and "The Dark Side of the Moon".

Israel has built almost half the barrier, which has the stated aim of keeping suicide bombers out of its cities.

Condemned by Palestinians as a land grab, the barrier has been branded illegal by the World Court because it cuts through occupied territory. Israel is rerouting some sections after a Supreme Court order to lessen Palestinian hardship.

Waters is due to perform a concert at the Arab-Jewish coexistence village of Neve Shalom on Thursday as part of his world tour.

The concert was originally planned for a Tel Aviv sports stadium but, following criticism by fans in Britain, Waters changed the location to the peace village, where Israeli Jews and Arabs live in a joint community.

In 1990, Waters performed "The Wall" along the Berlin Wall that separated East and West Germany to celebrate reunification.

He told reporters he hoped Israel's barrier would also be brought down one day. More than 90 percent of the barrier is razor-tipped fence, but towering concrete walls are used in built-up areas.

"It may be a lot harder to get this one down, but eventually it must happen," Waters said.

Source: http://today.reuters.com/news/newsArticle.aspx?type=entertainmentNews&storyID=2006-06-21T193740Z_01_L21293134_RTRUKOC_0_US-WATERS-WALL.xml&archived=False

Bridge over troubled Waters

Ruth Eglash, THE JERUSALEM POST

Jun. 18, 2006

In an interview a few years ago in Melbourne newspaper *The Age*, Roger Waters, founder and former front man of the legendary band Pink Floyd, said: "My work flickers back and forth between introspective writing and general political comment on the way the world works."

The irony of his words and the political connotations of his music is not lost on Israel as June 22, the date for his first performance here, draws closer. Not only is Waters in the first batch of high profile international artists to perform in Israel this summer following a six year lull of foreign artists, he is the first of his caliber to stage a concert in the fields of Neve Shalom/ Wahat al-Salam, a cooperative village of Jews and Palestinian Arabs of Israeli citizenship situated equidistant from Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Waters chose this unusual venue following protests by pro-Palestinian groups over his scheduled performance in Tel Aviv's Hayarkon Park.

"I moved the concert to Neve Shalom as a gesture of solidarity with the voices of reason - Israelis and Palestinians seeking a non-violent path to a just peace between the peoples," commented Waters in a press release.

"Waters' has always been interested in humanitarian causes, coexistence, and the like," Shuki Weiss, one of the concert's promoters, explains on the Neve Shalom website. "So I had to find him something suitable. Neve Shalom is my one true example of coexistence, unfortunately, so I told him about it and he said that's where he wanted to appear. This was the original plan when we talked about the concert last year. But we thought it would be in 2007. Then, in January he decided to do a short tour this year instead, and said he could come to Israel in June. The problem was, the fields around Neve Shalom had already been planted, and it didn't seem practical to do it there at such short notice, so we decided on Hayarkon Park. Instead of doing the performance in Neve Shalom, he said he would just give his press conference there. Then he looked at the matter more deeply and decided to move the concert to Neve Shalom after all."

Transferring the concert to Neve Shalom is not the singer's first political commentary on the situation in the Middle East. In 2004, the singer lent his name to a campaign against the building of the security fence launched by War on Want, an organization that "fights poverty in developing countries in partnership and solidarity with people affected by globalization."

At the time Waters stated, "The poverty inflicted by the wall has been devastating for Palestinians. It has kept children from their schools; the sick from proper medical care and continues to destroy the Palestinian economy. I fully support War on Want's campaign, and hope that as many people as possible sign the wall - as a strong message to the UK government that immediate action is essential."

Still Water's political messages regarding Israel do not seem to have deterred the enormous Pink Floyd fan base here from planning to attend Thursday's concert, or from listening to it live on radio's Reshet Bet. More than 42,000 tickets, costing upwards of NIS 375 each, have been sold so far.

The three-hour show, which is being designed by Mark Fisher (who was responsible for the opening and closing ceremonies at the Turin Winter Olympics in Italy), will include much of Water's classic repertoire. Scheduled for the musical line up is the entire album *The Dark Side of the Moon* (1973), which as of May 5, 2006 had spent 1,500 weeks on the Billboard charts, as well as hits from albums *Animals*, *The Wall*, *Wish You Were Here* and his solo material.

Waters started Pink Floyd in the late 1960s with schoolmate Syd Barret, drummer Nick Mason and keyboardist Rick Wright. Following the band's first two albums, Barret was replaced with David Gilmour. The foursome had moderate success until the early 1970s, but it was *The Dark Side of the Moon*, for which Waters wrote all the lyrics and some of the music, which secured the band a place in rock history.

Waters was also responsible for penning the lyrics and musical collaborations on *Wish You Were Here*, *The Wall* and *The Final Cut* and was the sole author of the multi-selling hit single "Another Brick in the Wall Pt. 2".

The band split in 1983 and Waters launched his solo career with *The Pros and Cons of Hitchhiking* in April 1984. The other band members, however, reunited and began releasing material under the Pink Floyd name. Waters sued them but lost the case and the others went on tour and recorded successfully without him.

In 1990, to mark the fall of the Berlin wall in Germany, Waters organized an all-star performance of the album *The Wall* and last year he finally reunited with his old band mates for a one-off Pink Floyd concert at the Live 8 concert in London.

