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## Indian conductor leads 'Requiem for Darfur'

Malaysia Sun  
Thursday 25th January, 2007  
(IANS)

George Mathew, an Indian conductor on the faculty at the Manhattan School of Music, conducted a performance of Verdi's Requiem at Carnegie Hall as a benefit for organisations providing relief to victims of the conflict in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

Last year he helped raising money for the Kashmir quake as he conducted 'Beethoven's Ninth for South Asia'.

Among the participants in the 'Requiem for Darfur' Monday night were Glenn Dicterow, the concertmaster of the New York Philharmonic; the violinist Eugene Drucker of the Emerson String Quartet; David Soyer, the founding cellist of the Guarneri Quartet; Timothy Cobb, the principal bass player of the Met Orchestra; Joseph Pereira, a percussionist of the New York Philharmonic; and players from the Juilliard School, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra and many other schools and orchestras including the Berlin Philharmonic.

Mathew had also recruited four experienced vocal soloists: the soprano Alexandra Deshorties, the mezzo-soprano Sarah Heltzel, the tenor Scott Piper and the bass Morris D. Robinson.

The host was the actress Mia Farrow, who has visited the Sudan area twice as a goodwill ambassador for Unicef. She spoke of the devastation caused by the militia attacks and the killing of about 400,000 people. Ongoing conflict in Sudan has displaced or adversely affected nearly 4 million people.

Photographs that Farrow took in Sudan were projected on the back wall of the stage. Jan Egeland, a former UN under-secretary general for humanitarian affairs reminded the audience that Darfur was not a natural disaster but a man-made crisis that can be stopped.

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