

Singing for Reconciliation

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"Everywhere that people want reconciliation they start to sing," musician Per Harling of Sweden commented at the WACC Congress 2001 opening dinner as he led participants in exploring the Congress' reconciliation theme – in song.



"Sing", he exhorted his audience, "sing for all the people around the world who sing for reconciliation". Participants joined worship leader Patrick Matsikenyiri from Zimbabwe in a Mozambican hymn of praise for God's care and, led by musician Pablo Sosa of Argentina, turned rhythmic, joyful noise into a song declaring "Este Momento! Now is the Time!"

Congress worship leaders were called into service for the post-dinner program because members of the performing group Isangano from Rwanda were denied visas. Lamenting the group's absence, Sosa commented, "We're improvising, with pleasure, but we feel there's something missing."

The program at Congress 2001's opening banquet included the introductions, by WACC President Albert Van Den Heuvel, of participants by region and of several special guests, including leaders of Dutch Protestant traditions in the process of uniting, and Frits Brink, the president of the Dutch broadcasting company Nederlandse Christelike Radio Vereniging.