

MUSIC OF remembrance<sup>®</sup>  
ensuring that the voices of musical witness be heard<sup>®</sup>

Twentieth Season  
Mina Miller ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

## 2017-18 Season Concerts

Seattle and San Francisco



### *Voices of Witness*

*"At a time when genocide, ethnic cleansing, anti-immigrant attacks, and religious extremism are on the rise worldwide, the work of Music of Remembrance, the Seattle-based chamber music organization that has spent 19 years keeping memories of the Holocaust alive through music, seems more important than ever."*

*– Jason Victor Serinus (Classical Voice North America)*

*"Their souls speak to us. They ask us to look inward, to take stock of who we are and what we might become."*

- President Barack Obama

## From The Artistic Director



MINA MILLER

ments about our common humanity.

At our November concert, you'll experience the first of two new works by Ryuichi Sakamoto, who has had a unique impact in Japan and around the world as a composer, musician, film actor and peace activist. *Snow Falls*, a musical setting of Kiyoko Nagase's moving poem of the same name, draws on melodies from Sakamoto's film score "Nagasaki: Memories of My Son." Actress Naho Shioya will narrate the poem both in Japanese and in an English translation by Empress Michiko. We'll also unveil Keiko Fujiie's *Wilderness Mute*, a setting of texts in English translation by victims and survivors of the atomic bombs. Ms.

Fujiie, a Nagasaki native and one of Japan's most noted and frequently-performed composers, has been honored twice with the NHK Symphony Orchestra's coveted Otaka Prize. Both works make an eloquent plea about the urgency of preventing nuclear war.

Welcome to Music of Remembrance's 20<sup>th</sup> season. This milestone year marks two decades of presenting music that represents the Holocaust's vast reach and tells stories that the world needs to hear today. Our 2017-18 programs feature music by composers whose lives and art were touched by the Holocaust, and who dared to speak out even in the bleakest of circumstances. The Holocaust's legacy calls on us to remember all victims of war, and those who have been excluded or persecuted because of their nationality, ethnicity, faith or sexuality. This season's *Voices of Witness* concerts include four world premieres of new works inspired by Japanese and Japanese American wartime experience. Drawing on poetry, music and art by victims and survivors of the incarceration camps and nuclear bombings, these MOR commissions make eloquent statements about our common humanity.



NAGASAKI FOLLOWING THE ATOMIC BOMBING  
AUGUST 9, 1945



ORTH HAS PERFORMED 135 ROLES IN OPERA AND MUSICALS IN SCORES OF CITIES AROUND THE WORLD.

Our fall concert reprises Paul Schoenfield's powerful *Sparks of Glory*, based on the memoirs of Polish-Israeli journalist Moshe Prager. Baritone/actor Robert Orth brings fiery passion to the work's four true stories of courageous defiance, taken from the words of heroes who themselves did not realize that they were heroes. Orth has captivated MOR audiences as Picasso in the world premiere of Tom Cipullo's *After Life* (2015), and as Gad Beck in Jake Heggie's *Out of Darkness* (2016). And you'll also discover little-known gems created by Émile Goué, William Hilsley and Marius Flothuis - French, British and Dutch composers respectively - in prison and concentration camps.

### FRONT COVER COLLAGE ELEMENTS:

BOY VIOLINIST PLAYS FOR ALMS IN WARSAW GHETTO, FEBRUARY 1941. JOE HEYDECKER. COURTESY MUNICH STATE MUSEUM  
NISEI GIRL GUARDING FAMILY BAGGAGE, 1942. DOROTHEA LANGE. COURTESY NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION


At our spring concert on May 20, 2018, we unveil NAMÉ, Ryuichi Sakamoto's second MOR commission, a work honoring the memory of those from all nations who perished in WWII. Additionally, we premiere French-born American composer Christophe Chagnard's *Gaman*. This multi-media work explores the stories of people of Japanese ancestry, most of them US citizens, who were forced to incarceration camps during the war. The work's title refers to the struggle to endure the unbearable with patience and dignity. At this concert, you'll also feel the power of the audacious Erwin Schulhoff, who perished in the Wülzburg concentration camp. A daring artistic innovator and political radical, Schulhoff was an important composer of his day and had a major impact on the emerging musical styles between the two world wars. Our performance of his *Five Pieces for String Quartet* (1923) includes a newly discovered sixth piece. You'll also marvel at the resilient spirit in the Terezin concentration camp in a medley of songs - ranging in mood from defiant to bitterly ironic to sadly nostalgic - that offer a glimpse of life in the camp through the hearts of its prisoners.

