



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Russell Simmons Joins Honorary Committee for
Fourth Annual Daniel Pearl Music Days Series ~
International Network of Musicians Promotes “Harmony for Humanity”**

Los Angeles, CA. – August 31, 2005 – The Daniel Pearl Foundation announced that Russell Simmons, co-founder of Del Jam Recordings, the “godfather of hip hop” , and the Chairman of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, has joined the Honorary committee for Daniel Pearl Music Days 2005 (www.musicdays.org) , a global network of performances to be held October 1-10, under the theme “Harmony for Humanity”.

Inspired by the life of murdered journalist Daniel Pearl, who joined a variety of classical, folk, bluegrass and jazz groups to make friends and bridge cultural differences wherever he traveled, Music Days began in 2002 as an international “jam session” to commemorate Pearl’s birthday and his belief that music is a language that knows no boundaries. In 2004 over 400 concerts in 39 countries – professional and amateur – participated in this international phenomenon (www.music-days.org).

“I am very pleased to be involved with the Daniel Pearl Music Days Committee because its message resonates with me on a very personal level, “explained Simmons. “My own career is an example of the universal power of music, especially the power of Hip Hop, to bring people of different backgrounds together for a common purpose. I hope that my commitment to the Daniel Pearl Music Days committee will encourage all music lovers – both amateurs and professionals to – to get involved with the Music Days performance network and contribute to the ‘Harmony for Humanity’ eStage.”

The Daniel Pearl Music Days Honorary Committee spans a wide variety of musical genres and includes Salman Ahmad, Yefim Bronfman, Hamza el Din, Herbie Hancock, Sir Elton John, Tania Libertad, Yo-Yo Ma, Zubin Mehta, Mark O'Connor, Itzhak Perlman, Steve Reich, R.E.M., Mohammad Reza Shajarian Ravi Shankar, and John Williams. With the addition of Simmons, who is also Chairman of the Board of the Foundation for Ethnic Understanding, the Music Day committee expands its outreach to fans of hip hop and rap.

“We are thrilled to have Russell Simmons join our global rhapsody of talents and visions,” said Judea Pearl, father of Daniel Pearl and President of The Daniel Pearl Foundation. “In addition to being a master musician and a champion of the underdog, Russell is also an important inter-ethnic dialogue maker- a perfect match with the mission of Music Days.”

For 2005, Daniel Pearl Music Days will expand its reach by introducing “Harmony for Humanity” eStage, a web-based collection of selected words and music inspired by the Music Days 2005 theme. A dedicated internet radio station will play original songs and compositions, as well as other related music and suggested song lists. The Daniel Pearl Foundation welcomes contributions of music, lyrics, poems and related articles that celebrate our shared humanity for possible use on the “Harmony for Humanity” eStage.

“There are no set formats or restrictions to Music Days,” explained Jackie Gelfand, Executive Director of The Daniel Pearl Foundation. “Musicians can register a song or full concert, a DJ can dedicate a radio show or a club set; an orchestra can offer a performance, single composition, or open rehearsal; a youth group can perform at a school or a sports event; and music lovers can contribute written pieces, as well as original compositions that reflect the ‘Harmony for Humanity’ theme to our e-Stage. The possibilities are endless.”

To register a Music Days 2005 event, dedicate an already scheduled performance or to submit original music, poems, articles and suggestions to the “Harmony for Humanity” e-Stage, please visit www.musicdays.org.

Daniel Pearl's murder by terrorists in Pakistan in 2002 touched millions. By developing innovative international programs focused on journalism, music and respectful dialogue, the Daniel Pearl Foundation seeks to counter the hatred and intolerance that took his life. For more information please visit www.danielpearl.org.

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