

Quick Facts

About Music of Remembrance (MOR)

Founded by Artistic Director Mina Miller in 1998, MOR is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to remembering the Holocaust through music with concert performances, educational programs, recordings, and commissions of new works.

MOR's major concerts at Seattle's Benaroya Hall and the San Francisco Conservatory of Music feature innovative programs performed by Seattle's leading musicians and world-acclaimed guest artists. MOR's free concerts-with-commentary at the Seattle Art Museum and other community settings brings the Holocaust's musical legacy to people of all ages. Through its educational outreach program, MOR brings live performances to schools and colleges across Washington. MOR's CD recordings and documentary films create a permanent legacy for the world to share.

Mission

- Perform concerts of Holocaust-related music
- Commission new music with Holocaust-related themes and texts
- Produce CD and video recordings of our concert repertoire
- Provide educational outreach to the public, Seattle-area schools, and community organizations within the Pacific Northwest and the Bay Area.

Repertoire

- Works by composers who died in the Holocaust, and by surviving and émigré composers
- Works composed or performed in camps and ghettos, and music of resistance
- Post-war music responding to the Holocaust or remembering pre-war Jewish culture
- New commissions dealing with the experience of many groups, not only Jews, who felt the Holocaust's impact.

Composers Performed

Joseph Achron	Edwin Geist	Lori Laitman	Paul Schoenfield	Franz Waxman
Daniel Asia	Mikhail Gnessin	Szymon Laks	Franz Schreker	Ilse Weber
Ofer Ben-Amots	Oswaldo Golijov	Marc Lavry	Zikmund Schul	Lazar Weiner
David Beigelman	David Grünfeld	Egon Ledeċ	Erwin Schulhoff	Lázló Weiner
Herman Berlinski	Pavel Haas	Eugene Levitas	Gerard Schwarz	Karl Weigl
Allan Blank	Fromenthal Halévy	Bohuslav Martinu	Dmitri Shostakovich	Kurt Weill
Ernest Bloch	Aharon Harlap	Darius Milhaud	Leo Smit	Mieczyslaw Weinberg
Henriette Bosmans	Jake Heggie	Lior Navok	Robert Stern	Rosy Wertheim
Paul Bowles	Friedrich Hollaender	Marc Neikrug	David Stock	Leo Zeitlin
Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco	Jaroslav Ježek	Betty Olivero	Karel Svenk	Alexander Zemlinsky
Tom Cipullo	Dick Kattenburg	Thomas Pasatieri	Alicia Svigals	Vilem Zrzavy
Robert Dauber	Gideon Klein	Steve Reich	Carlo S. Taube	
Frantisek Domazlicky	Erich Korngold	Sid Robinovitch	Vilem Tausky	
Joel Engel	Mary Kouyoumdjian	Solomon Rosowsky	Marcel Tyberg	
Hans Gal	Jonathan D. Kramer	Simon Sargon	Viktor Ullmann	
	Alexander Krein	David Schiff	Sándor Vándor	
	Hans Krása	Arnold Schoenberg	Aleksander Volkoviski	

Commissions of New Works

- Mary Kouyoumdjian, *to open myself, to scream* (2017)
- Olivier Wevers, choreography to Oswaldo Golijov's *Lullaby and Doina* (2017)
- Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer, *Out of Darkness: An Opera of Survival* (2016)
- Olivier Wevers, choreography to Bohuslav Martinu's *La Revue de Cuisine* (2015)
- Tom Cipullo, *After Life* (2015)
- Donald Byrd, choreography to Arnold Schoenberg's *Verklaerte Nacht* (2014)
- Alicia Svigals, *The Yellow Ticket* expanded film score (2014)
- Donald Byrd, choreography to Franz Schreker's *The Wind* (2009), to Joel Engel's *The Dybbuk Suite* (2010)
- Aharon Harlap, *Pictures from the Private Collection of God* arrangement (2009)
- Jake Heggie, *For a Look or a Touch* (2007/Song cycle version 2013), *Another Sunrise* (2012), *Farewell, Auschwitz* (2013)
- Pat Hon, choreography to Betty Olivero's *Zeks Yiddishe Lider un Tantz* from *The Golem* (2013)
- Lori Laitman, *The Seed of Dream* (2004), *Vedem* (2010), *In Sleep The World Is Yours* Selma Meerbaum Eisinger poetry song cycle (2014)
- Betty Olivero, *Kolo 't* (2011)
- Gerard Schwarz, *In Memoriam* (2005), *Rudolf and Jeanette* (2007)
- Paul Schoenfield, *Camp Songs* (original Polish version 2002/English version 2004), *Ghetto Songs* (2008)
- Thomas Pasatieri, *Letter to Warsaw* (2003)
- David Stock, *A Vanished World* (2000), *Mayn Shvester Chaye* arrangement (2008)