In his visit to Hiroshima, President Barack Obama remembered the dead whose mourning he had come to join: "Their souls speak to us. They ask us to look inward, to take stock of who we are and what we might become." MOR's 20th season, *Voices of Witness*, recalls the atomic bombing victims of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the people in America deprived of liberty because of their ancestry. There are many ways of learning about these chapters of history, but music has a special power for sharing personal memory and witness. I hope you'll join us for these programs that communicate history's lessons through the experience of people who lived through events that changed the world.



MEMORIAL CENOTAPH AT HIROSHIMA PEACE MEMORIAL PARK

The cover art of this brochure juxtaposes images of a young Jewish boy playing his violin for alms in the Warsaw Ghetto, a young Japanese American girl guarding her family's baggage as they prepared to be sent to an incarceration camp, and the blossoms of a ginkgo tree. In Hiroshima, some ginkgo trees near the center of the atomic blast withstood the inferno because of their resilience and deep roots, sprouting new leaves within days. These "survivor trees" have come to represent the endurance of hope and need for reconciliation.

  
 Mina Miller, *Artistic Director*

Now entering its 20th 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 20<sup>th</sup> season:

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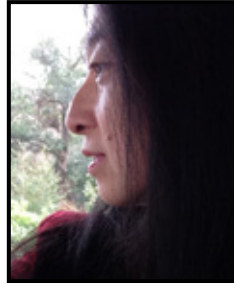


# *Snow Falls*

In Paul Schoenfield's *Sparks of Glory*, guest artist Robert Orth brings fiery passion to four true stories of courageous defiance, taken from the words of heroes who themselves did not realize that they were heroes. And discover little-known gems created by French, British and Dutch composers in prison and concentration camps.

**PLUS TWO WORLD PREMIERES:**

Ryuichi Sakamoto's *Snow Falls* draws on melodies from his film score for "Nagasaki: Memories of My Son" to set the haunting poem by Kiyoko Nagase in an English translation by Empress Michiko. Keiko Fujiie's *Wilderness Mute* gives voice to witness testimony in an eloquent plea about the urgency of preventing nuclear war.



KEIKO FUJIIIE



RYUICHI SAKAMOTO

## *November 2017 Concert*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 7:00 P.M.

*Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall, Benaroya Hall*

6:15 P.M. MEET THE COMPOSER - KEIKO FUJIIIE



INTRODUCTORY REMARKS: Yoichiro Yamada, Consul General of Japan

**Émile Goué**

*Duo for Violin and Cello*, Op. 34

(Oflag X-B, Nienburg am Weser, 1942)

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Walter Gray, *cello*

**William Hilsley**

*Songs* (Kreuzberg Prison Camp, 1942-43)

Erich Parce, *baritone* Mina Miller, *piano*

*The Turning World* (Kreuzberg Camp, 1942-43)

Jessica Choe and Mina Miller, *piano*

**Ryuichi Sakamoto**

*Snow Falls* (2017)

WORLD PREMIERE COMMISSIONED BY MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE

An arrangement based on “Nagasaki: Memories of My Son”

Naho Shioya, *actress*

Takumi Taguchi, *violin* Mina Miller, *piano*

**Keiko Fujiie**

*Wilderness Mute* (2017)

WORLD PREMIERE COMMISSIONED BY MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE

Ann Moss, *soprano* Robert Orth, *baritone*

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Laura DeLuca, *clarinet*

Walter Gray, *cello* Jonathan Green, *double bass*

**Marius Flothuis**

*Duettino Pastorale*, Op. 23, no. 2 (Sachsenhausen, 1944)

Mikhail Shmidt and Takumi Taguchi, *violin*

**Paul Schoenfield**

*Sparks of Glory* (1995)

Robert Orth, *Narrator*

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Laura DeLuca, *clarinet*

Walter Gray, *cello* Jessica Choe, *piano*

# Gaman

You'll experience the dynamism of string quartet music by Erwin Schulhoff, an audacious talent whose life ended in a Nazi concentration camp, and marvel at the resilient spirit of songs from Terezín.

**PLUS TWO WORLD PREMIERES:** Ryuichi Sakamoto's second MOR commission honors the memory of those from all nations who perished in World War II. Christophe Chagnard's *Gaman* is a multi-media work on the experience of Japanese Americans forced to incarceration camps. The work's title refers to the struggle to endure the unbearable with patience and dignity. It combines traditional Japanese and classical Western instruments, bringing a powerful story to life through the witness of artist and writers among the prisoners in Minidoka – the wartime diary of Kamekichi Tokita, the poetry of Suma Yagi, and paintings by Roger Shimomura, Takuichi Fujii and Kamekichi Tokita.

