

TEREZÍN MUSIC FOUNDATION

Mark Ludwig, Executive Director

www.tmf gala.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media passes: Available for 6:00 PM concert
Photos: Furnished on request
Interviews: Available on request
Tickets: www.tmf gala.org, tel. 857-222-8263
5:00 PM reception, 6:00 PM concert.
Benefactors' dinner to follow.

ANDRIS NELSONS CONDUCTS MEMBERS OF THE BOSTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA IN “OUR WILL TO LIVE: TEREZÍN 1944” CONCERT EVENT, SYMPHONY HALL, BOSTON, NOVEMBER 11, 2019

DRAMATIC PRODUCTION OF VIKTOR ULLMANN’S SETTING OF RILKE’S PROSE POEM “THE LAY OF THE LOVE AND DEATH OF CORNET CHRISTOPHER RILKE” FEATURES ACTRESS ANNETTE MILLER AND ORIGINAL SET DESIGNS

TEREZÍN MUSIC FOUNDATION’S RECENT ANDRÉ PREVIN COMMISSION RECEIVES ITS NORTH AMERICAN PREMIERE

NORMAN L. EISEN, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC, RECEIVES TEREZÍN LEGACY AWARD AT POST-CONCERT DINNER

CONCERT (ON VETERAN’S DAY) OPENS WITH CANDLE LIGHTING BY LIBERATORS, VETERANS, SURVIVORS

“Our will to create was commensurate with our will to live.”

— Viktor Ullmann, composer interned in the Nazi concentration camp Terezín (Theresienstadt)

BOSTON — Music silenced by the Nazis will fill one of the great stages of the world on Monday, November 11, as conductor **Andris Nelsons** and members of the Boston Symphony Orchestra headline a Symphony Hall concert featuring works by composers interned in Terezín, the infamous Nazi camp where prisoners remarkably created music, art, and a cultural life. Boston’s Terezín Music Foundation, the concert’s producer, takes its event title — “Our Will to

Live: Terezín 1944” — from Terezín composer **Viktor Ullmann**’s indelible words about the role of art amidst horror: “Our will to create was commensurate with our will to live.” On the program are three Symphony Hall debuts. Mr. Nelsons will conduct Terezín composer **Hans Krása**’s lively Overture for Small Orchestra (Terezín 1943–44). Actress **Annette Miller** and pianist **Vytas Baksys** will perform Ullmann’s dramatic setting of Rainer Maria Rilke’s prose poem, “The Lay of the Love and Death of Cornet Christopher Rilke” (Terezín 1944; German: “Cornets Christoph Rilke”), with original sets by painter **Daniel Ludwig**. Terezín Music Foundation commissioned a new work from **André Previn** not long before his death this year; his “Quintet for Horn and String Quartet” will make its North American debut featuring BSO horn player **Michael Winter**. The event includes a 5:00 PM reception, the 6:00 PM concert, and a private dinner, where George and Liz Krupp will present the 2019 Terezín Legacy Award to **Norman L. Eisen**, former U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. A candle-lighting with veterans, liberators, and survivors opens the program. Tickets are tax-deductible, and proceeds support TMF’s ongoing concerts, commissions, recordings, publications, and programs in Holocaust education in the U.S. and around the world. Visit www.tmf gala.org or call 857-222-8263.

ANDRIS NELSONS CONDUCTS THE SYMPHONY HALL DEBUT OF HANS KRÁSA’S OVERTURE FOR SMALL ORCHESTRA (TEREZÍN 1943–44)

Under the baton of Boston Symphony Orchestra Music Director Andris Nelsons, Hans Krása’s Overture for Small Orchestra (Terezín 1943–1944) makes its Symphony Hall debut at “Our Will to Live,” performed by members of the BSO. Czech composer Hans Krása is best remembered for his children’s opera *Brundibár*, which he produced in Terezín fifty-five times, the last time for the 1944 Nazi propaganda film made shortly before Krása and nearly the entire artistic community of Terezín were gassed at Auschwitz. Krása studied with Zemlinsky and admired Stravinsky and Schönberg, but deemed himself a more melodic composer, a trait easily glimpsed in his lively Overture. The work is recognized as a small masterpiece; it has an arcing melody, a fast beat, and colorful orchestration, and it connects thematically with *Brundibár*.

