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THE FIRST EVER CONCERT ACROSS AMERICA TO END GUN VIOLENCE FEATURED MORE THAN 5,200 ARTISTS AT 350 MUSICAL EVENTS IN 43 STATES ON SEPTEMBER 25

Prominent Artists Included Jackson Browne, Eddie Vedder, Rosanne Cash, Marc Cohn, Ryan Cabrera, Paul Beaubrun, Vy Higginsen's Gospel Choir of Harlem, Sebastian Kole, Sam Harris, Ozomatli, Kenny Loggins, Don Felder, Michael McDonald, and the Gay Men's Choir of Los Angeles, with Special Surprise Performances by Moby and Joan Osborne

September 28, 2016 (New York, NY) – The Concert Across America to End Gun Violence featured 350 events across the country, with more than 5,200 artists performing for a day of music on Sunday, September 25, to honor victims of gun violence and to make gun violence prevention a voting issue in the November elections.

Hawaii, the state with the lowest gun death rate in the country, initiated the concert series with a special sunrise Hawaiian Aloha chant performed by the Prince Dance Theatre at the Kahilu Theatre at 12:01AM HST/6:01am EST. Later, on Sunday evening, Moby made a surprise appearance at the Los Angeles concert while Joan Osborne joined the New York City performance at the Beacon Theatre with Jackson Browne, Marc Cohn, Rosanne Cash, Vy Higginsen's Gospel Choir of Harlem and Eddie Vedder.

“These concerts are about getting common sense gun laws passed,” said Browne.

Cohn said of the participating musicians, including Rosanne Cash and Browne, “They stand tall and they stand up for what they believe in.” Cohn was then joined by the Harlem Gospel Choir for “Live Out The String,” a song he wrote about him surviving a gunshot to the head in 2005.

Cash is a longtime gun violence prevention activist who, through her advocacy, has met with dozens of mothers who have had their children ripped from their lives because of the easy access of guns to criminals and the mentally ill.

“The enormity of their loss is unbearable and all too easily forgotten,” Cash said. “We're here to drown out the hateful rhetoric that has become the hallmark of the gun debate with *music*, and create a positive national moment of collective remembrance, supported by action and a commitment to change. I believe our country is good enough and strong enough to eliminate senseless gun violence and prevent the destruction of one more family.”

When Vedder took to the Beacon stage, he referenced the mass shooting last Friday near his hometown of Seattle as a tragedy happening far too often in America.

"Together we have power. If we rise to the challenge to unite and support sensible gun violence prevention measures in our cities and our towns, then we have the power to save lives," Vedder said. "Let's use our power for good."

The sold-out show at the Beacon Theatre was filled with an audience of diverse New Yorkers who cheered at each reference to ending gun violence. The audience included people who have lost loved ones, including Trenelle Gabay, the widow of New York Gov. Cuomo's lawyer who was gunned down in 2015. The parents of Allison Parker, who was murdered along with Adam Ward on-air during a news report for CBS in Roanoke, VA, were also in the audience. Andy and Barbara Parker held a backstage meeting with Marc Cohn and shared with him how much his song “Walking in Memphis” helped them.

Jackson Browne invited John Rosenthal, founder of Stop Handgun Violence and National Concert Chair; Donna Dees, Million Mom March founder and National Concert Co-chair; and Zoe Grover, concert coalition co-chair; on stage during the Beacon performance to get a standing ovation for bringing together so many diverse groups across America. On stage, John Rosenthal reminded the audience of the power of music to mobilize movements and encouraged audience members to hold Congress accountable. Rosenthal also announced that the original estimate of 1,000 participating artists was grossly underestimated as the 350 events nationwide reported over 5,200 performers.

The moving finale at the Beacon featured a cover of Bruce Springsteen’s “American Skin (41 Shots)” performed by Browne with the Gospel Choir of Harlem. Vedder had told the audience earlier that listening to the Harlem choir during rehearsals had "brought me to tears and I thank them for that."

The artists and communities that participated in the Concert Across America to End Gun Violence, including Haitian musician Paul Beaubrun, who took part in the Beacon Theater performance, and Jeffrey Gaines who performed in Ewing, NJ, reflect the diversity of the movement. Others such as Bette Midler, Snoop Dogg, Chelsea Handler, Sarah McLachlan, Valerie Jarrett, Bonnie Raitt and James Taylor are among those who expressed support on social media using the hashtags #ConcertAcrossAmerica (to) #EndGunViolence.

Elsewhere, middle schoolers in Gloucester, MA, played to a packed venue at a teens-only open mic, and at San Quentin State Prison an inmate choir was led by a member of Rabbis Against Gun Violence to sing of choosing hope over hate.

"Places of worship across the country raised their voices in song to raise awareness about America's gun violence epidemic and to promote love, kindness and peace," said Brian Birch, Deputy National Coordinator of Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence. "From the University of Kentucky's Black Voices choir at the Wesley United Methodist Church in Lexington, to an interfaith event with 17 congregations gathering for an event they called 'Standing on the Side of Love' on Denver's Capitol steps, September 25th really was a day for standing on the side of love. Love can heal fear and policy change can save lives. We need both."

