

HOURS OF FREEDOM:

THE STORY OF THE TEREZÍN COMPOSER

The Defiant Requiem Foundation is pleased to announce a new concert-drama created by Murry Sidlin entitled **Hours of Freedom: The Story of the Terezín Composer**. Showcasing music by fifteen composers imprisoned in Terezín during WWII, **Hours of Freedom** combines video, performance and narrative to highlight compositions by Viktor Ullmann, Gideon Klein, Zikmund Schul, Pavel Haas, Rudolf Karel and ten others. Aware that their lives were fragile and that deportations to the east were a constant reality, **Hours of Freedom** explores the need to create new music as affirmation of a future. This music was often the last that was composed by these gifted artists – many of whom were in their 20s and 30s when they were murdered. Several were destined to be the next generation of significant Czech composers following in the footsteps of Dvořák, Smetana, Janáček, Martinů and Suk. Some of their compositions reflect the personal eyewitness account of the agony and suffering in Terezín, while others express the assurance of a return to life as it was before the war.

The nine chapters of the concert which include, among others, “The Eyewitness,” “Fate,” “The Broken Heart,” “Longing,” “The Messenger” and “Pure Entertainment,” are presented to highlight the character of each musical work and what it meant to the composer. The compositions to be performed range from solo works, duets, trios and quartets to compositions for nine and thirteen instrumentalists, with four singers and two narrators. Ullmann’s *7th Piano Sonata* contains hidden sociological and patriotic messages. The *Etude for Strings* by Pavel Haas will combine our live string ensemble with the Terezín musicians captured on film in August 1944. Hans Krasa’s songs evoke heart-breaking longing, while Karel Svenk’s *Everything is Possible* represents the cabaret voice of Terezín from one of Europe’s most imaginative artist/composers. **Hours of Freedom** continues to explore the themes expressed in the concert-drama *Defiant Requiem* – the power of the arts to inspire and sustain human dignity, courage, harmony and hope.

The performance is one hour and forty-five minutes in length and does not have an intermission.

Performances of **Hours of Freedom: The Story of the Terezín Composer** are arranged by agreement with The Defiant Requiem Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization based in Washington, DC, for a negotiable licensing fee. The licensing fee includes use of the script, music for all of the performers, video/screen content, the artist fee for Maestro Sidlin (who conducts some works on the program and is one of the two narrators), Foundation General Manager Mark Rulison who serves as technical director for the production, and a fee for staff time and other materials provided by the Foundation. In most cases, the fee also includes the participation of our preferred pianist for this program, Phillip Silver.

The exact number of rehearsals required for a performance of **Hours of Freedom** varies and should be determined in consultation with Murry Sidlin and Mark Rulison. At a minimum, the final rehearsal must take place in the performance venue with all technical equipment and personnel present.

Artistic Personnel

Artistic personnel required for a performance of **Hours of Freedom: The Story of the Terezín Composer** are listed below. For guidance in selecting instrumentalists and casting singers and actors, please contact Murry Sidlin and Mark Rulison. The Foundation has existing relationships with a number of performers who are familiar with these works and we would be happy to help customize a performance that best fits your organization's unique situation. Please note that Maestro Sidlin must approve all casting.

(4) Vocal Soloists (SATB)

(1) Actor

(13) Instrumentalists:

(2) Violins	(1) Clarinet
(1) Viola	(1) Bassoon
(1) Cello	(1) Horn
(1) Bass	(1) Trumpet
(1) Flute	(1) Harp
(1) Oboe	(1) Piano*

**Phillip Silver is our preferred pianist for this program. In most cases, the Foundation will arrange for Mr. Silver's participation during the booking process.*

Technical Information

Performances of **Hours of Freedom** require a stage large enough to comfortably accommodate the artistic personnel and instruments listed above and the screen and other technical equipment mentioned below. A tuned grand piano is also required. 7' Steinway Model B is preferred, but smaller and larger grand pianos are possible. Stage plots and photographs are available.

Sound Equipment and Personnel

- (2) Wireless handheld microphones (Sure BETA58 or similar) with clip, boom stand, and receiver for the conductor and narrator
- (1) Spare channel of wireless
- PA system for voice reinforcement (minimum 8 channels), including feed from the video playback system
- Qualified sound engineer for rehearsal(s) and performance(s)
- Intercom (ClearCom) system for communication between backstage, video playback position, lighting operator, sound engineer, and production stage manager

Lighting Equipment and Personnel

- Stand lights for all orchestra musicians, conductor, and actor (approximately 20)
- (1) Piano Light
- Specials for the conductor, actor, and vocal soloists are preferred
- Dimmable white wash for the performance area
- Dimmable house lights
- Dimmers for all instruments and functioning light board
- Stand lights may be on dimmable or non-dimmable circuits at presenter's discretion
- Qualified lighting board operator for rehearsal(s) and performance(s)

Chairs and Stands

- Minimum of (13) armless chairs
- (7) backless stools
- Minimum of (20) Manhasset or "claw foot" type music stands
- Large conductor music stand

Video Screens and Projectors

- 16:9 aspect ratio front or rear projection screen sized for the venue (as large as possible)
- Projector or projectors with sufficient lumens and proper lens(es) based on screen and projector placement (both front and rear projection are possible, rear projection is preferred; projector input is SDI)
- (1) HDMI preview monitor
- All necessary cabling for connections from Foundation provided laptop and mixing unit to projector(s) and mixing unit to preview monitors. Exact connection types will be provided during the advance.
- Qualified video technician for rehearsal(s) and performance(s) to assist with setup and ensure all equipment is working properly for the duration of the event

For information about arranging a performance and for licensing fees, please contact:

Louisa Hollman, Executive Director

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For additional tech questions or to advance a production, please contact:

Mark Rulison

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