

WHERE CONVERGING MINDS FREELY EXPLORE



Dr. Cynthia Cohen



Jane Wilburn Sapp

PETER WALL INSTITUTE PRESENTS:

# ARTS, WELL-BEING AND RESILIENCE: IDEAS AND MUSIC

Tuesday,  
May 6, 2014  
8:00 pm - 10:00pm

St. John's College,  
UBC,  
2111 Lower Mall,  
Vancouver

**Dr. Cynthia Cohen** will speak about her research into resilience, peacebuilding and the arts, focusing on her collaboration with distinguished musician, activist, educator and cultural worker **Jane Wilburn Sapp**. The African-American musical tradition — influenced by its West African roots, its evolution through the period of slavery and its development in the Black church — brought the values of non-violence and spirituality to a community's struggle for justice. Understanding this musical tradition in relation to emerging theories of resilience may point toward strategies that will be effective in addressing the legacies of violence and efforts for healing and transformation, including those calling for urgent attention in contemporary British Columbia. Dr. Cohen is joined by Ms. Sapp, who will illustrate the power of music's contributions to resilience through stories and songs performed at the piano. Conversation will explore connections between resilience and the practices of cultural work, music-making, healing, and justice-seeking.

The evening will be introduced by the premiere of "Invocation," a new song for voice and piano with text by **Professor Michelle LeBaron** and music by award-winning UBC composition major **Matthew Emery**, performed by soprano **Bahareh Poureslami** and **Professor Rena Sharon**.

**Dr. Cynthia Cohen** is Director of the Program in Peacebuilding and the Arts at Brandeis University. She teaches, conducts research and publishes on theory and practice at the nexus of arts, culture, justice and peace. She is currently a PWIAS Visiting International Research Scholar, and previously co-convened, with Professor Michelle LeBaron a Peter Wall Institute roundtable on the theme of resilience.

**Jane Sapp** is a musician with deep roots in the gospel tradition of the American south. She is an educator, organizer and cultural worker who has worked with communities across the United States and internationally, leading choruses, developing festivals and museums, and performing. She is currently partnering with Dr. Cohen on A WAY OUT OF NO WAY, a multimedia project that documents her 40+ year practice, creating resources for emerging leaders addressing issues such as the environment, racism in the criminal justice system, economic inequality and more.



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

