

FFWPU USA: Sunhwa Reiner's Original Song Project: Showcases Unificationist Musicians

Demian Dunkley
August 19, 2023



Photos courtesy of Sunhwa Reiner

Young Unificationists from across the country recently had the chance to tap their creative side while producing their own music. Fourteen young adults participated in the second annual Original Song Project from Aug. 15 to 19 in Manhattan. The weeklong workshop, led by founder and director Sunhwa Reiner, brought together musicians of varying levels who all wrote and performed their original songs in an open concert.



Reiner, who is a piano and vocal instructor, first launched the workshop in summer 2022 to create "a space for Unificationist musicians and friends to experience the transformative power of songwriting," she says. "I believe that through hands-on creativity, people can foster their relationships with God and

understand themselves much more deeply. God is, after all, a creator."



The songwriting workshop drew participants from Florida, Maryland, Colorado, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, who quickly bonded over their shared love of music despite their different backgrounds. Reiner said although many of the participants hadn't written a song before, they were eager to learn something new.



"Many expressed that this songwriting experience gave them more confidence and that they experienced a deep personal growth," Reiner says. "They shared different ways the workshop impacted them, with one participant stating it was 'life-changing,' and another felt that God inspired them to come."

The workshop helped others cultivate greater passion and dedication toward music, Reiner noted. "Many of the original songs expressed a deep and unique part of each participant," she says. "There were themes such as being creators of their own life path, family relationships, being there for others in a time of need, and searching for home."



The songs spanned diverse genres and featured a variety of instrumental combinations. With the help of staff, including Iasmin Lumibao, Sarah Falconi, and Yoshiha Tsuchida, the group worked with professional songwriter and pastor Joe Young of Florida who led the songwriting lectures.

"Joe has a passion and talent for songwriting and storytelling," says Reiner. "As the founder and pastor of [The Living Room Ministry](#), his expertise and guidance helped everyone to write their own original song and perform them in a final concert open to the public."

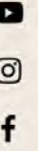
Participants also enjoyed a personal tour of the Manhattan Center courtesy of Markus Karr, Roy Clark, and Scott Avery, and saw a music show at the historic Apollo Theater. "They explored New York City and felt the inspiration of the spirit and energy of the city's atmosphere," Reiner says.

More than 150 people came to the concert showcase at the end of the workshop at the Manhattan Family Church, while another 700 people saw the YouTube [livestream](#). "We're very grateful to everyone who supported this effort," says Reiner. "The individual donors, local churches, concert attendees, and volunteers all made it possible for our songwriters to have this incredible experience."

You can listen to a playlist of the workshop's original songs [here](#), and donate to support the Original Song Project [here](#).



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Meet the Pastor

Joe Young had a vision for a global ministry that could help foster and develop a lifestyle, community, and culture of True Love, empower others to grow and become closer to one another, and create deeper, lasting friendships and family relationships, centered on God. His heart for The Living Room Ministry is to carry out this vision by sharing his own faith journey and path of spiritual growth.

"I'm not a guru or master of emotional and spiritual maturity, but as I come across nuggets of insight and inspiration, I would love have this platform to share it with you."

Joe and his wife, Keishu, have been married for 11 years and currently live in South Florida with their beautiful daughter, Alexandra.



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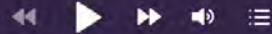


Reality

King

0:00

3:28



Reality

King

3:28



Liz's Song

Liz Kiluba

3:29



Shine

Young Minute

3:25



Lighthouse

Sunhwa Reiner

3:46



Funny Boy

Meena Okamoto

1:35



The Girl That I Once Knew

Letisha Ferabolli

3:24



Happier Than Ever

Sarah Falconi



Too Too Bad

Elilo

3:31



Lifeguard

Kent Hoffman

3:24



Ready To Blitz

Elvis Daboni

2:23



The War Is Over

Hannah Bush

4:05



Breathe

Eva Schneider

3:01



Steady Love

Iasmin Lumibao

Support the Original Song Project 2023!



Sunhwa Reiner is organizing this fundraiser,

Hello! We are so excited to announce that we are preparing for the SECOND-EVER Original Song Project workshop this August. This is a week-long immersion program targeting young adult musicians ages 18-40 interested in songwriting, located in the heart of Manhattan and hosted by musicians of the Unificationist community. Our mission is to create an artistic, constructive, and supportive space for young adults, to inspire the writing and sharing of original songs. At the conclusion of the workshop, the goal is to have every participant compose at least one full original song, presented at an open concert for family and friends.



Last year, we had an incredible success with 12 young musicians of varying levels creating diverse and beautiful songs. Through the help of our extended community, we were able to put together a full concert with all of our original songs written from that week. We were stunned by the result. The full recording of the concert is below:



We want to elevate the experience this year and are now inviting back **songwriter Joe Young** to help lead this year's workshop for the full week. He has a passion and talent for songwriting and storytelling, and is the founder and pastor of [The Living Room Ministry](#). With his guidance, we know that there will be an incredible result. **But we need your help.**



\$1,862 raised of \$3,000 goal

26 donations

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Kaeleigh Moffitt \$100 · 15 d

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See top donations



In order to make this workshop accessible to young adults and keep the costs down to a minimum, while creating a rich experience in New York City, we need to raise funds! Any support is greatly appreciated and will go directly towards creating an experience that empowers young songwriters, and the creation of songs.



We want to provide scholarships for those who need to travel to New York City or cannot cover the full workshop fee (\$600 per person for 1 week in New York City). Your donations will go towards financial help to those who are passionate about songwriting but need support.



Your donations will go to covering the costs of:

- participant scholarships
- lodging
- food
- travel expenses
- concert fees (staff, hall rental, A/V equipment)
- New York City experiences, such as music concerts and touring
- recording fees at Manhattan Center Studios
- core staff costs
- seminars with professional songwriters
- any additional funds will go to future workshops



Thank you SO much for your support of the arts. No matter how small your donation is, we are so grateful. All our donors and sponsors will be receiving:

- an invite to our original song concert
- a full report after the workshop is over
- samples and recordings of the original songs we create during this workshop

Thank you!

For any further questions, or to make a donation through check, Venmo, Paypal, or other

means, please contact the team through [GoFundMe](#) or through our email, [theoriginalsongproject AT gmail DOT com](mailto:theoriginalsongproject@gmail.com). You can also contact the program director Sunhwa Reiner directly.

GoFundMe Giving Guarantee

This fundraiser mentions donating through another platform, but please know that only donations made on GoFundMe are protected by the [GoFundMe Giving Guarantee](#).

Updates (1)

August 18th, 2023 by Sunhwa Reiner, Organizer

THANK YOU so much for supporting the Original Song Project. This grassroots initiative means so much to me, and without the support of my family, friends, community, and beyond, it wouldn't be possible.

This workshop is truly magical. Creating these songs in the midst of the energy of Manhattan is a memorable experience, and I'm always so blown away that each one of us can create amazing, unique, diverse songs.

Your donation helps so much, funding scholarships, activities, lodging & food, A/V staff, concert space, and more. The staff are mostly volunteers so it means the world that you've helped support us in making it happen.

The concert will be held TOMORROW, Saturday Aug. 19th at 4 PM EST, at 4 West 43rd St in Manhattan in the Social Hall. It will be around 2 hours. You won't want to miss this!

If you can't see us in person, please tune into the livestream, which will be here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sVWq-fUwwMs>

It will also be available after it is streamed at the same link.

Thank you so much again.

With gratitude and all of our love,

Sunhwa & the Original Song Project team and participants



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