

Who is Nigel Osborne, and how is he working with those children, who experienced bombing and atrocities during the so-called Bosnian war?



Nigel Osborne is a British composer, born in 1948. He studied composition, both at Oxford and in Warsaw. There, he became popular due to his work at the Polish Radio Experimental Studio. In addition, he co-founded one of the first live-electronic performing groups in Eastern Europe. Today he is working as a Reid Professor at the University of Edinburgh. Apart from his academic work, he is an advisor to the charity **War child**, responsible for the implementation of a humanitarian aid programme in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

War child works toward a world in which no child's life is torn apart by war. Armed conflict is a reality for millions of children today. War Child is committed to supporting these children to overcome their experiences, and have a real chance for a better future. Children and young people have the right to grow up free from fear and violence, to develop to their full potential and contribute to a peaceful future – for themselves and for their communities.

“Nigel Osborne tries, through his music, to alleviate the pains and sorrows of children whose souls were wrecked by war. [...] He promised to himself that, if this kind of thing [WW2, Holocaust, extermination camps] happened in his own life, he would not ‘sit around and watch it’. [...] As the war in Bosnia broke out, Nigel Osborne kept his promise and tried to tackle this through his composed music. He worked directly with children who suffered from war in Sarajevo.”
Rasa, Lithuania

“Osborne set up a various of creative initiatives like song-writing, singing and other activities for the children in Bosnia – at a safe place. He worked with traumatized children, helping them to overcome posttraumatic stress disorder with setting up music workshops and projects – in that way distracting them from horrors of war. He argues that music bring[s] this children to a ‘safe place’, restoring their sense of worth and helps in building trust. [...] There are many proofs how his work in Bosnia with war children was influential and inspiring. It has inspired researches on music as a part of trauma therapy, but it also influenced Bosnian children on so many levels.”
Milena, Serbia

One of the examples is Jasmin's story: he participated in Osborne's music therapy projects, which in those years helped him overcome the war horrors. Today he is talented guitar player and he runs a school council at the only non-segregated secondary school in Mostar. Through many social workshops he inspires children to build bridges again in order to overcome divisions in Bosnia.

Milena, Serbia



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