

DEFIANT REQUIEM:

Asheville, North Carolina **Verdi at Terezín**
June 1, 2019



“WE WILL **SING** TO THE NAZIS **WHAT WE CANNOT SAY** TO THEM”

Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín, a unique and profoundly moving multimedia concert-drama, commemorates the remarkable story of the courageous Jewish prisoners in the Theresienstadt (Terezín) Concentration Camp who performed the Verdi Requiem while experiencing the depths of human degradation. With only a single smuggled score, they performed the celebrated oratorio sixteen times, including one performance before an International Red Cross delegation and senior SS officials from Berlin. Conductor Rafael Schächter told the choir, *“We will sing to the Nazis what we cannot say to them.”*



Created and conducted by Maestro Murry Sidlin, *Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín* features a full performance of Giuseppe Verdi's Requiem Mass, video testimony from survivors of the original chorus, segments of the Nazi propaganda film made at Terezín in 1944, and actors to relay the impassioned story of how and why these Jewish prisoners, who faced death every day, chose to learn and perform a Latin, Catholic mass during their darkest hours.

Defiant Requiem: Verdi at Terezín has been presented worldwide more than 40 times in cities including Atlanta, Berlin, Boston, Budapest, Chicago, Jerusalem, New York, Prague, Terezín, Washington (DC), and Vienna, among many others. In partnership with other Jewish charitable organizations, productions of *Defiant Requiem* have helped raise more \$10 million in funding for Survivors and Holocaust education. For more information, please visit www.defiantrequiem.org.



Photo credit: Todd Rosenberg

“‘Defiant Requiem’ can be seen as a landmark of a different sort: a monument to the courage of one man to foster hope among prisoners with little other solace.”
– Vivien Schweitzer, The New York Times

DEFIANT REQUIEM: Verdi at Terezín

Murry Sidlin, creator and conductor

A concert providing a collective moment to help preserve the memory of the Holocaust, illuminating how Jewish prisoners confronted the worst of mankind with the best of mankind, and to create awareness in Western North Carolina around equity, compassion, and inclusion. Additional proceeds to benefit Carolina Jews for Justice.

DONOR OPPORTUNITIES

Platinum Sponsorship \$25,000

- 12 premium seats for the concert
- 12 tickets for the pre-concert Sponsors reception
- 12 tickets for area high school and college students to attend the concert
- Private meet and greet with the conductor and soloists following the concert
- Signed *Defiant Requiem* concert poster
- Recognition in the concert program book as a Platinum Sponsor

Gold Sponsorship \$10,000

- 10 premium seats for the concert
- 10 tickets for the pre-concert Sponsors reception
- 10 tickets for area high school and college students to attend the concert
- Private meet and greet with the conductor and soloists following the concert
- Recognition in the concert program book as a Gold Sponsor

Silver Sponsorship \$5,000

- 6 premium seats for the concert
- 6 tickets for the pre-concert Sponsors reception
- 6 tickets for area high school and college students to attend the concert
- Recognition in the concert program book as a Silver Sponsor

Bronze Sponsorship \$2,500

- 4 priority seats for the concert
- 4 tickets for the pre-concert Sponsors reception
- Recognition in the concert program book as a Bronze Sponsor

Benefactor \$1,000

- 2 priority seats for the concert
- 2 tickets for the pre-concert Sponsors reception
- Recognition in the concert program book as a Benefactor

Supporter \$500

- 2 priority seats for the concert
- Recognition in the concert program book as a Supporter

The fair market value of this concert is \$40 and the value of the reception is \$55. These amounts are not tax deductible.

“**Never again will I hear Verdi's Requiem without thinking of this performance, and what happened in Terezín.**”

– Howard Reich, Chicago Tribune

Why bring *Defiant Requiem* to Asheville?

As time passes, there is a tendency to relegate tragedies such as the Holocaust to the distant past, diminishing their relevance to today's world. Bringing *Defiant Requiem* to Asheville not only preserves the memory of the Holocaust, but also demonstrates how resistance to oppression is possible even in the most trying circumstances. The event raises these issues before the wider community of Western North Carolina, stimulates thoughtful discussion, and provides educational opportunities for all ages - especially children - who may not know about the Holocaust. Music is a perfect vehicle to move beyond words and feel the essence of suffering and defiance.

Who is Involved?

The June 1, 2019, performance will feature an international cast of soloists, the **Asheville Symphony**, and a community chorus including members of the **Asheville Symphony Chorus** and **Asheville Choral Society**.

The Defiant Requiem Foundation is dedicated to preserving the memory of the prisoners in the Theresienstadt Concentration Camp (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.

Carolina Jews for Justice (CJJ) is a Jewish grassroots network committed to creating a just, fair, and compassionate North Carolina. Heeding the Torah's command to pursue justice, CJJ combines advocacy and education to organize a non-partisan Jewish voice for social justice in North Carolina.

Become a Sponsor!

To become a sponsor, or for more information, please contact **Kym Verhovshek** at asheville@defiantrequiem.org or (312) 286-7446.

The
DEFIANTREQUIEM
Foundation™

