MUSIC – MÜJIGA

MUSIC TRANSFORMS LIVES

- **BRAZIL - SUPPORT FOR THE SOCIO-EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF THE RIPAXOTE CULTURAL INSTITUTE**
- **UGANDA - FIGHTING THE TRAFFICKING OF STREET CHILDREN WITH SHELTER AND MUSIC**
- **PALESTINE – HOPE IS ALSO MADE OF MUSIC**

BRAZIL – MUSIC TRANSFORMS LIVES

São Paulo is a city of around 20 million people and one of the most important financial centres in Brazil. People arrive here from all over Brazil and from neighbouring countries in search of work and new opportunities in life. Often, however, they end up living in run-down housing (favelas and cortiços). Young people in particular widely experience educational poverty and are exposed to violence, drugs and abuse.

In 2020 Tony Daniel founded the Ripaxote Cultural Institute in São Paulo, with the aim of offering free musical, socio-educational and transformative activities to children and teenagers in need. Tony is a musician who invented the 'Ripaton', a percussion instrument played with the hands and fingers that produces many different sounds. It has become the symbol of the Institute and *the instrument* of transformation for many of the young people who attend it. Every day the Institute welcomes around 70 young people aged between 12 and 18, who come from extremely marginalised and vulnerable families.

The activities, coordinated by professionals and volunteers, aim to promote social inclusion and personal growth through workshops in music, sustainability and innovation, entrepreneurship and socio-emotional development. The goal is to form ethical citizens who are aware of themselves and others, able to make the most of their talents and face life's challenges.





Thanks to the support of Maratona dles Dolomites – Enel, with a contribution to this project of **€28,000**, it will be possible to realise the dream of launching in 2027 – and maintaining throughout all 12 months of the year – the progression of the Ripaxote programme to a Level II course, offering continuous, incremental, appropriate and advanced tools and training to the older young people attending the Institute, and giving them new opportunities to learn and to prepare for today's challenges.

Level II – renamed the “Maratona level” – will be aimed primarily at 20-40 teenagers and young people who have completed the initial and progressive training at the Ripaxote Institute over at least three years (or who demonstrate equivalent skills through a diagnostic assessment).

The educational structure is organised around five pillars: the four well-established training pillars (Art, Entrepreneurship, Sustainability and Socio-emotional Development) and a new pillar, Education, which is in turn made up of four learning areas: Information Technology, Artificial Intelligence, Digital Inclusion and Academic Support.

The project contact is Tony Daniel, president of the Institute, with whom “Insieme si può…” has built a very solid, cooperative and transparent relationship.

Project in partnership with the Ripaxote Cultural Institute, São Paulo, Brazil.

UGANDA – SHELTER AND MUSIC AGAINST THE TRAFFICKING OF STREET CHILDREN

In Uganda, child trafficking takes the form of a constant flow of children, some of them very young, towards the capital Kampala and towards medium-to-large cities such as Gulu. ISP has always been committed to protecting these children, the defenceless victims of this phenomenon.

Most of these children come from Karamoja, a particularly poor region in the north of the country. They are brought to the city by unscrupulous traffickers, often with the consent of their families, who see the big city as offering their children better chances of survival. The reality is very different: these children live in miserable conditions, are forced into begging and petty theft, are exploited in various kinds of work and are victims of sexual abuse and organ trafficking. The countermeasures put in place by the Ugandan government, while progressively improving, remain fragmented and insufficient to this day.

The St. Daniel Comboni Children’s Centre in Kampala, founded and run by Sister Fernanda Cristinelli through the WEOD Association, and the Shelter for Street Children founded by Sister Dorina Tadiello at the Comboni Samaritan in Gulu, work with courage and foresight to respond to this emergency and to tackle the social and cultural roots of this horrific phenomenon. They provide daytime care (food, shelter, play and social activities) and temporary accommodation for children who have ended up living in the Katwe slum in Kampala and on the streets of Gulu. Alongside this daily presence, Sister Fernanda and Sister Dorina fight the crime of child trafficking by actively raising awareness among the public, the authorities, and the children’s home communities and families, with the final stage being the reintegration of the children into their families and communities of origin.