"AMERICAN ALIEN #2," ROGER SHIMOMURA (COURTESY ROGER SHIMOMURA)



## May 2018 Concert

SUNDAY, MAY 20, 5:00 P.M.

*Illsley Ball Nordstrom Recital Hall,  
Benaroya Hall*

4:15 P.M. MEET THE COMPOSER  
CHRISTOPHE CHAGNARD



## **Erwin Schulhoff**

*Five Pieces for String Quartet* (1923)

including the newly-discovered sixth piece, *Alla Napoletana*

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin*; Natasha Bazhanov, *violin*

Susan Gulkis Assadi, *viola*; Walter Gray, *cello*

***Long Live Life!*** A medley of songs from Terezín

Erich Parce, *baritone*

Mina Miller, *piano*

## **Ryuichi Sakamoto**

**NAME** (2018)

**World Premiere**

COMMISSIONED BY MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE

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

Walter Gray, *cello*; Jessica Choe, *piano*

## **Christophe Chagnard**

*Gaman* (2018)

**World Premiere**

COMMISSIONED BY MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE

Robert Orth, *actor & baritone*

Ann Moss, *soprano*

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin*; Laura DeLuca, *clarinet*

Susan Gulkis Assadi, *viola*; Walter Gray, *cello*

Jonathan Green, *double bass*

Ringtaro and Asako Tateishi, *Fue Flute and Taiko Drums*

***Gala Evening to celebrate MOR's 20th season!***

**May 20, 2018**

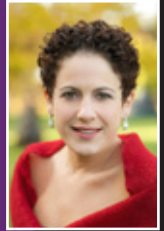
Special packages starting at \$250 make for an unforgettable evening, including a silent auction, cocktail hour, and dinner in the elegant Founders Room at Benaroya Hall.

## MOR Guest Artists



**Roslyn Barak, soprano**, is Cantor Emerita at Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco, where she has served since 1987. She received her musical training at the Manhattan School of Music, and before joining the cantorate she was the recipient of prestigious awards as concert recitalist and opera singer, appearing with the Santa Fe Opera, the Israel National Opera, the Jerusalem Symphony and the Israel Philharmonic. She studied and was ordained as a cantor at Hebrew Union College in New York.

**Ann Moss, soprano**, is an acclaimed recording artist and champion of contemporary vocal music who performs and collaborates with some of today's leading composers. Her voice has been singled out by *Opera News* for "beautifully pure floated high notes," and by San Francisco Classical Voice for "powerful expression" and "exquisite phrasing." In addition to working closely with well-known composers such as Jake Heggie, John Harbison, Kaija Saariaho, David Conte and Aaron Jay Kernis, she seeks out and performs music by emerging voices at forums and festivals across the US.



**Robert Orth, baritone**, has performed 135 roles in opera and musicals in scores of cities 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." With MOR, he has introduced the roles of Pablo Picasso in Tom Cipullo's *After Life* (2015), and Gad Beck in Jake Heggie's *Out of Darkness* (2016). Recent engagements include Peter Maxwell Davies' *The Light House* and Terence Blanchard's *Champion* with Opera Parallèle, *Sweeney Todd* with Mill City Summer Opera in Minneapolis, and Ricky Ian Gordon's *The Grapes of Wrath* with Opera Theatre of St. Louis.

**Ringtaro Tateishi, fue flute (Japanese traverse flute)**, is co-founder and artistic director at The School of TAIKO in Seattle. He began playing the taiko at the age of 6 with the group OSUWA TAIKO in Japan. From 1989 to 1999, he was a member of the world-famous Taiko group ONDEKOZA. As the group's artistic director, he gave over 1,000 performances in more than 25 countries. He has performed at major venues that include the Fox Theatre in Atlanta, the Suntory Hall in Tokyo, the Taipei National Concert Hall, and the Herodes Atticus Odeon at Acropolis in Athens.



**Asako Tateishi, Japanese percussion**, is co-founder, executive director and chief instructor at The School of TAIKO in Seattle. She has performed at venues and festivals across the US that include EPCOT /Walt Disney World, Hollywood Rose Theater, Morikami Museum (Miami), International Taiko Festival (San Francisco), Stone Mountain Festival (Atlanta), and Hatsume Festival (Miami).





