

“This foundation’s mission grows more vital by the year.”

— Jeremy Eichler, *Boston Globe*

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More information: [www.tmfgala.org](http://www.tmfgala.org)

**Interviews available.**

**JIM BRAUDE, KHIZR KHAN, ACCLAIMED MUSICIANS JOIN IN CONCERT TRIBUTE TO ARTISTIC CREATIVITY AND SURVIVAL IN NAZI CAMP**

**“Do Not Forget Me,” October 15, 2017 at Symphony Hall, Boston, will explore the lives and works of prisoners who created remarkable music in the midst of horror, offers insight relevant to contemporary human rights issues.**

**Jim Braude *of Greater Boston* will narrate the program featuring performances by Charity Tillemann-Dick, soprano; Francis Rogers, tenor; Members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra; The Boston Children’s Chorus; Holocaust Survivors Ela Weissberger & Michael Gruenbaum, who performed as children in Terezín.**

**Khizr Khan, Muslim-American Gold Star Parent, Democratic National Convention Speaker, to Receive 2017 Terezín Legacy Award.**

BOSTON April 2017 — Boston celebrity **Jim Braude** and acclaimed musicians will take the stage October 15 (3:00 P.M. Reception, 4:00 p.m. Concert) at Boston’s Symphony Hall to present “Do Not Forget Me,” a multi-media concert event and tribute to artistic creativity and survival in the Terezín concentration camp. Mr. Braude, co-host of WGBH’s *Greater Boston*, will narrate the stories of five remarkable prisoners whose music provided refuge and resistance against the horrors of the Third Reich. Their compositions, recovered in large part by this program’s producer, **Terezín Music Foundation**, will be performed by soprano **Charity Tillemann-Dick**, granddaughter of the late Tom Lantos, former chair of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to the U.S. Congress; tenor **Francis Rogers**; **members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra**; **The Boston Children’s Chorus**; and Holocaust survivors **Ela Weissberger** and **Michael Gruenbaum**, who performed as children in the notorious Nazi propaganda film made in Terezín. Melinda Lee Masur will provide piano accompaniment. **Khizr Khan**, the Muslim-American Gold Star Parent who made headlines at the 2016 Democratic National Convention when he offered to lend then candidate Donald Trump his pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution, will receive the 2017 Terezín Legacy Award at a Benefactors’ Dinner following the concert. His presence underscores the relevance of the Terezín story to contemporary human rights issues.

Blending live music with historic footage, “Do Not Forget Me” delves into the lives and legacy of five artists imprisoned in Terezín: **Ilsa Weber**, whose “Emigrant Song” promised hope to the children she cared for in the camp; **Pavel Haas**, whose settings of Chinese poems convey intense longing for his wife and child; **Gideon Klein**, an outstanding pianist, composer, and conductor often compared to Leonard Bernstein; **Viktor Ullmann**, who had been a star pupil or Arnold Schoenberg; and **Hans Krasa**, composer of “Brundibar,” a children’s opera with a powerful secret message of resistance. Ms. Weissberger and Mr. Gruenbaum will join the Boston Children’s Chorus to perform the finale from “Brundibar,” a piece they performed seventy-three years ago in Terezín. Soprano Charity Tillemann-Dick will perform Ms. Weber’s songs; the BCC will join her, echoing the presence of Terezín’s children. Mr. Rogers will perform songs by Haas, and members of the BSO will perform chamber works by Klein and Ullmann, bringing their silenced voices to the venerable stage of Symphony Hall.

The program’s title, “Do Not Forget Me,” is taken from a letter written by Terezín composer Gideon Klein and found after his death in the Fürstengrube concentration camp. An excerpt reads, “***Dear ones!*** *I hope that you will receive my message . . . I am on a work detail with many other people, we suffer great deprivation . . . Constantly am thinking of you, dear ones. I hope you are all together.* ***Do not forget me.”***

“Do Not Forget Me” takes on timeless issues about the power of art to transcend oppression and the longing for freedom that unites us all. Tickets, at [www.tmfgala.org](http://www.tmfgala.org), benefit the Terezín Music Foundation, a Boston-based non-profit dedicated to honoring the Terezín artists with concerts, commissions, recordings, publications, and Holocaust education programs in the U.S. and Europe. The 3:00 P.M. Reception is followed by a 4:00 P.M. Concert and a private Benefactors’ Dinner and Award Ceremony.

“The Terezín artists left a priceless legacy that speaks directly to our challenging times: exquisite music that is a voice against oppression — and confirmation that the creative spirit transcends political and religious borders. ‘Do Not Forget Me’ tells remarkable stories and reminds us that the longing for freedom is shared by all humanity.” —Mark Ludwig, Executive Director of the Terezín Music Foundation and the creator of “Do Not Forget Me”

**BIOGRAPHIES**

**Jim Braude, Narrator**

Jim is a celebrated Boston radio and TV personality. He is co-host with Margery Egan of *Greater Boston*, a news and analysis show on WGBH Channel 2, and a writer for *The Boston Globe Magazine*. Prior to that, he anchored *Broadside: The News with Jim Braude*, winning Emmy and Associated Press Awards for his work.

