

“SOUL ON FIRE-The Passion and Poetry of Rumi” will awaken your vitality and transform your heart with compassion! Find out why Jelaluddin Rumi, a thirteenth-century Persian Sufi mystic is one of the most popular poets in North America today! UNESCO (United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organization) has declared 2007 the “Year of Rumi” to celebrate 800 years since his birth, and 800 years of profound wisdom giving us glimpses of what Coleman Barks describes as “the vastness of our true identity”. Rumi’s spiritual depth, kindness and humour have not only passed the test of time, but grown ever richer with our increasing capacity to hear.

Two renowned Rumi mystics and scholars **Coleman Barks** (the King) and **Andrew Harvey** (the Prince), both University English professors, are coming to Guelph to gift us with the magic of Rumi. *Sacred Wisdom Centre* has invited them in the “Year of Rumi” to bring Rumi’s message of humanism and love to a world needing relief from strife and struggling to find hope for it’s future.

Coleman Barks is primarily responsible for making Rumi’s message accessible to us in North America today. Over thirty years ago he took up Robert Bly’s challenge “to release these poems from their cages” and produced 18 volumes of translations selling over 500,000 copies around the world. He has appeared on two PBS Specials with Bill Moyers, has earned several awards and an honorary doctorate in Persian Language and Literature from the University of Tehran. He will be reading his translations with the accompaniment of world-class musicians. David Darling on cello is a grammy-Award nominated composer and performer from New York city. Marcus Wise, a virtuoso on the tabla drums is a first-call accompanist of classical Indian solo instrumentalists and of Robert Bly and Coleman Barks.

Andrew Harvey is abundantly acclaimed for his own Rumi translations and adeptness in Sufism (which he studied when living in Paris for 12 years). He is a renowned mystical scholar and author, with over 30 books to his credit. He is “powered by love” like Rumi, and dedicated to Sacred Activism “the union of a profound spiritual/mystical understanding with focused, wise, radical action in the world.” Andrew has been featured in films on Rumi and will lead a Rumi pilgrimage to Turkey with Wisdom University in the Fall of 2007. This popular and challenging presenter has stunned his Guelph audiences with the depth and passion of his presence and his transformational teaching.