

AN OPEN LETTER FROM ROBERT POWELL:

Dear Friends,

As you know, with the restrictions, it has been difficult to travel—particularly with regard to international flying—if one chooses not to receive the vaccine. Despite the current difficulties, our hope is that some of you may feel called to join us and to participate in a healing and celebratory work together. We are planning a one-week gathering in 2022 to take place in Mexico—one of the few countries in the world which right from the start never imposed any restrictions. This open letter—feel free to forward to your friends—is to put out a call to all friends, especially to those who might be in a position to do so, to come together at a time when—as we believe and hope—it should still be possible to do so. Indeed, depending on how things develop in the world, it may perhaps be the last time in the foreseeable future that an international gathering of this kind may be possible.

On a personal level, my 75th birthday took place on January 18, 2022. Thanks to eurythmy, I feel myself to be much younger than 75. It is entirely possible, though, that this may be the last opportunity for a dedicated group of us to meet together to celebrate and come to an understanding together in community concerning the challenging course of events that have been unfolding over the last two years—also envisioning how events may further unfold into the future, as I have discussed in podcasts on the website Sophia School of Movement. Many people have major concerns about the future and are seeking an inner strengthening to be able to pass through the coming trials without being intimidated or disempowered from the unfolding of their path of destiny. Given the importance of finding inner resources of strength, guidance, and healing, one idea for the theme of the talks and presentations during this New Year's Choreocosmos week in Mexico would be the following:

Facing the Future with Christ, the Great Healer:

Christ as Our Guide through Apocalyptic Times

International gathering in Mexico, with Dr. Robert Powell, author, lecturer and eurhythmist, who wrote his PhD thesis on the History of the Zodiac.

Recommended literature:

Karmic Relationships, a series of lectures in eight volumes held by Rudolf Steiner
Meditations on the Tarot, Anonymous, translated from French into English by Robert Powell

Christ and Sophia by Valentin Tomberg

Lazarus, Come Forth! by Valentin Tomberg, translated from German into English by Robert Powell and James Morgante

Sophia Maria by Thomas Schipflinger, translated from German into English by James Morgante

Through the Eyes of Mary Magdalene (3 volumes) by Estelle Isaacson.

There are other books that could also be recommended in due course of time. Central to our gathering, we shall be holding in consciousness the sense of Christ's mission for the healing of humanity and the Earth that belongs to the present period of time. In my work with eurythmy as a new form of movement—introduced into the world by Rudolf Steiner between 1912 and 1924—I was inspired to develop cosmic and sacred aspects of eurythmy, which led to the founding of the Choreocosmos School of Cosmic and Sacred Dance. This

endeavor was subsequently confirmed by Rudolf Steiner's remarks concerning one of the first eurythmists, Tatiana Kisselev, who was Russian:

Let us return to [consider] Kisselev's stay in Berlin. During her time of teaching there, Marie Steiner saw her [eurythmic gifts and] ability, and she was very happy with what she experienced there [in Berlin]. On this account Marie Steiner advised Rudolf Steiner to ask Tatiana Kisselev if she would come to Dornach so that she could bring eurythmy there and allow it to unfold.

Rudolf Steiner agreed with this suggestion. Early in the year 1914 Tatiana Kisselev was called to Dornach to lead the eurythmy work there. She was 33 years old at the time.

At first she hesitated to follow this call. On the one hand because she did not know if she would be worthy enough to take on this important task, and on the other hand because she knew just how much such 'positions' were desired by teachers of eurythmy.

However, Rudolf Steiner was very insistent. He said:

"If you take on leading the eurythmy here, then I am certain that eurythmy will be protected from 'soul-less-ness.' For there are great dangers [facing eurythmy] especially that of superficiality, becoming more and more external. You will give it [eurythmy] its cosmic-sacral background and you will be able to maintain this."¹

This statement by Rudolf Steiner gives the Choreocosmos School of Cosmic and Sacred Dance an historical background with regard to the development of eurythmy. In the Choreocosmos School for Cosmic and Sacred Dance we cultivate the **cosmic** and **sacred** dimensions of eurythmy, which, as can be seen from the above quote, Rudolf Steiner regarded as being particularly significant for the future of eurythmy.