Like Cohn, many of the performers on Sunday had been directly impacted by gun violence, including singer Francine Wheeler whose son Ben was murdered in the Sandy Hook massacre. Wheeler participated at an interfaith concert at the Newtown Trinity Episcopal Church – one of 260 faith-based events for the Concert Across America.

Across the country, musicians paid tribute to other artists killed by gunfire including Marvin Gaye, and Christina Grimmie whose murder in Orlando in June was followed by the mass shooting at the One Pulse nightclub the same weekend. Classical musicians at a Cleveland concert began their program with "Imagine" and ended with "All You Need is Love" – both by John Lennon, a victim of America's gun violence.

At the Santa Barbara, CA, concert performers included Christopher Cross, Rocky Dawuni, Zach Gill (Alo), Amy Holland, Kenny Loggins, Lois Mahalia, Patrick and Rick Maiani, Michael McDonald, Naked Voices, One Voice Choir, Ozomatli, the Santa Barbara School of Performing Arts and Venice. Full video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBohOV4qP24>

Entertainment Tonight's Kevin Frazier told the concertgoers at The Rooftop at The Standard Hotel that he agreed to emcee the downtown Los Angeles concert because he is fed up. "I'm here tonight because, like many of you, I'm sick and tired of what's happening in this country," he said. Before introducing Motown's Sebastian Kole who performed with the Gay Men's Chorus of Los Angeles, Frazier told the crowd when he arrived he met concertgoers Lonnie and Sandy Phillips, whose daughter was murdered in the 2012 Aurora movie theatre shooting – a powerful reminder, he said, of what's at stake.

Sam Harris of the X Ambassadors took to the rooftop stage and thanked the organizers for allowing him to be part of this "incredible day for such an important cause." Harris said: "If I can make a little bit of difference to use my voice to speak out because a lot of people are being silent about what's going on in this country with gun violence and it's time for that to stop." Harris then played "Unsteady," to the crowd who came from all over the greater Los Angeles area to the venue donated by The Standard – which became a national sponsor of the Concert Across America in January following a downtown L.A. shooting in December 2015.

Across the country artists of all genres took the stage, from Bluegrass to Opera to Country and Western. In Austin, the legendary Jimmy Dale Gilmore participated in a concert at Threadgills sponsored by the organization Texas Gun Sense.

Dees, National Co-Chair, said over the last nine months of planning the concert series that she had been offered hundreds of new, donated original songs to use for the day. "The sheer magnitude of music that exists solely for mourning the loss of so many Americans from gun violence is in itself heart-breaking," Dees said. "The songs just keep pouring in."

In Bridgeport, CT, The Alternate Routes performed "Somewhere in America," a song about the phone call that so many Americans receive on a daily basis that a loved one has been shot. Band member Eric Donnelly, who wrote the song, lost both his parents in a 2005 jewelry store armed robbery.

In Lawrence, KS, the group, the Barclay Martin Ensemble, performed a new song called Silencer, a veiled reference to the fear Americans harbor about speaking out against the gun lobby: What if I am too scared to speak out? Violence in the end will silence all of us."

In Boca Raton, FL, 300 concertgoers were told before they silenced their phones to first program into it the numbers of their representatives in Congress. Boca Raton organizer Elin Schusterman said: "Attendance at the concert was more than double the response of any previous event we have held since our committee against gun violence was formed over three years ago after Newtown. Our audience left fired up and ready for action."

The call to action on Sunday was to make gun violence prevention a voting issue in November, and to educate voters on the issue starting with Monday's first presidential debate.

Leading up to and on the day of the Concert Across America, organizers demanded that the gun violence epidemic be highlighted at the first presidential debate which took place the next day. Even though the moderator did not ask a gun violence-related question at Monday's debate, the candidates still provided starkly different attitudes about gun violence in America.

"We were thrilled that Hillary Clinton took the opportunity during the debate to reiterate her position on the gun violence epidemic in America - specifically on the need to strengthen the background check system to keep guns out of the hands of violent felons, domestic abusers and the dangerously mentally ill," said Rosenthal on Tuesday.

For more information, visit www.ConcertAcrossAmerica.org.

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About the Concert Across America to End Gun Violence: This nationwide event brought together a network of organizations, activists, and artists with the dual goals of keeping guns out of dangerous hands and making the issue of gun violence prevention top of mind for members of

Congress, the presidential candidates, and the American people as they go to the polls in November 2016. Spearheaded by Stop Handgun Violence in Boston, more than 100 organizations signed on to support the effort including: Faiths United to Prevent Gun Violence, States United to Prevent Gun Violence, Texas Musicians Against Gun Violence and volunteers from Moms Demand Action and volunteers from the Brady Campaign's Million Mom March chapters. For more information, visit www.concertacrossamerica.org.