2017-18 CONCERT SEASON *Distinguished Artists*



**Mina Miller**  
*Artistic Director,  
Piano*



**Natasha Bazhanov**  
*Violin*



**Jessica Choe**  
*Piano*



**Laura DeLuca**  
*Clarinet*



**Walter Gray**  
*Cello*



**Jonathan Green**  
*Double Bass*



**Susan Gulkis Assadi**  
*Viola*



**Erich Parce**  
*Baritone*



**Naho Shioya**  
*Actress*



**Mikhail Shmidt**  
*Violin*



**Takumi Taguchi**  
*Violin\**

*\*2013 David Tonkonogui  
Memorial Award  
recipient*

## *Art from Ashes*

International Holocaust Remembrance Day Concert

FREE  
to the  
Community

*Presented with  
generous support  
from Jack and  
Adina Almo*

Monday, January 29, 2018  
at 5 p.m.

ILLSLEY BALL NORDSTROM  
RECITAL HALL,  
BENAROYA HALL



# MOR Returns to San Francisco!

Thursday, May 24, 2018

7:30 p.m. *Voices of Witness* Concert

6:00 P.M. PRE-CONCERT PERFORMANCE WITH COMMENTARY, KEIKO FUJIE'S *WILDERNESS MUTE*  
CAROLINE H. HUME CONCERT HALL, SAN FRANCISCO CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

*"Moss is one of those artists with a Midas touch — the kind who can make anything in her orbit comply to her artistic vision."*

— A Beast in a Jungle



ANN MOSS



ROBERT ORTH

*"One of the most versatile singing actors working today."*  
— TheaterJones

For the fourth consecutive year, MOR brings its music and its mission to the Bay Area. In this varied program at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, you'll marvel at the youthful dynamism of *Five Pieces for String Quartet* by Erwin Schulhoff, an audacious talent whose life ended in a Nazi concentration camp. You'll discover the *Rhapsody on Moldavian Themes* by Mieczyslaw Weinberg, a fascinating composer who holds the unfortunate distinction of persecution at both Nazi and Soviet hands. And beloved cantor Roslyn Barak will stir you with her soulful interpretations of songs written and first sung by prisoners in Terezin.

Reflecting on the Holocaust's legacy, we also recall the stories of others who have been victims of exclusion, persecution and war. Our San Francisco concert features all four of the works that MOR commissioned and premiered this season, inspired by Japanese and Japanese American wartime experience.

## Ryuichi Sakamoto

*Snow Falls* (2017)

An arrangement based on "Nagasaki: Memories of My Son"

## Ryuichi Sakamoto

NAMÉ (2018)

## Keiko Fujiie

*Wilderness Mute* (2017)

## Christophe Chagnard

*Gaman* (2018)

Ann Moss, *soprano*

Robert Orth, *actor & baritone*

Laura DeLuca, *clarinet* Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Natasha Bazhanov, *violin*  
Susan Gulkis Assadi, *viola* Walter Gray, *cello* Jonathan Green, *double bass*

Mina Miller, *piano* Jessica Choe, *piano*

Ringtaro and Asako Tateishi, *Fue Flute and Taiko Drums*

**Tickets: \$45 - \$60**

(available online at [www.musicofremembrance.org](http://www.musicofremembrance.org))

Contact us for details about our post-concert reception in the Osher Salon.

# Order Today!

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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*

	EACH	QTY	COST
<i>Nov 5, 2017 and May 20, 2018</i>	\$80	_____	\$_____

**Single tickets.** Single tickets will be held for processing on a space-available basis after subscription orders have been filled.

<i>November Concert</i>	Nov. 5, 2017	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	\$45*	_____	\$_____
<i>May Concert</i>	May 20, 2018	<b>5:00 p.m.</b>	\$45*	_____	\$_____
<i>Seattle Gala Dinner</i>	May 20, 2018	<b>7:00 p.m.</b>	\$250	_____	\$_____

**Special Offer!** Under thirty years old? Take advantage of our \$30 under 30 promotion for single tickets. Please call the MOR office at (206) 365-7770 to learn more about this opportunity.

**\* MOR is a proud member of TeenTix!** Visit [musicofremembrance.org/tickets](http://musicofremembrance.org/tickets) to learn more about how teenagers (13-19 years old) can get \$5 tickets to our concerts.

**Supporter.** I wish to support Music of Remembrance's mission with a donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_

### *Levels of giving:*

PILLAR	\$10,000 & ABOVE	PATRON	\$500 - 999
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\_\_\_\_\_ Processing fee per ticket order \$ 5.00

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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.



### *Schoenfeld & Schwarz*

Three MOR commissions! In his searing *Camp Songs* and his evocative *Ghetto Songs*, composer Paul Schoenfeld 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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