

## **Concert benefits Culture of Peace**

**By John Darling / For the Tidings**

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In a benefit concert for the Ashland Culture of Peace Commission, the inspiring spiritual music of Karl Anthony will be featured in concert Saturday, Sept. 3, nearly a year after the commission's official launch on Sept. 21, 2015, on the International Day of Peace.

Anthony, a singer-songwriter and guitarist, has worked for 12 years in a healing arts program at a children's hospital in San Diego. His lead song, **"Hold the Sky,"** comes from an inspiring exchange with a boy on chemo, who said the treatment felt "like an earthquake inside me." Anthony asked how he handles that and the boy said "I hold the sky."

ACPC is an independent, community and citizen-based commission with nonprofit status. "The intention is to inspire new thinking and see through new lenses to further develop the Culture of Peace for the present, and future generations," according to David Wick, executive director of the commission. "The proceeds from this concert will allow the Ashland Culture of Peace to conduct community trainings and peace education for children."

Anthony performs at 7:30 p.m. a week from Saturday at Ashland Community Center, 59 Winburn Way. Tickets purchased in advance are \$20 or \$36 for two (or \$25 each at the door). Tickets are available at the Ashland Music Coop.

"It's an engaging and uplifting performance, very dynamic, with chanting," says Jack Gibbs, owner of Fortress Financial Group in Ashland and a member of the commission. "It's very peaceful music and is aligned with our mission."

One song features sacred words and phrases from all the religions and chants, "God belongs to all of us," said Gibbs, who saw Anthony perform in Grants Pass and spent time with him on a raft trip and arranged the concert.

“My children, 9, 11 and 13, love his music. It arrests them and they fall into a little spell,” he says. “He tells stories too. He has a real way of connecting with children but speaks to everyone.”

Anthony notes, “It’s all been amazing, as a songwriter and singer. I never would have guessed how beautiful it has turned out. I didn’t pursue the work with children; it pursued me. I do it when I’m not on the road performing.”

The concert precedes the ACRC Eleven Days of Peace events set for Sept. 11 to 21. Sept. 21 is the International Day of Peace, a worldwide celebration, observance of which was declared by the United Nations in 1981. Here, it will include ceremonies honoring the tragedy of 9/11 at the Peace Pole at U.S. Cellular Park in Medford, as well as singing at Ashland’s Methodist Church and vigils at Ashland’s Plaza, with singing by Ashlander Pauline Sullivan. More details will be announced later.

According to its website, [www.ashlandcpc.org](http://www.ashlandcpc.org), “The Ashland Culture of Peace Commission provides the City Council, city operations, and community a lens and compass that guides and informs the mindset, practices, and higher order values that are essential to live in and create a sustainable Culture of Peace and well-being.”

For more information about the concert, call 541-488-3600 or email [thekeepersofpeace@gmail.com](mailto:thekeepersofpeace@gmail.com). For more about Anthony, go to [karlanthony.com](http://karlanthony.com).

Anthony will be featured at Unity Church, at Huvurah Shir Hadash at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, the day after the concert, 185 N. Mountain Ave.

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