INNOVATION & ART MARK THIS SYMPHONY HALL DEBUT OF VIKTOR ULLMANN’S DRAMATIC “THE LAY OF THE LOVE AND DEATH OF CORNET CHRISTOPHER RILKE”

A Work Dramatizing the Futility of Nationalism and the Trauma of War

Before his transport to Terezín, Viktor Ullmann was a successful conductor and composer, a protege of Zemlinsky and Schönberg. He was prolific in Terezín and composed and performed his setting of “Cornet” there in 1944, only months before his transport to Auschwitz, where he was murdered in the gas chambers. The text is German poet Rainer Maria Rilke’s beloved 1899 melodramatic prose poem about an Austrian cavalryman fallen in a campaign against the Turks in 1663. In a fantastical, dream-like setting, its hero experiences love, drunkenness, homesickness, and loss; his story speaks to the futility of nationalism, the trauma of war, and the

meaning of masculinity. “Cornet” resonated powerfully in wartime: thousands of World War I and II soldiers (on all sides) carried it in their backpacks, and it is fitting that Ullmann chose it in Terezín. Ullmann’s “Cornet” (he was the second major composer, after Kurt Weill, to set the work to music) gets its Symphony Hall debut in “Our Will to Live,” with a dramatic reading by actress Annette Miller and piano accompaniment by Vytas Baksys. For this production, artist Daniel Ludwig provides a series of twenty-three original mixed-media images connected thematically to the text; these form a continuously morphing backdrop — an innovative and modernizing effect amplifying the work’s intensely romantic themes.

A TMF COMMISSION BY ANDRÉ PREVIN — ONE OF THE MAESTRO’S LAST WORKS — TO BE PERFORMED BY MEMBERS OF THE BSO

“Our Will to Live” also presents Maestro André Previn’s Quintet for Horn and String Quartet, which premiered to a sold-out crowd at the 2018 Prague Spring Festival and is published by G. Schirmer. The North American premiere will be performed by BSO horn player Michael Winter and members of the BSO. It is a recent addition to Terezín Music Foundation’s growing list of more than thirty commissions honoring the artists silenced in Terezín. It is Previn’s second commission for the Foundation, following his 2011 Quintet for Clarinet and String Quartet, which “deserves an immediate place in the modern repertoire” (*American Record Guide*) and is published on a TMF CD titled “Previn Plays Previn.” A highlight of the Maestro’s long partnership with TMF was his performance at its 2011 Symphony Hall Gala, where members of the BSO premiered the Quintet for Clarinet and String Quartet and Previn performed piano in the premiere of his Sonata for Clarinet and Piano.

NORMAN L. EISEN, FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE CZECH REPUBLIC AND BROOKINGS SENIOR FELLOW, TO BE HONORED

Ambassador (ret.) Norman L. Eisen will receive the 2019 Terezín Legacy Award, presented to him by Boston philanthropists George and Liz Krupp at a Benefactors’ Dinner at Symphony Hall following the “Our Will to Live” concert. The award recognizes Mr. Eisen’s lifelong dedication to ethics, understanding between the U.S. and the Czech Republic, Holocaust remembrance, and anti-corruption efforts. He will receive an engraved cast glass sculpture designed by famed artists Steven Weinberg and Sharon Oleksiak of Bristol Glass. He is the tenth recipient; previous honorees include Khizr Khan and former Massachusetts Governor Deval L. Patrick.

Ambassador (ret.) Eisen is the son of an Auschwitz survivor and author of *The Last Palace: Europe’s Turbulent Century in Five Lives and One Legendary House* (Crown 2018). He is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and the founder and former chair of the government watchdog group Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW). Mr. Eisen served in the White House as Special Assistant and Special Counsel to President Obama and as U.S. Ambassador to the Czech Republic. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *USA Today*, and *Politico*. He has been profiled in *The Washington Post*, *New York Magazine*, *Politico*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *Tablet*. Mr. Eisen was named #11 on the

Politico 50 list of thinkers shaping American politics and the Forward 50 list of the most influential and interesting American Jews, and he was awarded an honorary doctorate from the American Jewish University.