After graduating NYU Law School, Jim started his professional career in the South Bronx handling housing and prisoners’ rights cases. He was the founder and first president of the National Organization of Legal Services Workers, a union representing staff in civil legal offices for the poor in thirty-five states. NOLSW helped lead the fight to preserve the national program when President Reagan proposed its abolition.
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He then served as the executive director of TEAM, the Tax Equity Alliance for Massachusetts, a tax reform coalition, during which time he led many ballot campaigns, including the defeat of what would have been the largest budget cut on the ballot in U.S. history. He published *Otherwise*, a magazine on American politics, and served as a Cambridge City Councilor.

**Khizr Khan, 2017 Terezín Legacy Award recipient**

Khizr Khan is a Muslim-American U.S. Gold Star Parent who made headlines in July 2016 with an electrifying speech at the Democratic National Convention. He described the death of his son, a U.S. Army Captain, in Iraq; called attention to the diverse backgrounds and cultures represented at Arlington Cemetery; and offered to loan Donald Trump his pocket copy of the U.S. Constitution.

Mr. Khan is a lawyer and constitutional rights advocate and a patriotic Muslim American born in Pakistan. He works with immigration and international business law and has founded a pro bono project to provide legal services for the families of men and women serving in the military. Mr. Khan attended Punjab University and University Law School and was licensed to practice law in 1974. He moved to the United Arab Emirates and later to the U.S., where he attended Harvard Law School and received his LL.M degree in 1986. Mr. Khan is licensed to practice law in Washington, D.C., New York and Federal District Courts, and the Southern and Western Districts of New York.

With Ghazala Khan he is a proud parent of three sons, including late U.S. Army Captain Humayun Khan, and four grandchildren.

**Charity Tillemann-Dick, Soprano**

Charity Tillemann-Dick is an American-born soprano and top-selling classical recording artist. She is also a recipient of two double lung transplants and has performed in the great venues across the United States, Europe, and Asia, and for numerous presidents, prime ministers, members of Congress, and world dignitaries. Tillemann-Dick is the granddaughter of the late Tom Lantos, who was Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the only Holocaust survivor to serve in the U.S. Congress. She performed with Terezín Music Foundation Executive Director Mark Ludwig at the ceremony presenting Elie Wiesel with the Tom Lantos Human Rights Award.

In 2014, Tillemann-Dick released her debut album, "American Grace," which reached #1 on the Traditional Classical charts on Billboard. Since her lung transplant, she has shared her story and talent at numerous conferences and events around the country. She has been named a Glamour Hero and has been featured on CBS This Morning, CNN with Dr. Sanjay Gupta, TED.com, The Huffington Post, The Washington Post, and BBC Radio. Her performances have been broadcast around the world on CBS, CNN, BBC, FOX, MSNBC, PBS, C-SPAN and NPR.

Tillemann-Dick studied music at the Peabody Institute at Johns Hopkins University and the Franz Liszt Academy of Music in Budapest, Hungary, where she was a Fulbright Scholar.

**Francis Rogers, tenor**

Hailed for his “open, free, and effortless high notes,” Fran Rogers is a celebrated new voice in the Boston opera community. He combines genres and instrumental ability with technical skill, excelling in a variety of languages and styles. A review of his portrayal of Prince Ramiro in a recent performance of *La Cenerentola* praised his "athleticism" and "raw strength and natural timbre." In addition to solo performances across the U.S. and the globe, Rogers regularly sings with the Boston Symphony Orchestra and the Boston Pops as a member of the Tanglewood Festival Chorus, and is in his third season with the Boston Opera Collaborative.

Rogers is a recent semifinalist at the Concorso Internazionale di Musica Sacra in Rome, Italy. He also frequently performs as a national anthem soloist for Boston’s major sports franchises and recently sang at the New England Patriots home opener and for the Boston Celtics, Red Sox, and New England Revolution.

**The Boston Children’s Chorus:**

This vibrant chorus will join Terezín survivor and Ela Weissberger, who sang in the original Terezín productions, to perform the finale of the children's opera Brundibar: "We won over the tyrant mean."

The acclaimed BCC harnesses the power and joy of music to unite our city's diverse communities and inspire social change. These singers transcend social barriers in a celebration of shared humanity and love of music. Through intensive choral training and high-profile public performance experience (locally, throughout the U.S., and around the world), they learn discipline, develop leadership skills, and proudly represent the city of Boston as ambassadors of harmony.

The Chorus includes almost 500 singers representing over 50 of Boston's urban and suburban neighborhoods participating in twelve different choirs in five Boston locations: the South End, Allston-Brighton, South Boston and Dorchester. The BCC has performed on the TMF stage on several occasions, most recently premiering four TMF LiberArte commissions on our joint "Liberation" tour in Prague-Terezín and Berlin in the summer of 2015.