Premieres

• World Premieres: 24

U.S. Premieres: 9

West Coast Premieres: 12

Recordings

- **After Life:** Tom Cipullo's contemporary opera *After Life* explores the role of art in a troubled world and poses weighty questions about the artist's duty in confronting inhumanity. David Mason's libretto imagines an encounter between the ghosts of Pablo Picasso and Gertrude Stein, who reveal both their brilliance and their human flaws. Lori Laitman's song cycle *In Sleep The World Is Yours* sets three beautiful poems by Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger, who was to perish in a Nazi labor camp in Ukraine at the age of 18. (Naxos 8.669036)
- **Out of Darkness:** In this eloquent portrait of survival, composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer accomplish something remarkable. They convey the vastness of the Holocaust's scope through emotionally rich portraits of those caught in its grasp, without reducing them to caricatures of martyrdom. The three MOR-commissioned works: *Another Sunrise*, *Farewell*, *Auschwitz*, and *For a Look or a Touch*, tell stories that offer compelling musical witness to survival in the face of unimaginable adversity. (Naxos 8.559770)
- **Vedem:** A stunning musical tribute to the teenage boy prisoners in Terezin who shared their poetry and stories every Friday for two years in a secret magazine they called VEDEM. Using the boys' own poems, composer Lori Laitman has created a compelling oratorio that poignantly evokes the courage, idealism, and wisdom of those remarkable youths. (Naxos 8.559685)
- **Schoenfield & Schwarz:** Composer and pianist Paul Schoenfield is at the keyboard for two searing, heart-piercing works commissioned by Music of Remembrance. Schoenfield gives voice to the words of two brilliant poets – one a Holocaust survivor, one murdered – and the range of their emotions through rage, bitter humor, tenderness and fragile hope. The first English-language recording of *Camp Songs* (a 2003 Pulitzer Prize finalist) joins his newest song cycle *Ghetto Songs*. Also: Gerard Schwarz's haunting, romantic chamber orchestra work *Rudolf and Jeanette*, evoking the life and love of the composer's Viennese grandparents, who were killed by the Nazis. (Naxos 8.559641)
- **For a Look or a Touch:** American composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer's theatrical song cycle—"terse, taut and powerful" (*Opera News*)—tells the true story of two gay teenage lovers the Holocaust tore apart forever. American composer Lori Laitman's song cycle *The Seed of Dream*, based on poetry by Vilna Ghetto survivor Abraham Sutzkever, demonstrates "what great song writing is all about" (*Journal of Singing*). Also: an elegiac piece for cello and string quartet, *In Memoriam*, by Gerard Schwarz. (Naxos 8.559379)
- **Brundibár:** *Opera News* named MOR's recording of Hans Krasa's beloved children's opera – the first with playwright Tony Kushner's English adaptation of the libretto – one of the top ten opera CDs of 2007. A memorial to *Brundibár*'s original performers, the children of Terezín, the disc also includes American composer Lori Laitman's song cycle *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, drawing on six extraordinary poems. (Naxos 8.570119)
- **Letter to Warsaw:** Thomas Pasatieri's extraordinary musical setting of one woman's intimate first-hand account of life in the Warsaw ghetto and in the Majdanek concentration camp where she perished. (Naxos 8.559219)
- **Art from Ashes, Vol. 1:** A "rewarding musical start" (*Gramophone*), MOR's debut CD offers the world premiere of Paul Schoenfield's *Camp Songs* (2003 Pulitzer Prize Finalist), with the composer at the piano. Also: the MOR commission *A Vanished World* by David Stock, Robert Dauber's *Serenata*, Erwin Schulhoff's *Five Pieces for String Quartet*, and Herman Berlinski's *Sonata for Flute and Piano*. (Innova 578)

Performers

Special Guest Artists

Kurt Beattie, narrator
Guenter Buchwald, conductor
Donald Byrd, choreographer
Vinson Cole, tenor
Catherine Cook, mezzo soprano
Jane Eaglen, soprano
John Hall, actor
Patricia Hon, choreographer
Gary Karr, double bass
Stilian Kirov, conductor
Caitlin Lynch, soprano
Michael Mayes, baritone
Joseph Mechavich, conductor
Ludovic Morlot, conductor
Marc Neikrug, conductor
The Northwest Boychoir, led by Joseph Crnko
Robert Orth, baritone
Julian Patrick, actor
Ava Pine, soprano
Steve Reich, composer
John Rubinstein, actor
Paul Schoenfield, pianist
Spectrum Dance Theater
Gerard Schwarz, conductor
Craig Sheppard, piano
Alicia Svigals, violin

Olivier Wevers, choreographer
Whim W'Him Contemporary Dance

Vocalists

Victor Benedetti, baritone
Holly Boaz, soprano
Julia Benzinger, mezzo-soprano
Megan Chenovick, soprano
Jadd Davis, tenor
Michael Drumheller, baritone
Karen Early Evans, soprano
Kimberly Giordano, soprano
Megan Hart, soprano
Ross Hauck, tenor
Teresa Herold, alto
Emily Hindrichs, soprano
Auston James, tenor
Jenny Knapp, mezzo- soprano
David Korn, male soprano
Sarah Larsen, mezzo soprano
Anya Matanovic, soprano
Maureen McKay, soprano
Julie Mirel, mezzo soprano
Signe Mortensen, soprano
Angela Niederloh, mezzo- soprano
Erich Parce, baritone
Corinna Quilliam, soprano
Courtney Ruckman, soprano