Music and dance are already part of daily life at the two Centres and are valuable activities for the children’s socialisation, entertainment, and personal and cultural growth.





The support consists of a contribution of **€6,000**, which will make it possible to continue and further develop music and dance activities during 2027 at the St. Daniel Comboni Children's Centre in Kampala and at the Shelter for Street Children in Gulu. In particular, in Kampala the funding will support the musicians and social workers who organise and run the music activities, while in Gulu some musical instruments will be purchased to continue the existing activities and improve their quality.

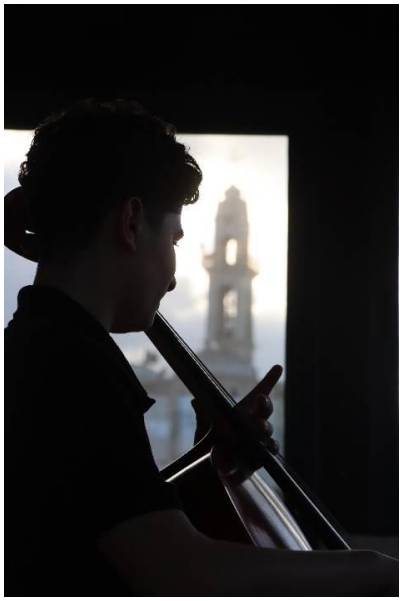
The project contacts, Sister Fernanda Cristinelli and Sister Dorina Tadiello, are Comboni missionaries with a long history of dedication to the poorest of the poor in Uganda, with whom "Insieme si può" has shared a deep bond and an extraordinary understanding for many years, the result of a collaboration lived out in the field with synergy and mutual esteem.

Project in partnership with WEOD - Women & Equal Opportunities Desk and with the Comboni Samaritan, Uganda.

PALESTINE – TRAINING, CONCERTS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN PALESTINE

In the Palestinian Territories, the occupation continues to cause a severe and widespread socio-economic and humanitarian crisis. Despite the cautious opening created by the peace agreement at the end of 2025, the situation remains extremely fragile and marked by high levels of violence, made worse by the expansion of settlements. Frequent raids, detentions and daily intimidation keep insecurity high in local communities. This context leaves the population extremely vulnerable, a situation aggravated by economic insecurity for workers who depend on permits and on tourism.

In this context, the Franciscan-inspired Pro Terra Sancta Association promotes and carries out not only projects to preserve and enhance cultural and natural heritage, but also projects to support local communities and provide humanitarian emergency aid. In Bethlehem it has set up the "Dar Al-Majus" listening and socio-cultural centre, which works to respond in a structured and ongoing way to the basic, health, employment and social needs of children, young people, women, families and elderly people in the Palestinian community.





Our support consists of a contribution of **€6,000**, which will make it possible to carry out two music activities in 2027.

A music masterclass for around 20 advanced students, to be held at the Bethlehem Centre, giving participants opportunities for growth and technical development, exchange with teachers and participation

in public performances, combined with a tour of the refugee camps of Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah and Aida. The tour will bring to the refugee camps a performance combining music and theatre to offer a new reinterpretation of the story of Pinocchio. With a cello in the role of the famous character, acting and live music will bring his adventures to life, guiding the children through a story in which the instrument becomes the heart of the narrative. The activity will end with a final concert at Aida camp, marking the meeting point between the masterclass and the tour.

At the Bethlehem Centre, a basic music education training course for teachers and educators will be launched: a participatory programme designed to provide practical tools to take directly into mainstream schools, where demand for music is growing strongly but staff with specific training are lacking. This will allow us to strengthen the skills of local teachers and ensure greater continuity in the educational offer of the area.

Investing in the training of teachers already working in the area is particularly important given the difficulty of retaining stable professional skills: those who study abroad often do not return, while obstacles in obtaining visas make the long-term presence of foreign teachers increasingly difficult, especially in the West Bank. The Bethlehem location will make it easier for teachers from Jerusalem and the West Bank to take part.

The project contact is Camilla Sibra of the Pro Terra Sancta Association, with which “Insieme si può…” has worked productively and collaboratively for about ten years.

Project in partnership with the Pro Terra Sancta Association, Palestine.