

MUSIC OF remembrance®
ensuring that the voices of musical witness be heard®

Mina Miller ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

2018-19 Season Concerts
Seattle and San Francisco

HEAR OUR STORY NOW



Launching a third decade of musical witness

While MOR's mission is to remember the Holocaust through music, its focus is also emphatically on the present-day relevance of humanity's darkest chapters.

– Thomas May, The Seattle Times

WWW.MUSICOFREMEMBRANCE.ORG

"In the dream of life the hopeful are always with us."
David Mason, *The Parting*

From The Artistic Director



MINA MILLER

Twenty years ago, I walked across the Benaroya Hall stage, introducing myself and Music of Remembrance. The occasion for MOR's inaugural concert – November 9, 1998 – was the 60th anniversary of Kristallnacht. With the extraordinary support from our community and the passionate dedication of our musicians, we are now celebrating our 20th anniversary season.

In two decades of remembering composers who experienced the Holocaust, we've performed nearly two hundred works. The scope and diversity of this repertoire are astonishing. We've played music by composers who were banned by the Third Reich either for their ideas or their Jewish identities. We've played music that was created, miraculously, in the horrific conditions of ghettos and concentration camps. We've played music by activist composers who used their art in protest. We've played works that sample the cultural traditions of different groups – not only Jews – that were targeted by the Nazis. Some of the composers and their works were already known, but others were not, and part of our mission was to help rescue them from obscurity. All of these composers had the courage to continue creating even in the darkest of times. Their stories and their music were different, but they all found ways of standing up through their art to the evil they saw and the cruelty they faced.

And preserving this precious legacy is only part of what we do. We've commissioned and premiered over 30 new works by some of today's leading composers. Our commissioning program is unique in the world, and it offers new ways of exploring the lives of people who experienced the Holocaust in different ways and in different places. It also gives us a chance to honor the Holocaust's lessons by looking at the experience of other people who have faced persecution because of their ancestry, beliefs or sexuality.

These two decades have been an exciting journey, with many unexpected turns along the way, and this history is the subject of an hour-long documentary film "Hear Our Story Now" by Emmy award-winning filmmaker and journalist John Sharify. We hope you'll join us for the premiere screening on October 14, 2018 at the Frye Art Museum.



THE NORTHWEST BOYCHOIR



SPECTRUM DANCE THEATER

Our special birthday concert at Benaroya Hall on November 4th will recall some of MOR's unforgettable milestones. You'll hear selections from Jake Heggie's heart-stopping *Out of Darkness*, and from Tom Cipullo's award-winning *After Life* with its dramatic confrontation between the ghosts of Gertrude Stein and Pablo Picasso. There will be excerpts from Lori Laitman's stirring Holocaust oratorio *Vedem* and Paul Schoenfield's riveting *Camp Songs*. The amazing Northwest Boychoir returns with haunting Yiddish songs that Viktor Ullmann arranged in Terezin. Donald Byrd and members of Spectrum Dance Theater will reprise dances for Joel Engel's atmospheric music for *The Dybbuk*. And after the concert, we'll throw a 20th birthday party!



MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE ENSEMBLE



TOM CIPULLO AND DAVID MASON WITH DIRECTOR ERICH PARCE

At Benaroya Hall on May 19, 2019 we unveil our newest commission: *The Parting*, a bold new opera by composer Tom Cipullo and librettist David Mason, the same creative team that gave us *After Life*. Four days later, we bring this chamber opera to the San Francisco Conservatory of Music on May 23rd. *The Parting* is based on the art and short life of the great Hungarian poet Miklós Radnóti, widely considered one of the most important literary witnesses to the Holocaust. Radnóti was murdered on a forced labor march and buried in a mass grave. When his body was exhumed after the war, his jacket revealed a notebook with his final poems. *The Parting* illuminates Radnóti's urgent quest for truth, beauty and love.

Being part of such a vibrant arts community has given us opportunities to partner with some amazing talents over the years. In a new collaboration, we'll be part of Seattle Theater Group's presentation of "Die Stadt ohne Juden" (The City Without Jews), a newly-remastered 1924 silent film based on a dystopian novel anticipating the rise of Nazism. At the Paramount Theater on April 15, 2019, MOR's instrumentalists will join STG's screening of the film to perform the stunning new musical score that STG has commissioned from Guenter Buchwald. Buchwald is a pioneer in the renaissance of music for silent film, and he'll conduct the performance and perform in it. (Buchwald, you might remember, led our 2008 and 2015 screenings of "The Golem" with Betty Olivero's klezmer-infused score.)

