

International project lures young musos to Lim

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YOLANDE NEL

>>observer.yolande@gmail.com

Music will be the common denominator when musicians from South Africa, Scandinavia, Palestine and Israel are expected to meet in Polokwane at the end of this month for an action-packed week filled with music, workshops and sharing traditions

and culture as part of the Music on Troubled Grounds South Africa project.

The 20 young musicians will live, cook food and create music together during a week of workshops and rehearsals, where they will be trained in how to use music as an instrument for social change, it was stated in a media release. A grand finale concert on 6 February will be the culmination of the week's activities.

The participants will bring some music with them as well as write new songs together, mixing and matching different traditions, says Thomas Holst, a musician and project assistant in Music on Troubled Grounds South Africa (MoTGSA) for Spiritus Mundi which is a Swedish non-government organisa-

tion that co-organises the project, was quoted saying. Itumeleng Innovation Centre for Youth Development, a Seshego-based organisation, is the other half spearheading MoTGSA.

This is an exceptional opportunity for young people from different nations and backgrounds to work together in fostering social change through the power of music whilst at the same time spreading the message of peace and unity to the global village, Project Director Mothomoni Mapela was quoted saying.

It was further stated in the media release that MoTGSA took its first steps back in 2009 when 13 Israeli, Palestinian and Scandinavian musicians gathered in the Swedish city of Malmö for ten days of music and dialogue

workshops. The success led to the group reconvening in Tallinn, Estonia in 2011 to perform at the International Music Council's World Forum on Music.

When an invitation to South Africa was extended, Spiritus Mundi and the participants saw an exciting opportunity to expand the project. The music workshops and rehearsals will be alternated with lectures and dialogue sessions that will highlight issues like the emancipation from apartheid and the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Scandinavian musician Petter Rylén looks forward to the visit to South Africa. "We want to tell the stories that we - the Israeli, Palestinian and Scandinavian musicians - have experienced during our previous meetings and share our belief in music as a path through what appears to be impossible situations."

