



**VIOLINS OF HOPE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA,  
A PROJECT OF MUSIC AT KOHL MANSION  
AND CONGREGATION EMANU-EL**

**PRESENT**

**HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY CONCERT COMMEMORATING THE  
75<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LIBERATION OF AUSCHWITZ  
MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2020**

**The Violins of Hope are a remarkable collection of stringed instruments once played by Jews in Nazi concentration camps and ghettos, now lovingly brought back to life by Israeli master luthiers, Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein.**

**All the instruments played in the performance tonight are part of this collection. They indeed are the survivors who continue to teach and inspire us, and to speak for those who suffered and perished.**

**The Violins of Hope San Francisco Bay Area honors the memory of the many Holocaust musicians who played them. We will showcase 51 priceless instruments from the collection in an eight-week residency uniting 42 Bay Area organizations. It features classical, klezmer and folk concerts, films, exhibitions, lectures, interfaith services, public forums and educational workshops. These instruments serve as life affirming vehicles that not only remind us of the past but serve as symbols of peace and human dignity, and creating a musical bridge of grace and compassion.**



**This event is cosponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest  
San Francisco Interfaith Council  
Jewish Family & Children's Services Holocaust Center**

**Tonight's concert is generously funded in part by Julie and David Levine**



## PROGRAM

- Welcome** Rabbi Beth Singer & Bishop Marc Andrus
- Presentation of Commendation** Shlomi Kofman  
Consul General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest  
to Amnon and Avshalom Weinstein,  
co-founders of the Violins of Hope
- Reflections** Rabbi Sydney Mintz
- Introduction to *Intonations*** Patricia Kristof Moy and Jake Heggie

### SELECTIONS FROM *INTONATIONS: SONGS FROM THE VIOLINS OF HOPE*

Music by **Jake Heggie**  
Libretto by **Gene Scheer**

Nikola Prinz, *mezzo soprano*  
Hannah Tarley, *violin* playing the Feivel Wininger violin

Musicians from the San Francisco Opera Orchestra  
Kay Stern, *violin* playing the Erich Weiniger violin  
Dawn Harms, *violin\** playing the Auschwitz violin  
Patricia Heller, *viola* playing the Zach viola  
Emil Miland, *cello* playing the Dresden cello  
Sean Mori, *youth violin*, playing the Storch Family Violin

Inspired in part by the book *Violins of Hope: Violins of the Holocaust- Instruments of Hope and Liberation in Mankind's Darkest Hour* by James A. Grymes.

**Ashes**

**Exile**

**Concert**

**Liberation**

\*The Auschwitz Violin is generously sponsored by Fred Levin and Nancy Livingston, The Shenson Foundation throughout the *Violins of Hope San Francisco Bay Area* residency.

**Please note: The texts of the songs is on the back page of this program.**

### NEW CENTURY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Simone Dinnerstein, *pianist*

**Johann Sebastian Bach** *Erbarme Dich* (arr. Philip Lasser)  
(1685-1750)

**Johann Sebastian Bach** Keyboard Concerto in D Minor, BWV 1052  
(1685-1750) I. Allegro

**François Couperin** *Les Barricades Mystérieuses*  
(1668-1733)

**VIOLIN I**

Robin Mayforth, *concertmaster*  
 Iris Stone  
 Karen Shinozaki Sor  
 Michael Yokas

**VIOLIN II**

Candace Guirao, *principal*  
 Deborah Tien Price  
 Evan Price  
 Stephanie Bibbo

**VIOLA**

Anna Kruger, *principal*  
 Cassandra Lynne Richburg  
 Jenny Douglass

**CELLO**

Robin Bonnell, *principal*  
 Michelle Djokic  
 Eric Gaenslen

**BASS**

Bill Everett

**Texts from *Intonations: Songs from the Violins of Hope***

**Ashes**

When they told him not to pray,  
 Told him to forget,  
 When they told him not to hope,  
 He played the violin.  
 Who touches me now?  
 Who opens me like the Torah  
 Searching for answers  
 And beneath a carved piece of spruce  
 Finds only ashes?  
 Whose ashes? Whose hands?  
 Who will listen if I sing again?  
 They told her not to pray,