Water's most recent musical release was an opera *Ca Ira*, which came out in October 2005 and topped the Billboard magazine classical chart.

Source:<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1150355515984&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

Waters in the field

BEN JACOBSON and RUTH EGLASH, THE JERUSALEM POST

Jun. 15, 2006

This Thursday's performance by Pink Floyd founder Roger Waters at the Latrun Monastery's Neve Shalom chickpea fields promises to be a landmark event in the annals of rock and roll in Israel.

Surely the 50,000 local fans expected to attend have been doing their homework in anticipation, blasting the timeless sounds of Pink Floyd's "big three" albums - *Wish You Were Here*, *The Wall* and *The Dark Side of the Moon*. *The Dark Side of the Moon* will be played in its entirety during the three-hour set. These classic space-rock albums appear on almost any respectable list of the top rock albums, and their sales statistics are mind-boggling, with *The Wall* ranking as the third best-selling album in US chart history and *Dark Side* having spent a whopping 741 weeks on the chart following its 1973 release.

Those familiar with Waters' psychedelic chillout jams know that the classic Waters-Floyd playlist has considerable depth and variety. In 1968, the band bid farewell to founding member Syd "Crazy Diamond" Barrett, and the band welcomed new lead guitarist/co-lead vocalist David Gilmour. Gilmour went on to carry the Pink Floyd torch even after Waters officially quit the band in 1985, but even in the late Sixties, the quartet from Cambridge, England, was going through a transitional period. Single-chord "freakout jams" were being phased out, while opus suites like "Atom Heart Mother" and "The Man and the Journey" were taking shape. In-between, the band flirted with the three-minute post-*Sergeant Pepper* pop format - experiments marked by varying levels of success.

The first Floyd double album, *Ummagumma*, was released in 1969, and features a classic four-track concert set of extended jams, followed by a sequence of four strange sonic exploration suites, each penned by a different Floyd member.

Several of these compositions would later be combined with additional material to become the seminal *The Man and the Journey* live suite, a precursor to the concept albums that would become the Pink Floyd signature. The acoustic guitar-driven "Grantchester Meadows," written by Waters, is a beautiful ode to youthful afternoons spent expanding minds in rural England.

Pink Floyd released *Atom Heart Mother* in 1970. The album's extended jams carry echoes of the band's past, while the compositions' complex, epic structures and studio savvy served as a forerunner for later releases. From here, the sonic leaps to 1972's *Meddle* and 1973's *Dark Side* seem like a logical progression.

Also in 1970 Roger Waters teamed up with avant-garde producer Ron Geesin to release his first solo album, *Music from the Body*. The project can be compared to this spring's equally self-indulgent solo Waters release, *Ca Ira*, an opera about the French Revolution.

In addition to its music, Pink Floyd experimented in film, too. *Live at Pompeii*, which debuted in 1972 and was recently released on DVD, provides a twist on the "concert movie" concept.

By the late 1970s, Pink Floyd had essentially conquered the world, thanks to mind-boggling levels of success for its best-known albums. But Waters, having emerged as the group's principal songwriter, was growing increasingly disillusioned with playing at mega-stadiums, which he came to associate with totalitarianism.

On tour in 1977, Waters cursed fans who disrupted the performance with fireworks, and spat in the face of a screaming teenager who climbed a barrier fence nearby. In the following months, Waters would wonder what kind of monster he had become on this night, and his answers took the form of the autobiographical double album and Hollywood movie *The Wall*.

The overwhelming success of *The Wall* proved debilitating for Pink Floyd, which was ready to collapse. *The Final Cut*, which the band released in 1983, is considered by many to be the first Waters rock solo album. His lyrics are poignant and melancholy - two of his signature moods as a songwriter. No concert tour followed, and in 1985, Waters issued a press release announcing that he had quit Pink Floyd, with the musician assuming that the band would cease to exist without him. It didn't.

In recent years, Waters has returned to the enormous concert venues that inspired him to build *The Wall* 20-odd years earlier. But he was comfortable with the proceedings this time around - comfortable enough to tour for three years, to reunite with Pink Floyd for one night only, and eventually to set out on a new world tour.

While Waters is only one of a growing list of international performers to visit Israel this summer, his political views are surely the most controversial among them.

Following the March announcement of Waters' performance here, anti-Israel groups immediately lobbied the singer to cancel the show. The groups argued that Waters - who lent his name to the War on Want protest against Israel's security barrier last year - would surely not want to show solidarity with the citizens of Israel.

Waters, however, refused to cancel the Israel stop of his world tour, and instead moved the venue to Neve Shalom/Wahat al-Salam, a cooperative village of Jews and Arab Israelis situated between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

Following the decision to change venues, Waters issued this statement: "I moved the concert to Neve Shalom as a gesture of solidarity with the voices of reason - Israelis and Palestinians seeking a nonviolent path to a just peace between the peoples."

Roger Waters performs at Neve Shalom at the Latrun Monastery this Thursday, June 22. Gates open at 5 p.m. Tickets, priced at NIS 375, are available at (03) 604-5000 and at all box offices. The concert will be broadcast live on two radio stations: 88 FM and Reshet Bet.

Source:<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1150355500335&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FPrinter>