Marcus Shelton, tenor
Jonathan Silvia, bass baritone
Vira Slywotzky, soprano
Morgan Smith, baritone
Kathryn Weld, mezzo soprano

Instrumentalists

Joseph Adam, keyboard
Jordan Anderson, double bass
Elisa Barston, violin
Natasha Bazhanov, violin
Joel Belgique, viola
Michael Brockman, saxophone
John Cerninaro, French horn
Jessica Choe, piano
Laura DeLuca, clarinet
Zart Dombourian-Eby, flute
Roberta Downey, cello
Jeffrey Fair, French horn
Mara Finkelstein, cello
Artur Girsky, violin
Scott Goff, flute
David Gordon, trumpet
Walter Gray, cello
Jonathan Green, double bass
Susan Gulkis Assadi, viola

Benjamin Hausmann, oboe
Leonid Keylin, violin
Evan Johanson, violin
Seth Krinsky, bassoon
Matthew Kocmierski, percussion
Mary Lynch, oboe
Mina Miller, piano
Valerie Muzzolini, harp
Steven Novacek, guitar
Michael Partington, guitar/banjo
Joshua Roman, cello
Kimberly Russ, keyboard
Mark Salman, piano
Arie Schächter, viola
Jody Schwarz, flute
Julian Schwarz, cello
Mikhail Shmidt, violin
Page Smith, cello
Takumi Taguchi, violin
Jeannie Wells Yablonsky, violin
Michael Werner, percussion
Alexander White, trumpet
Amos Yang, cello

Documentary Films

- **UNSILENCED.** This 2009 documentary (42 min.) chronicles MOR's first ten years, highlighting MOR's concert performances, its educational programs, and its singular role in commissioning new Holocaust-inspired music by some of today's leading composers. The documentary was produced, directed and narrated by filmmaker John Sharify, winner of multiple Emmy awards and Edward R. Murrow prizes for journalism.
- **The Boys of Terezín.** MOR's 2011 documentary (51 min.) tells the story of *VEDEM* – the extraordinary courage and idealism of those Terezín youths, the inspiring poetry and art of their clandestine journal, and the creation – years later – of a musical testament through composer Lori Laitman's MOR-commissioned oratorio. The film, directed and narrated by John Sharify, includes firsthand testimonies from interviews with five of the six remaining survivors from that group of boys, now men in their 80's living on three continents. Available for screening.

Education and Outreach

- *Sparks of Glory:* MOR's Musical Witness Series- free public concerts-with-commentary. Programs have been funded by Chamber Music America, the National Endowment for the Arts, and MOR donors. Since our 2005-06 season, MOR has presented programs in partnership with the Seattle Art Museum, the Frye Art Museum, The Good Shepherd Center, and various schools and community centers across Washington State.
- Pre-concert lectures at all Benaroya Hall mainstage performances
- In-school programs which reach 2,000 high school and college students annually
- Presentation: The Commonwealth Club of California, August 2015
- 2008 Holocaust Commemoration radio program, co-production MOR and WFMT (Chicago)
- Invited lectures in the United Kingdom, Washington, California, Florida and North Carolina
- Presentation at 2007 international conference in Poland, "The Legacy of the Holocaust"
- Presentation at 2005 international conference in Poland, "Women and the Holocaust"

David Tonkonogui Memorial Award

Established in 2004 to honor cellist David Tonkonogui (1958–2003), the gifted musician (Seattle Symphony, Music of Remembrance) and teacher, the award is presented to a young musician; the winner receives a cash award in support of their music studies, and an invitation to perform a highlighted solo or chamber piece at an MOR concert.

- 2015-16 Winner: Evan Johanson, violinist
- 2013-14 Winner: Takumi Taguchi, violinist
- 2012-13 Winner: Benjamin Shmidt, cellist
- 2007-08 Winner: Marié Rossano, violinist
- 2005-06 Winner: Jocelyn Chang, violinist
- 2004-05 Winner: Julian Schwarz, cellist

Selected Partners and Collaborations

Cornish College of the Arts, Frye Art Museum, Historic Seattle, Northwest Boychoir, Temple Emanu-El Music at Meyer, Pacific Lutheran University – Powell Heller Holocaust Conference, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Seattle Art Museum, Seattle International Film Festival, Seattle Opera's Young Artist Program, Seattle Public Schools, Seattle Symphony's Soundbridge, Spectrum Dance Theater, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, Everett Community College, The Northwest School, Central Washington University, University of Washington, Tacoma Art Museum, Bellevue Youth Symphony, Whim W'Him Contemporary Dance Company.

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