

## Bank/Fund Choir, Wyclef Jean: The Photo Album

**December 17, 2004**—Washington’s MC Atrium reverberated with music and movement Wednesday afternoon during two exceptional musical performances for the benefit of staff.

The World Bank/IMF Chorus offered its traditional December holiday concert, this time with a special guest performance by President Jim Wolfensohn playing the cello. It was the 46<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that the Chorus has performed for staff at Christmas; it was the first time that the President has appeared before staff in his role as a musician.

Wolfensohn accompanied more than 85 singers and orchestra members, all Bank Group or Fund staff, who had assembled for the one-hour concert. It was the largest number of performers the chorus has ever presented for a single concert. The number, however, was more than matched as hundreds of staff turned out to listen, watch, and appreciate.

Diana Saez, musical director, led the chorus and orchestra through *Vivaldi’s Gloria (KV 589)*, as well as traditional carols of the season. The concert concluded with the audience joining the chorus in a rousing “Hark the Herald Angels Sing”.

### Change of ambiance

Minutes later, Wolfensohn introduced international hip-hop recording artist Wyclef Jean, who was at the Washington offices to take part in an informal donor’s meeting for Haiti. Jean had offered to play for staff if he had the occasion to come to the Bank Group.

In introducing him, Wolfensohn said “we appreciate your involvement in the donor’s meeting. You should know that you have before you people who care deeply about poverty reduction and who care deeply about Haiti.”



Jean then joined three of his band members on stage for a 35-minute tour through rock, rap, and reggae, displaying all of his crowd-pleasing, crowd-exciting talents.

As the pulsating rhythm mounted, Jean exhorted the swelling crowd to “put your hands in the air if you want to party!”, and “if you work at the World Bank, wave something in the air. Take off your tie and wave it!” And staff did.

At one point, Jim Wolfensohn was invited onto the small stage to join with Jean. Arms waving, face beaming, Wolfensohn led the crowd in its appreciation. Afterward, he told one spectator “Isn’t this fabulous?”

After 35 minutes, Jean was required to leave the stage and the Atrium for an outside engagement, but not

### PHOTO | VIDEO GALLERY

- [Photo Slide Show](#)
- [Bank Fund Choir Video](#)
- [Wyclef’s Video](#)
  - [3 Min Version](#)
  - [45 Min Version](#)



before being surrounded by dozens of fans asking for autographs. The rest of the audience had to content themselves with cooling down, putting ties back on (for some), and preserving their memories of an unforgettable afternoon.

To see the one-hour video of the Bank/Fund choir performance, please [go here](#).

To see photo slideshow of performances, please [go here](#).

Comments or questions about this article? [Send an e-mail here](#).





go to [top](#)



[Search Help/Feedback](#) • [Site Index](#) • [IFC](#) • [MIGA](#) • [ICSID](#) • [WBG Home](#)