**Ela Weissberger, survivor, educator**Ms. Weissberger arrived at Terezín in February 1942 at the age of eleven, with her mother, sister, and grandmother. Of the 15,000 children who passed through Terezín approximately only 100 survived; she is one of them. The young Ela sang the role of the Cat in all fifty-five Terezín performances of Hans Krasa’s children’s opera, Brundibar. At our Gala concert, she will join fellow Terezín survivor Michael Gruenbaum and the Boston Children's Chorus to perform the opera's finale.

“When we sang, we forgot where we were. We forgot hunger, we forgot all the troubles that we had to go through,” Mrs. Weissberger says. “When we sang Brundibar, we didn't have to wear the Jewish star on our clothing. The Nazis didn’t realize that the Victory Song at the opera's end had a double meaning. In our eyes, Brundibar was Hitler. . . . We wanted a victory over a terrible man.” The Nazis used Brundibar for propaganda purposes: Ela was in the performance staged for the International Red Cross delegation in 1944, and she appears in the Nazi film that hid the truth of the camps: The Führer Gives the Jews a City. Mrs. Weissberger has dedicated her life to telling the story of her experiences in Terezín through interviews, appearances, educational programs, and concerts around the world.

**Michael Gruenbaum, survivor, author**

**Mr. Gruenbaum is** a survivor and performer in the original Terezín productions of Brundibar. He is author of the acclaimed memoir of Terezín, Somewhere There is Still a Sun.
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​Michael was born in Prague in 1930 to a family of deeply religious Jews. In 1941, his father was arrested by the Nazis, tortured in a Prague prison, and died in Terezín’s fortress. A year later, Michael, his sister, and their mother were sent to Terezín, where they remained until the end of the war. Michael’s mother several times managed to get them excused from transports to “the east” (Auschwitz), the last time in October 1944, when the Nazis needed her to make teddy bears for their children for Christmas (see photo). Michael performed in the Terezín children’s opera, Brundibar, and he will join Ela Weissberger and the Boston Children’s Chorus at our Gala to sing the opera’s finale.

After the war, the family returned to Prague and when the Communists took over, traveled to Cuba, where Michael received his high school education. After two years, the family moved to the U.S., and Michael entered M.I.T. He served in the army during the Korean War, earned a master’s degree in city planning at Yale, and worked for the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Massachusetts Department of Public Works before forming a company with colleagues.

Michael’s wife, Thelma, wrote a book about the experiences of Michael and several of his surviving roommates titled Nesarim: Child Survivors of Terezín. In 2012, Michael established a fund at M.I.T.’s music library in memory of his parents. He lives in Brookline, Massachusetts.

**Melinda Lee Masur, pianist**

Lauded for her “impeccable technique and artistic interpretation” (The Columbian), pianist Melinda Lee Masur has performed on all three stages of Carnegie Hall, London's Wigmore Hall and Purcell Room, the Berliner Philharmonie, at the Ravinia Festival, Festival Les Muséiques Basel, and in cities across the US, Europe and Asia. She is a founding member of The Lee Trio, which has been praised worldwide for its “gripping immediacy and freshness” (The Strad). In addition, she has collaborated with artists including Thomas Quasthoff, Alban Gerhardt, Augustin Hadelich, Fanny Clamagirand and Adrian Brendel.

Ms. Masur is a graduate of Harvard University and the Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hannover, Germany. Her mentors include Erna Gulabyan, Maria Curcio, Claude Frank, Leon Kirchner, Wolfram Rieger and Einar Steen-Nøkleberg. She is a member of the chamber music faculty at Boston University and Director of Piano Chamber Music for the BU Tanglewood Institute. Together with her husband, Ken-David Masur, she serves as Artistic Director of the Chelsea Music Festival, an annual summer music festival in New York City praised as a "gem of a series" by The New York Times. Ms. Masur is a Steinway Artist.

**TEREZÍN MUSIC FOUNDATION**

Boston-based Terezín Music Foundation is a non-profit that gives voice to the silenced artists of Terezín by performing their music, commissioning new works in their honor, and producing recordings, publications, and Holocaust education programs in the U.S. and Europe. With twenty-five TMF commissions premiered in twenty-five years, TMF is building a musical memorial that — in the hands of today’s most celebrated artists — fills concert halls, classrooms, and venues around the world with a message of remembrance that inspires understanding, tolerance, and creativity. TMF’s ongoing Holocaust education programs further this message by bringing art, music, and survivor testimony to schools across the U.S.

Executive Director Mark Ludwig founded TMF in 1991 and with the support of a Fulbright grant researched, published, recorded, and internationally performed music composed inside the Terezín concentration camp by artists who were later sent to their deaths by the Nazis. With these works well established in the repertoire, TMF turned its focus to commissioning new works from emerging composers, to help realize the lost artists’ role as mentors and to create a living memorial to them and to all artists whose voices are silenced.

TMF’s annual Symphony Hall Gala is its only fundraising event. Artists of great renown support TMF; previous TMF Galas featured Yo-Yo Ma, Dawn Upshaw, Simone Dinnerstein, Leon Fleisher, Kenneth Mazur, Andris Nelsons, Nico Muhly, and others. The organization is supported solely by donations. See [www.terezinmusic.org](http://www.terezinmusic.org).

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