When we search for meaning in the unspeakable tragedy that was the Holocaust, we're looking not just back in history, but also at the lessons we need to draw for making a better world today and in the future. We've evolved in the kinds of stories we tell, and in the kinds of music we play. We've recognized how the world has changed, and we've tried to grow to reflect those changes. We're proud to be constantly finding new ways of giving voice – through music – to those who speak out against the persecution and exclusion of people in today's world. Our 20th anniversary season is filled with memories, dreams, legends, stories that need to be told and questions that need to be asked. My hope is that you'll be moved by what you hear and elevated by what you experience.

Mina Miller, *Artistic Director*

Now entering its 21st season, Music of Remembrance fills a unique role throughout the world by remembering the Holocaust through music. With concert performances, educational programs, recordings, and commissions of new works by some of today's leading composers, MOR honors those of all backgrounds who found the strength to create even in the face of suffering, and those who had the courage to speak out against cruelty. We tell stories that communicate urgent lessons for today, and we look beyond the Holocaust itself to the experience of others who have been excluded or persecuted for their faith, ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

Thanks to the sponsors of MOR's 21st season:



20th Birthday Celebration Concert

Our 20th anniversary season kicks off with a gala concert recalling landmarks of the past two decades. We'll bring back some of our most impactful works, with highlights from Jake Heggie's *Out of Darkness* and Tom Cipullo's *After Life* – with some of the same extraordinary performers who premiered them. You'll hear excerpts from Lori Laitman's stirring Holocaust oratorio *Vedem*, and from Paul Schoenfield's riveting *Camp Songs*. The amazing Northwest Boychoir returns with haunting Yiddish songs that Viktor Ullmann arranged in Terezin. Donald Byrd and members of Spectrum Dance Theater reprise dances for Joel Engel's atmospheric music for *The Dybbuk*. It's a musical feast! Whether you've heard these works before or are joining us for the first time, you won't want to miss this unforgettable star-studded celebration.

And, right after . . .

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
COME CELEBRATE WITH US
★ ★ ★ ★ ★
at our 20th Birthday Dinner Party!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Sunday, November 4, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.
(immediately following our concert)
The Norcliffe Founders Room at Benaroya Hall
Seattle, WA

Come to our party! At this unforgettable evening, you'll mingle with MOR's extraordinary artists and other special guests at a festive post-concert reception and share a gourmet dinner. Your presence adds to the occasion, and you'll also help MOR continue its unique mission as we launch our third decade. Gala Birthday Dinner tickets start at \$300. Icing on the cake: \$180 is a tax-deductible contribution. To become an event sponsor or reserve your place, please call (206) 365-7770, or visit our website for more information.



Pavel Haas

String Quartet, No. 2, Op. 7, movement 4 (1925)

From the Monkey Mountains

Lori Laitman

“Memories of Prague,” *Vedem** (2010)

Karen Early Evans, *soprano*

Paul Schoenfield

“Black Boehm,” *Camp Songs** (2002)

Erich Parce, *baritone*

Viktor Ullmann

Choral Arrangements of Yiddish Songs (Terezin, 1942)

The Northwest Boychoir

Joseph Crnko, Music Director

Joel Engel

The Dybbuk Suite, Op. 35 (1922)

Donald Byrd Choreography | Spectrum Dance Theater

Tom Cipullo

*After Life** opera excerpts (2015)

Libretto by David Mason

Picasso

Robert Orth

Gertrude Stein

Karen Early Evans

A Youth

Ava Pine

Jake Heggie

“Farewell, Auschwitz,” *Out of Darkness** (2016)

Libretto by Gene Scheer

Ava Pine and Karen Early Evans, *soprano* Julia Benzinger, *mezzo soprano*

Robert Orth and Erich Parce, *baritone*

Concert features MOR's stellar instrumental ensemble

Mikhail Shmidt and Natasha Bazhanov, *violin* Susan Gulkis Assadi, *viola*

Walter Gray, *cello* Jonathan Green, *double bass* Laura DeLuca, *clarinet*

Zart Dombourian-Eby, *flute* Matthew Kocmierski, *percussion*

Jessica Choe and Mina Miller, *piano*

*Works commissioned by Music of Remembrance



Sunday, May 19, 2019 | 7:30 p.m.
Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall | Benaroya Hall, Seattle

6:45 P.M. MEET THE COMPOSER: TOM CIPULLO



Composer Tom Cipullo has been hailed by the American Academy of Arts and Letters for his operas' "inexhaustible imagination, wit, expressive range and originality."