TEREZÍN MUSIC FOUNDATION: “MORE VITAL WITH EACH PASSING YEAR.”
— *Boston Globe*

“Our Will to Live: Terezín 1944” is the 2019 gala concert event of Terezín Music Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to honoring the Terezín artists and all voices silenced by oppression and war. Since its founding in 1991, TMF has firmly established works by the Terezín composers in the classical repertoire through its concerts and recordings and has built a memorial to these artists with more than thirty new commissions by emerging artists around the world, including Nico Muhly, Miroslav Srnka, and Pablo Ortiz. Yo-Yo Ma, Garrick Ohlsson, Dawn Upshaw, and Simone Dinnerstein are among the many celebrities who have brought TMF commissions to the great stages of the world. Sir Simon Rattle, a member of TMF’s Advisory Board, has said the Foundation is “one of the most powerful indications of the unquenchability of the human spirit.” The Dalai Lama praised TMF’s anthology of commissioned poems, *Liberation* (Beacon Press 2015), as “an inspiration.” TMF blends musical performance and scholarship into its ongoing Holocaust education programs, residencies, and tours in the U.S., Europe, and (this fall) Santiago, Chile. Following its November 11 Symphony Hall performance, “Our Will to Live” will join “Do Not Forget Me” as TMF’s second multi-media concert program traveling on request to schools and other venues. Each program focuses on a particular part of the Terezín story, and both aim to teach history and inspire tolerance. The *Boston Globe* writes, “This foundation’s mission, in short, grows more vital with each passing year.” TMF is funded solely by donations.

ARTIST BIOGRAPHIES

Andris Nelsons

Named *Musical America*’s 2018 Artist of the Year, Andris Nelsons is in his fifth season as the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Ray and Maria Stata Music Director. In February 2018, he also became Gewandhauskapellmeister of the Gewandhausorchester Leipzig. [More](#).

The late André Previn

In addition to his ten Grammy Awards and four Academy Awards, the late conductor, composer, and pianist André Previn received the Austrian and German Cross of Merit and the Glenn Gould Prize, as well as Lifetime Achievement Awards from the Kennedy Center, the London Symphony Orchestra, Gramophone Classic FM, and the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award from The Recording Academy. *Musical America* named him Musician of the Year in 1999, and in 1996 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II made him a Knight of the British Empire.

Annette Miller

Ms. Miller has performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, in Boston, at regional theaters, in film, and on television. She has been a leading actor at Shakespeare and Co. in Lenox, Massachusetts for twenty seasons. Most recently, she received the 2018 Berkshire Theater Critic's Association Award for Outstanding Actress in a Leading Role for her portrayal of Katherine in "Mothers and Sons" by Terrence McNally, and in 2019 she played Gladys in "The Waverly Gallery." Ms. Miller originated the role of Golda Meir in "Golda's Balcony" before it went to Broadway; for it she received both Boston's Elliot Norton Best Actor Award and the Independent Reviewers of New England Best Actor Award. In Florida, she received the Carbonell Best Actor Award nomination for her portrayal of Vi in "August Osage County." Other favorite roles include Maria Callas in "Master Class," Madam Renevskya in "The Cherry Orchard," Diana Vreeland in "Full Gallop," Martha Mitchell in "Martha Mitchell Calling" (for which she received an Elliot Norton Best Actor nomination), Duchess of York in "Richard III," Maria in "Twelfth Night," and Grandma in "4000 Miles."

Daniel Ludwig

Daniel Ludwig is a widely acclaimed American artist. He is regularly exhibited in both solo and group shows at Galerie Friedmann-Hahn in Berlin; Heike Pickett Gallery in Versailles, Kentucky; CK Contemporary Gallery in San Francisco; and Dedee Shattuck Gallery in Westport, Massachusetts. [More](#).

Vytas Baksys

Pianist Vytas J. Baksys is an active collaborator who performs recitals, competitions, and other functions of various styles and genres throughout North America, Europe, and Asia. He is a frequent keyboardist with the Boston Symphony and Boston Pops Orchestras, and he works with the Concord Chamber Music Society and the Rivers School Conservatory. He has appeared with various groups including the Boston Symphony Chamber Players, Boston Musica Viva, and Boston Secession.

Michael Winter

Before joining the Boston Symphony Orchestra as third horn in September 2012, Mr. Winter was acting principal horn of the Buffalo Philharmonic and principal horn of the Syracuse Symphony Orchestra for several seasons. He has also performed as guest principal horn with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra and Los Angeles Philharmonic. He is currently on the faculty of the New England Conservatory of Music.

TMF Executive Director Mark Ludwig

Mark Ludwig founded Terezín Music Foundation in 1991 and serves as its Executive Director. He is a Boston Symphony Orchestra violist emeritus, a Fulbright scholar of the Terezín composers, and a leading scholar, teacher, and champion of Holocaust music. [More](#).

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