

## THE EDUCATIONAL WEBSITE

Our website provides two sets of complimentary lesson plans. One is designed to explore the role of the arts at Terezín, while the other examines the historic and current role of human rights in conflict resolution. Each set of lesson plans includes original teaching modules for secondary, college and adult education.

In addition to the above noted lesson plans, The Foundation, in partnership with *Journeys in Film*, created a curriculum guide for the *Defiant Requiem* documentary film. The guide is available for complimentary download on the The Foundation's website.

Creator/conductor Murry Sidlin is also available to speak at conferences and visit classrooms in North America. For more information, email Maestro Sidlin at [msidlin@defiantrequiem.org](mailto:msidlin@defiantrequiem.org) or call 202-244-0220.

*We are thankful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for their support of our educational programs.*

## THE UNIVERSITY RESIDENCY PROGRAM

The University Residency Program was established in early 2014 with a generous grant from Gretchen M. Brooks. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be provided to schools and departments of music at outstanding North American colleges and universities to bring **The Terezín Legacy** to their campus. Events comprising **The Terezín Legacy** include, but are not limited to, a live performance of *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín* with Maestro Sidlin conducting, a screening of the documentary film *Defiant Requiem*, master classes, a chamber music performance of music composed in Terezín, and panel discussions to explore the Terezín paradigm. The application is available on The Defiant Requiem Foundation website.

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

The Defiant Requiem Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 2008 by Murry Sidlin, distinguished conductor, educator and artistic innovator. Maestro Sidlin's passion and commitment to honoring the prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (Terezín) and their inspired artistic endeavors serve as the framework for The Defiant Requiem Foundation.

The Foundation is dedicated to preserving the memory and legacy of the prisoners in Terezín during World War II, who, despite monumental suffering, disease and the constant presence of death, found hope and inspiration in the arts and humanities. The programs and events of The Defiant Requiem Foundation tell their story and honor their courage.

The Defiant Requiem Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization established in Washington, DC.

Visit our website and "like" us on Facebook to learn more about The Foundation's initiatives and to join our efforts to keep the memory and lessons of Terezín alive.

The  
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Foundation™

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**Murry Sidlin**  
President & Founder

**The Honorable Stuart E. Eizenstat**  
Chairman of the Board

## THE DOCUMENTARY FILM

The Defiant Requiem Foundation, in partnership with Partisan Pictures, produced *Defiant Requiem*, a moving and powerful feature-length documentary film that has been broadcast on PBS and on BBC4 in the U.K. The film is currently available on Netflix and is represented internationally by Mercury Media International.



The film tells the inspirational story of how and why conductor Rafael Schächter recruited a chorus of 150 fellow prisoners and taught them the powerful and enormously demanding Verdi Requiem by rote. The film honors the prisoners of Terezín by telling their stories and by relating their desperate attempts to maintain their own humanity. It also examines the prisoners' interpretation of the Latin text of the Requiem, which explores God's ultimate judgment of the wicked, as a work of defiance and resistance. The liturgy of the Mass enabled them to "sing to the Nazis what they could not say to them."

Narrated by actor Bebe Neuwirth, *Defiant Requiem* combines historical photos, animation and Nazi propaganda footage — with re-creations and current footage of Prague and Terezín — to tell this inspirational story.

The film has received numerous awards nationwide. *Defiant Requiem* is available for festivals, private screenings and events. If he is available, Maestro Sidlin will accompany the film and conduct a discussion session upon request.

## THE SCHÄCHTER INSTITUTE

The Rafael Schächter Institute for Arts and Humanities is named after the conductor of the Verdi Requiem performances in Terezín during World War II. The Institute is dedicated to perpetuating the arts and humanities as practiced by the prisoners of Terezín. The Institute will host events each summer to replicate the prisoners' performances, lectures and forums. Annual events will typically include chamber music, a cabaret re-creation, a film screening, lectures and panel discussions, and a Hall of Fame event illuminating the creativity or scholarship of a Terezín prisoner. The location for the Institute will alternate between Terezín and a major US university each summer. For more information and a schedule of this summer's planned events, visit our website at [www.defiantrequiem.org](http://www.defiantrequiem.org).



Murry Sidlin

## THE LIVE PERFORMANCE

Created and conducted by Maestro Murry Sidlin, *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín* features a full performance of Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem Mass. The performance includes actors, historic film footage from Terezín and interviews with original chorus members relating the full, impassioned story of how and why these Jewish prisoners, who faced death every day, chose to learn and perform the Verdi Requiem during their darkest hours.

The story of Terezín unfolds between each section of the Verdi score. The concert/drama explains through music, personal survivor testimony and narration why the performances in 1943 and 1944 provided a beacon of hope and survival for the prisoner choir and its audience.

*Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín* has been performed at The Kennedy Center in Washington, DC; Lincoln Center in New York City; in Jerusalem as part of the Israel Festival in May 2012; before an audience of 5,000 in Budapest in 2010; at St. Vitus Cathedral in Prague; and in Terezín itself. The concert was performed in Berlin on March 4, 2014. For the upcoming concert schedule and press reviews, visit The Foundation's website.

The script is copyrighted and performances are only available by agreement with The Defiant Requiem Foundation. For more information, please email General Manager Mark Rulison at [mrulison@defiantrequiem.org](mailto:mrulison@defiantrequiem.org).

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