László Weiner

Duo (1939)

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Susan Gulkis Assadi, *viola*

Sándor Vándor

Air

Walter Gray, *cello* Mina Miller, *piano*

Sándor Kuti

Serenade

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Susan Gulkis Assadi, *viola* Walter Gray, *cello*

The Parting (2018)

Music by **Tom Cipullo** Libretto by **David Mason**

WORLD PREMIERE

COMMISSIONED BY MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE

Mik Michael Mayes
Fif Laura Strickling
Kek Catherine Cook

Erich Parce, Director
Alastair Willis, Conductor

Zart Dombourian- Eby, *flute* Laura DeLuca, *clarinet*
Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Walter Gray, *cello* Jessica Choe, *piano*

MOR Guest Artists



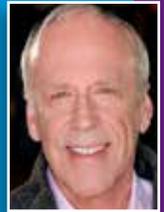
Catherine Cook, mezzo soprano, has excelled in a wide range of roles with leading opera companies throughout the US, including the Metropolitan Opera, Lyric Opera of Chicago, LA Opera and Houston Grand Opera. Recently, audiences around the world saw her in the Metropolitan Opera's HD broadcast of Thomas Ades's *Exterminating Angel*. A distinguished musical educator and mentor, Cook holds the Frederica Von Stade Endowed Chair at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and has served as chair of its vocal program. She has appeared with MOR as Gertrude Stein in *After Life*, and as Zosha in *Out of Darkness*, and has delivered stirring interpretations of art songs at MOR concerts.

Michael Mayes, baritone, portrays the poet Miklós Radnóti in *The Parting*. He first appeared with MOR as Manfred in the world premiere of *Out of Darkness*. Mayes is known for his consummate portrayals of emotionally complex characters in the operatic repertoire, and those who saw his riveting portrayal of Manfred in MOR's premiere of *Out of Darkness* will surely know why. On the world stage, Mayes has been acclaimed as Joseph DeRocher in Jake Heggie's *Dead Man Walking*, including in Washington National Opera's production with Susan Graham, and alongside Joyce DiDonato at Madrid's Teatro Real and London's Barbican Centre.



Laura Strickling, soprano, joins MOR for the first time as Fif, the poet Miklós Radnóti's wife in *The Parting*. Praised by The New York Times for her "flexible voice, crystalline diction, and warm presence," Strickling has performed at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Wigmore Hall, Ravinia Music Festival, Tanglewood Music Festival, the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, and Liederfest in Suzhou, China. A champion of Tom Cipullo's music, she recently recorded a complete CD set of the composer's songs.

Robert Orth, baritone, returns in the role of Picasso that he introduced – and defined – in *After Life*. Since then, he has brought MOR audiences an unforgettable depiction of Gad Beck in *Out of Darkness*, and a powerful delivery of Paul Schoenfield's dramatic *Sparks of Glory*. A rare vocal talent, and one of the world's great singing actors, Orth has performed over 135 roles in opera and musical shows around the world. He has been named "Artist of the Year" by both New York City Opera and Seattle Opera, and Opera News has called him a "fixture of contemporary opera."



Ava Pine, soprano, drew raves for her portrayal of the ethereal Youth in *After Life* and as the young Krystyna in *Out of Darkness*. Equally at home with opera, oratorio and recital, and accomplished in works ranging from baroque to contemporary, she brings great vocal and dramatic range to her work.

Alastair Willis, conductor, makes his first appearance with MOR in *The Parting*. His career highlights include guest conducting around the world, working with Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble, and a Grammy nomination for Best Classical Album in 2009 (Ravel's *L'Enfant et les Sortilèges* with Nashville Symphony and Opera on Naxos). He is currently Music Director of the South Bend Symphony Orchestra.



2018-19 CONCERT SEASON *Distinguished Artists*



Mina Miller
*Artistic Director,
Piano*



Natasha Bazhanov
Violin



Jessica Choe
Piano



Laura DeLuca
Clarinet



**Zart
Dombourian-Eby**
Flute



Karen Early Evans
Soprano



Walter Gray
Cello



Jonathan Green
Double Bass



**Susan Gulkis
Assadi**
Viola



**Matthew
Kocmieroski**
Percussion



Erich Parce
Baritone/Director



Mikhail Shmidt
Violin

Hear Our Story Now

A Documentary Film Chronicling MOR's Two Decades of Musical Witness

The Frye Art Museum

Sunday, October 14, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

For twenty years MOR has told stories
for those who were silenced and for those living today.

Stories of courage and hope.

Stories that shatter the silence.

Stories that the world needs to know.

Stories told through the voices of people who lived
through events that changed the world.

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and journalist John Sharify has created an hour-long documentary chronicling MOR's journey. Join us for the premiere screening of the film and mingle afterward at a wine and hors d'oeuvres reception.

Tickets: \$20 (includes film and reception)

www.musicofremembrance.org; limited seating available

MOR Returns to San Francisco!



Thursday, May 23, 2019

7:30 p.m.

