

The Jack Barbash Legacy:

Promoting conservation through music in the world's biodiversity epicenter



Jack in Indonesia, April 2008. Photo: Titayanto Pieter

Jack Barbash lived large, immersing himself passionately in the communities and things he cared about. Among those he cared most about were music and nature conservation; Jack's entire life was an example of how a human being, with great expertise and deep commitment, can live thoughtfully, joyfully, and artfully on this Earth.

Jack's life was a gift to other people and to this Earth, and we who loved him would like to see that gift carry on. We therefore plan to establish, in Jack's name, a legacy of music and conservation in Tompotika, Indonesia, where Jack devoted a great deal of his time and attention.

The Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AITo), of which Jack was the Board Vice-President, has recently established a recurring Festival in which conservation information and values are promoted and celebrated through the Arts. Tompotika lies at the heart of one of Earth's most important areas for conservation, but until recently local people have had little awareness of this fact; AITo has found this regular Festival

to be a very effective vehicle for spreading the conservation message in a joyful, life-affirming, and energizing way.

To date, however, the role of music in the Festival has not been able to be fully developed. In Jack's honor, we hope to change that. Knowing the power of music to heal, to delight, and to inspire, we aim to establish a fund that will motivate local Tompotikans to compose and perform Music for Conservation as part of the Festival. Jack often referred to himself as "Jek" in Indonesian, and in his honor, a "Barbash Bash" or "Lomba Jek" (Jack's contest) will be established whereby individuals, ensembles, choirs--locals of any stripes--will prepare music to be performed at the Festival. Musical offerings will be judged on several criteria--conservation message, creativity, performance, etc.--and high-quality musical instruments (otherwise unavailable in Tompotika) will be awarded as prizes. The only hard criterion for the offerings is that they must be aimed at advancing conservation. If funding allows, we hope to be able to sponsor this as an ongoing, regular part of each Festival, and in so doing, to ensure that Jack's contributions and commitment to both music and conservation will continue to grow and bear fruit, bringing joy and well-being to other people and to the Earth, as he himself did throughout his life.

All who wish to honor Jack and his legacy are invited to contribute to this effort. To make a contribution, send your check to ALTO or donate online, noting Jack's name in the memo line or notes section. For more information contact ALTO Director Marcy Summers at 206-463-7720 or marcy@tompotika.org.

Send checks to:

Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (ALTO)
21416 86th Ave SW
Vashon, WA 98070

Or donate online at:

www.tompotika.org