Told her to forget,  
 Told her not to hope...  
 How could it happen?  
 I was never meant to be an urn for ashes.  
 I was crafted, carved, created,  
 Born to intone and vibrate  
 To thread yesterday, today and tomorrow  
 With inextinguishable song.  
 When they told us not to pray,  
 Told us to forget,  
 When they told us not to hope,  
 We played these violins

**Exile**

Erich picks me up nervously,  
 As he did on the cattle car to Dachau,  
 On the march to Buchenwald.  
 He takes me in his hands,  
 Touches a string  
 And I cry like Isaac in Abraham's arms.  
 Twelve hundred exiles on a ship  
 In the middle of the ocean  
 On our way to the Promised Land.  
 But the ship is listing, drifting,  
 And the call goes out:  
 "All the coal is gone!"

"We must feed the furnace!"  
 "Find every piece of wood!"  
 "Tear up the floorboards, the railings,  
 the walls and the doors!"  
 "Rip the ship apart!"  
 "Every piece of wood into the furnace now!"  
 "Is it time to let you go?" he asks me. "Are you  
 just another piece of wood to fuel the fire?"  
 Erich is gone. I am still here.  
 Now, every time someone picks me up And  
 draws a bow across these strings, Part of me  
 is back in Erich's hands, And I cry again like  
 Isaac in Abraham's arms.

**Concert**

"Play something romantic," the  
 Commandant orders.  
 "Something from before all this."  
 The officers are all seated.

They tap their feet as they wait for the  
 concert to begin.  
 Henry looks up at the showerheads  
 That have never shed a drop of water.  
 We know why.



Here in the gas chamber, everything but  
murder is a lie.  
"Forgive me," he whispers to me.  
"But if I play, I will not die today."  
Together we soar and sing  
Of walks along the Rhine, hands  
intertwined.  
The tune rolls forth like a wave.  
Henry must be brave.  
So no one can see beneath the wave,  
Where a riptide pulls him down.  
Before all this?  
Before you stole the future? Before you killed  
my brother?

Before you ripped children from mothers?  
Before the glass was broken? The temples  
and bodies burned?  
Before you forced me to stand and play In the  
place where each day you murder thousands?  
*Yitgadal v'yitkadash sh'mei raba b'alma div'ra  
chirutei,  
v'yamlich malchutei...*

The concert in the gas chamber is over. There  
is even some applause...  
Motele is not alone.

### **Liberation**

Is it over? Finally over?  
Did we survive again?  
A tired soldier gives him a piece of bread,  
and says:  
"Open your eyes. Arise, my friend,  
the liberation has begun."  
Is it over? Can it really be over?  
For a moment?...  
Yes, but for a moment only.  
The past is a clock without any hands.

## **VIOLINS OF HOPE SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA IS GENEROUSLY FUNDED BY**

**William & Flora Hewlett Foundation**

**Ann & Gordon Getty Foundation**

**Diane B. Wilsey**

**Walter & Elise Haas Fund | The Koret Foundation**

**Victoria and Terry Rosen | Carlstrom Productions**

**Kenneth Gundry & Susan Kasdan Gundry | Katherine & Roy Bukstein**

**Daniel Springer & Lisa Coscino | John & Marcia Goldman | Donna Dubinsky & Len Shustek**

**Hellman Foundation | National Endowment for the Arts | Judy Preves Anderson & David**

**Anderson | Diane & Stephen Heiman | Linda & Frank Kurtz | Bernice Lindstrom**

**Mervyn L. Brenner Foundation | Robert A. Ellis | Bette & Joseph Hirsch**

**Estate of Shirley Sachs Hort | Julie & David Levine | Abby Rumsey**

**Fred Levin & Nancy Livingston - the Shenson Foundation**

**Media Sponsor: J. The Jewish News of Northern California**

**Consulate General of Israel to the Pacific Northwest**

**Bella Charitable Foundation | Fleishhacker Foundation**

## **HEAR THEM -- SEE THEM -- DISCOVER THEM**

**[www.violinsofhopesfba.org](http://www.violinsofhopesfba.org)**