CAROLINE H. HUME CONCERT HALL, SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

The Parting

MOR's annual May concert in the Bay Area is becoming a tradition! Join us at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music to experience *The Parting*, a daring new opera by composer Tom Cipullo and librettist David Mason – the same brilliant creative team that brought us the award-winning *After Life*. Their new work is an intimate exploration of the life and art of the Hungarian poet Miklós Radnóti, widely considered one of the most important poetic witnesses to the Holocaust. The work is a profound and musically rich meditation on what it means to create but also desire ordinary happiness. Our production features a world-class cast, with the charismatic baritone Michael Mayes, San Francisco Opera and Metropolitan Opera star mezzo soprano Catherine Cook, and soprano Laura Strickling in her first MOR appearance. The production is directed by Erich Parce and conducted by Alastair Willis.

You'll also discover little-known musical gems by Hungarian composers László Weiner, Sándor Vándor, and Sándor Kuti. Like Radnóti, they perished at the hands of the Nazis. With inspiring courage, they created beautiful and compelling music under conditions of unimaginable adversity.

Tickets: \$60 - \$75

(available online at www.musicofremembrance.org)

Die Stadt Ohne Juden (The City Without Jews)

As part of its popular Silent Movies Monday series, Seattle Theater Group will present a special screening of "Die Stadt ohne Juden," a recently-remastered 1924 silent film based on a dystopian novel anticipating the rise of Nazism. MOR's instrumental ensemble will be there to perform the striking new musical score that STG has commissioned from Guenter Buchwald, who will also conduct and perform. (Buchwald, one of the world's leading advocates of music for the silent cinema, led MOR's 2008 and 2015 screening of "The Golem" with Betty Olivero's klezmer-like film score.) It's an evening not to be missed.



The Paramount Theatre
Monday, April 15, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: stgpresents.org

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EXCLUSIVE SUBSCRIBER BENEFITS:

- 10% off single ticket price
- Easy replacement of lost tickets
- Priority Seating*
- 20% off any MOR CD

*Seating preferences are subject to availability and orders will be processed in order of receipt.

Location. Seattle concerts take place at the Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall, 3rd Avenue & Union Street.

Disabled Seating. Call the MOR office at (206) 365-7770 to request wheelchair or special seating arrangements.

Subscriptions: two-concert series

Nov. 4, 2018 and May 19, 2019

EACH	QTY	COST
\$100	_____	\$_____

20th Birthday Party

Nov. 4, 2018 6 p.m.

\$180 IS A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION.

\$300	_____	\$_____
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Single concert tickets.

Single tickets are \$55 each and can be purchased directly through the Benaroya Hall box office.

Supporter.

I wish to support Music of Remembrance's mission with a donation of \$_____

Levels of giving:

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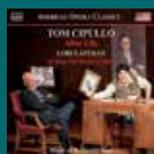
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MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE (MOR) fills a unique cultural role in Seattle and throughout the world by remembering the Holocaust through music with concert performances, educational programs, recordings and commissions of new works.



After Life

In Tom Cipullo's compelling opera *After Life*, the ghosts of Pablo Picasso and Gertrude Stein confront each other over the role of art and artists in a troubled world. Lori Laitman's haunting song cycle *In Sleep The World Is Yours* captures the lyrical verses of Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger, murdered in a Nazi labor camp at age 18. Both works commissioned by MOR.



Out of Darkness (CD and DVD)

In this eloquent portrait of survival, composer Jake Heggie and librettist Gene Scheer convey the vastness of the Holocaust's scope through emotionally rich portraits of those caught in its grasp. 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.



Vedem Northwest Boychoir

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.



Schoenfield & Schwarz

Three MOR commissions! In his searing *Camp Songs* and his evocative *Ghetto Songs*, composer Paul Schoenfield gives voice to the words of two brilliant poets—one a Holocaust survivor, one murdered—and the full range of their emotions. Gerard Schwarz's haunting *Rudolf and Jeanette* is a tribute to his Viennese grandparents killed by the Nazis.



For a Look or a Touch

Jake Heggie and Gene Scheer's musical drama tells the true story of two gay lovers the Holocaust tore apart forever. Also, Lori Laitman's song cycle *The Seed of Dream*, based on poetry by Vilna Ghetto survivor Abraham Sutzkever, and the elegiac *In Memoriam* by Gerard Schwarz.



Brundibár

Named by *Opera News* as one of the top ten opera CDs of 2007, MOR's recording of Hans Krása's beloved children's opera is the first to use Tony Kushner's brilliant English libretto. A memorial to the children of the Terezin concentration camp, the disc also includes six poems by child prisoners, given life in Lori Laitman's song cycle *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*.



Letter to Warsaw

Letter to Warsaw is 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.

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