At our conference in Mexico, in addition to talks and discussion concerning the above-mentioned theme of *Facing the Future with Christ, the Great Healer*, we shall also participate in celebrating the human soul's life after death through music and cosmic dance. Many of you will know that I have devoted more than a quarter of a century to developing sacred and cosmic dance as a path of connecting with Christ, the Lamb, and Sophia, the Bride of the Lamb. Under the guidance of Christ and Sophia, our lives are much more than what we undergo and experience here on Earth between birth and death. There is the soul-spiritual dimension of our lives that continues after death, a glimpse into which is offered in the Old Testament by *Jacob's Ladder* stretching from the Earth into heaven, with Angels ascending and descending upon the ladder (Genesis 28:12). In the post-Christian era the Italian poet Dante (c. 1265-1321) was granted a vision of the human soul's ascent of this ladder in the life after death, as described in his great work, *The Divine Comedy*. More recently, the spiritual teacher Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925) opened up—particularly in his 1924 lectures on *Karmic Relationships*—a majestic vista of the human soul's ascent and descent of this celestial ladder, the rungs of which correlate with the planets

¹ *Tatjana Kisselev: Ein Leben für die Eurythmie—Autobiographisches ergänzt von Brigitte Schreckenbach* [Tatiana Kisselev: *A Life for Eurythmy—Autobiographical Account Supplemented by Brigitte Schreckenbach*] (Borchen, Germany: Verlag Ch. Möllmann, 2007), p. 114.

of our solar system that are also the abodes of the ranks of the various angelic hierarchies. Living consciously into this glorious vista, as we shall do with the experience of cosmic dance and with the help of appropriate music relating to the planetary realms beyond the Earth, the journey of the soul in the life after death can become a living experience. This is an immense help in overcoming materialism, which promotes the illusion that life unfolds solely between birth and death.

In Mexico we are hoping for newcomers to join us in this celebratory work with cosmic dance, and we are also looking forward to a “re-union/get-together,” especially with all those with whom there has been a long-standing association through the activity of choreocosmos since the founding of the Choreocosmos School of Cosmic and Sacred Dance in the year 2000, in awareness that this may be the last time that we may be able to come together in this way at an international gathering.

In coming together for this special celebratory work dedicated to Christ and Sophia, the Lamb and His Bride, we are creating karmic connections for the future, extending into the life after death, bearing in consciousness that community building is a deep and sacred act.

Our intention is that in such a group a certain level of conversation is possible, because of a common background and mutual understanding. Moreover, deepening into the sacramental quality of the music and eurythmic movement, which we shall be participating in together, we shall discover how it is possible to move on a soul-spiritual level into an experience of the various planetary realms together for a deeper level of experience.

I have invited eurythmists Audrey Wiebe and Silvia Wend, both of whom are graduates of the Choreocosmos School of Cosmic and Sacred Dance, to join us for this celebratory group experience in Mexico, each being invited to contribute to this gathering. To accompany us on the piano with our cosmic dances of the planetary spheres in the life after death, I have invited concert pianist Marcia Burchard, who for sixteen years accompanied the cosmic and sacred dance activity at choreocosmos gatherings in the United States, Canada, Australia, Europe, and in Mexico (at Tulum in 2008).

Practical details regarding this 2022 gathering in Mexico and a program / overview of the Choreocosmos week, will be posted soon. Dr. Robert Powell

Dates of the Choreocosmos week in Mexico in 2022:

Arrival day: Friday, December 30, by 7 pm for Introduction and Overview.

December 30, 7 pm—January 5 at 10 pm: Choreocosmos week.

During the week from December 31 to January 5 each day begins with a session of eurythmy (cosmic dance) every morning and each afternoon closes with a session of eurythmy (cosmic dance). And also there are talks on the theme each morning and each afternoon as well. **This is a special week, celebrating the cosmic commemoration of the birth of Jesus on January 1, when the Sun returns to the same position in the zodiac where it was at Jesus’s birth.**

Departure day: Friday, January 6, after breakfast.

Location of the Choreocosmos week: **Villas Xichú, San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.** Video link: <https://villas-xichu.com/>

Travel: The best way to arrive internationally is to come to Mexico City International Airport (CDMX) and either take a bus from the terminal (good, inexpensive, comfortable buses—about a 3½-4 hour drive) or arrange for private group transport (3 hours by car). Depending upon the time of arrival at CDMX and the time of departure of bus or private group transport, one recommendation might be to spend a night in CDMX—possibly both ways. For further information, see the detailed flyer for the *New Year's Choreocosmos Week in Mexico* posted on the Sophia Foundation website: <https://sophiafoundation.org/events-calendar/> (the detailed flyer should be posted during the first part of May 2022)