

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: February 26, 2010

Music at the Edge of Life: In Remembrance of Jewish Composers Who Perished in the Holocaust

**Santa Rosa Symphony presents chamber concert April 10
to coincide with “Holocaust Remembrance Day”**

(SANTA ROSA, CA)—Santa Rosa Symphony’s Festival of Remembrance is a collaborative community event that encourages audience and performers to examine their understanding of significant cultural/historical events in light of the evocative music presented on stage. The third concert of the series: **Music at the Edge of Life: In Remembrance of Jewish Composers Who Perished in the Holocaust** takes place at Sonoma Country Day School’s Jackson Theater at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 10. It features the work of Pavel Haas, Erwin Shulhoff, Hans Krasa and Viktor Ullmann, and will be performed by the Symphony Chamber Players.

The concert, just a day before Yom Hashoah, “Holocaust Remembrance Day” (observed on April 11 this year), will be introduced by Rabbi George Gittleman of Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa. Rabbi Gittleman will speak about “music as a means of resistance, even in the face of radical evil. The spirit of these artists could not be broken.”

The compositions on the musical program, most of which were written in concentration camps, are as follows: String Quartet No. 3 by Haas; Concertino by Shulhoff; Passacaglia and Fugue for Violin, Viola and Cello by Krasa; and String Quartet No. 3 by Ullmann.

Lobby Exhibits and a Documentary Video

In the lobby of the Jackson Theater, Sonoma Country Day School students will mount a display based on their Tolerance study unit. In addition, a video produced by Listening for a Change will be screened before and after the concert. This documentary consists of interviews—conducted by

Healdsburg Junior High School Students—with local residents who are Holocaust survivors or relatives of those who were victims.

Tickets

Tickets are \$25 and \$32. To reserve, call 54-MUSIC (707-546-8742) or purchase online www.santarosasympphony.com. Tickets may be purchased at the door on space-available basis. Because of the educational nature of this concert, there is a special student price of \$10 (only available by phone or at the door).

Concert Sponsors

This concert is underwritten by the Clarence C. Heller Charitable Foundation. The Festival of Remembrance series is made possible by a grant from The James Irvine Foundation. The video by Listening for a Change was underwritten by Summit State Bank.

Rabbi George Gittleman – Brief Bio

Rabbi George Gittleman has been the spiritual leader of Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa since 1996. He and his wife Laura, a hospital administrator and artist, have teenage twins, Sophia and Levi. A native of Kentucky, Rabbi Gittleman earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in American History from the University of Vermont in 1984. He embarked on his rabbinical journey after eight years in computer sales, obtaining a Masters in Hebrew Letters and Ordination from the Reform Seminary, Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in 1996. Rabbi Gittleman is also a Senior Rabbinic Fellow at the prestigious Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem. An avid outdoor enthusiast, Rabbi Gittleman enjoys gardening, hiking with his dog, fly fishing and boogie boarding with the family. On occasion, you'll find him leading Shabbat Services in the woods, on the beach, or outside on the Shomrei Torah patio.

CALENDAR LISTING

Heading: Classical

What: “Music at the Edge of Life: In Remembrance of Jewish Composers Who Perished in the Holocaust”

Who: Santa Rosa Symphony

Concert Introduction by: Rabbi George Gittleman

Where: Jackson Theater, Sonoma Country Day School, 4400 Day School Place, Santa Rosa

When: Saturday, April 10, 2010 at 8 p.m.

Program:

Santa Rosa Symphony Chamber Players

HAAS: String Quartet No. 3

SHULHOFF: Concertino

KRASA: Passacaglia and Fugue for Violin, Viola and Cello

ULLMANN: String Quartet No. 3

Cost: Single tickets \$25 and \$32.

Special student price: \$10 (student tickets only by phone or at the door)

Tickets: Online santarosasympphony.com, by phone 54-MUSIC (707-546-8742), or in person at the SRS Patron Services Office, 50 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

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