

Abraham Jam & Clarendon Presbyterian Church



A Muslim, a Christian, and a Jew walked into the sanctuary Wednesday evening ... and rocked the house! Abraham Jam, the band name that Dawud Wharnsby, David LaMotte, and Billy Jonas perform under, shared their gift of song with a full house that included young Muslim women who excused themselves at one point to say their evening prayers, Jewish friends from a nearby synagogue, and Presbyterian Young Adult Volunteers in Mission from the DC YAV house, as well as a couple dozen CPC folks.

“I’ve been to a lot of interfaith things that feel pretty didactic,” one young Muslim man said after the concert, “but this felt totally different. The way the performers feel about each other just shines through, and it fills the whole room.”

A member of CPC said, “It was a pretty cool night: all those young people; and old people; and people who don’t look like me.”

The trio was in fine form, running through an 80-minute set that mixed songs from each of their solo careers, with each performer taking the lead vocals on his original material. LaMotte played a percussive guitar throughout. Wharnsby mostly played a rich, soulful mandolin and occasionally switched to guitar. Jonas played a variety of percussion providing a powerful beat to the music. They closed the evening with a driving and joyous encore cover of Chet Powers’ anthem *Get Together*.



Following the show, the artists stuck around greeting fans and joining in a community reception for about 45 minutes in the fellowship hall.

The show was made possible, in part, through a generous grant from National Capital Presbytery (*Unified Mission*). It kicked off the fall season of Songs from the Sanctuary at Clarendon. You can follow the schedule of upcoming events on [Facebook](#).

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