



Peace through Folk  
Leek,  
Staffordshire,  
ST13 8DW  
Phone 01538 388418  
Mobile  
0780 552 9492

Email -  
[peacethroughfolk@gmail.com](mailto:peacethroughfolk@gmail.com)

websites  
[www.peacethroughfolk.org](http://www.peacethroughfolk.org)  
[www.thefolkgathering.org](http://www.thefolkgathering.org)

## Information

Issue date - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016

**Event Date – 7.00 for 7.30pm - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2016**

**Location - Stoke Film Theatre, College Road, Stoke, ST4 2EF. Free admission .**

**A special screening of the film of a live event in Leek in 2015 which marked the Armenian Genocide of 1915- 1916 through to Isis now.**

'Out of Darkness into Light' was performed live as a one-take dramatised documentary in Leek, Staffordshire on April 24th 2015, - the 100th anniversary of the start of the Turkish genocide against Armenians.

Through spoken word, music and film the documentary traced a thread of evil of genocide and war crimes from Armenia in 1915 to Syria and ISIS today.

This is balanced with a celebration of mankind's capacity for goodness, reconciliation, kindness and decency through the stories of ordinary people as well as those who are better known - such as Nelson Mandela, Martin Luther King, Ghandi, the Dalai Lama and Malala Yousafzai.

Music includes the traditional Armenian duduk played live by Tigran Aleksanyan and songs performed by the Phoenix Singers, the Bird Scarers, Peace through Folk Choir, Brian Bull, Kate

Ridley, Rick Ford, and narrations by Ray Johnson, Virginia Meir, Jackie Redgewell, David Bowen, Grainne Harrington (BBC Radio 4) and others.

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm edited highlights from the show will be screened at Stoke Film Theatre.

The producers of the show Rick Ford and Malcolm Hawksworth will be present.

A Special guest on 9<sup>th</sup> March will be Dr Ara Nahabedian who will relate the story of his survival as an Armenian refugee who was eventually to make his home in England. Dr Nahabedian will speak of his own life and of how ethnic cleansing and the attempted destruction of a whole nation affects each individual. He is an example of a beacon of Light glowing from the Darkness.

For more information contact  
Malcolm Hawksworth 0780 552 9492

### **Notes to Editors-**

Full DVD copies of the film, the songs performed and still pictures are available .  
Key players are available for interviews and photocalls.

'Out of Darkness into Light' was presented by Peace Through Folk - a Staffordshire based trust dedicated to the celebration of Peace, Reconciliation and Friendship through songs and music.  
See [www.peacethroughfolk.org](http://www.peacethroughfolk.org)

Written, Produced and Directed by Malcolm Hawksworth and Richard Mihran Ford  
Armenian advisers - Dr Ara and Shoghig Nahabedian  
Camera Geoff Berrow. Sound Tim Mundy.  
Executive Producer, Ray Johnson.

### **Notes on Dr Ara Nahabedian** - Special guest appearing at the 9<sup>th</sup> March Screening

- Born on February 15, 1953 in Aleppo, Syria. Arrived in England, 1984. Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry, American University, Beirut, 1974; Master of Science in Anatomy, American University, Beirut, 1976; Doctor of Medicine, AM. University, Beirut, 1981; Specialty in general surgery, American University, Beirut, 1982; Specialty orthopedic surgery, American

University, Beirut, 1984

- During World War 1 Ara's grandfather Arakel Nahabedian, his wife and two children lived in Sivas [Sepasdia], in the Ottoman Empire. They fled death by escaping to the city of Aleppo Syria where Ara was born.
- In turn Ara escaped the upheavals there and settled with his family in UK.
- Ara, the son born to the survivors of The Armenian Genocide will tell his own story which illustrates how ethnic cleansing and the attempted destruction of a whole nation affects individuals.
- The first generation had to start all over again in a completely foreign country hoping that with hard work and optimism they will come out of the darkness. However the turmoil of the volatile Middle East imposed more suffering on them and on the second generation. A revolution, migration, civil war, shrapnel injuries and subsequent dispersal again awaited them.
- Ara was fortunate eventually to find peace in a foreign land; in England, which he calls home. While the rest of the family was thrown into the wind to the four corners of the earth.
- Dr. Ara Nahabedian, eventually worked as an orthopedic surgeon at Leighton Hospital in Crewe, Cheshire, England. He is a medical consultant and translation coordinator for WiRED's Community Health Education e-library program in Armenia.
- Dr. Nahabedian began his humanitarian efforts in Armenia in 1988 after a major earthquake devastated the northern part of the country. Today he travels regularly to Armenia to provide free surgeries for adults and medical consultation for children in need. He also collects and transports medical equipment to hospitals desperate for supplies. He and his wife, Shoghig, work with local nurses and communities, and they also translate modules into Armenian.
- In addition Dr. and Mrs. Nahabedian delivered handmade sweaters for children and babies with special needs in Mother Teresa's orphanage in Yerevan.
- Dr. Nahabedian also helps children in the town of Vartenis, where his former school classmate Sebouh Baghdoyan supports the NGOI organization Asdghavart.