

***S'dremlen feygl* (Birds Sit Drowsing)**

**Music: traditional**  
**Text: Lea Rudnitska**  
(b. Kalwarija, Lithuania, 1916 – d. Majdanek, 1943)

***Shtiler, Shtiler* (Quiet, Quiet)**

**Music: Aleksander Volkoviski**  
(b. Vilna, 1931)  
**Text: Shmerke Kaczerginski**  
(b. Vilna, 1908 – d. 1954)

Julia Benzinger, *mezzo soprano*  
Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Laura DeLuca, *clarinet*  
Walter Gray, *cello* Jonathan Green, *double bass*

Arrangement: Diana Rosenblum

**Intermission**

***Another Sunrise\** (2012)**

**Jake Heggie**

**Libretto by Gene Scheer**

Based on the story of Krystyna Zywulska (b. Lodz, 1914 – d. Düsseldorf, 1992)

Sarah Davis, *soprano*  
Erich Parce, *director*

*This Music of Remembrance commission was made possible by a generous gift from the Clovis Foundation, Mary Winton Green, Jonathan Green & Brenda Berry*

***Out of Darkness (finale)\** (2016)**

**Jake Heggie**

**Poetry written in Auschwitz by Krystyna Zywulska**  
**(translation: Gene Scheer)**

Sarah Davis, *soprano* Julia Benzinger, *mezzo soprano* Erich Parce, *baritone*  
Laura DeLuca, *clarinet* Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Walter Gray, *cello*  
Jonathan Green, *double bass* Jessica Choe, *piano*

**\*Works commissioned by Music of Remembrance**

**MUSIC OF remembrance**<sup>®</sup>  
ensuring that the **voices of musical witness be heard**<sup>®</sup>

Mina Miller, Artistic Director

**Music of Remembrance Concert**  
**in conjunction with the**  
**Powell-Heller Conference:**  
**“Women and the Holocaust”**

October 17, 2016

7:00 p.m.

Eastvold Concert Hall, Pacific Lutheran University



Music of Remembrance (MOR) fills a unique role throughout the world by remembering the Holocaust through music with concert performances, educational programs, recordings and commissions of new works.

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## About the Music

### From the Lodz Ghetto

**David Beigelman** - violinist, conductor and composer – was imprisoned in the Lodz Ghetto. Under the ghetto's conditions of unimaginable oppression and suffering, he composed the *Dybbuk Dances*. They were likely played as incidental music to performances in the ghetto of the iconic Yiddish play. Beigelman was deported to Auschwitz in 1944 and murdered there.

### From the Terezín Ghetto

**Carlo Taube** was a concert pianist before his imprisonment in Terezín. His only surviving composition, *Ein Jüdisches Kind* (A Jewish Child), sets a text by his wife **Erika Taube**. In 1944 the Taubes and their child were murdered in Auschwitz. **Ilse Weber** was a poet and a writer of children's books, and before the war she also produced programs for the radio in Prague. In Terezín, she worked in the children's infirmary, and comforted many children with her words and music. Anticipating her family's likely fate, Weber had arranged for her elder son Hanus to leave Czechoslovakia before the occupation on a Kindertransport. Ilse and her younger son Tommy were murdered in Auschwitz.

### From the Vilna Ghetto

Before she was sent from the Vilna ghetto to her murder in the Majdanek concentration camp, the talented poet **Lea Rudnitska** created the lyrics for *S'dremlen feygl* (Birds Sit Drowsing), a heartbreaking Yiddish lullaby written after the liquidation of shtetls near Vilna that left many children orphaned. Another lullaby, *Shtiler, shtiler* (Hush, hush), was composed by the 11-year-old **Aleksander Volkoviski** as his entry for a song-writing contest in the ghetto, with lyrics by **Shmerke Kaczerginski**. It was first performed in April 1943 at one of the last Jewish Council-organized concerts before the ghetto's liquidation. The great Yiddish poet **Abraham Sutzkever** escaped from the Vilna ghetto, and joined the resistance partisans. In 2005, Music of Remembrance commissioned American composer Lori Laitman to create *The Seed of Dream*, a song cycle based on five poems that Sutzkever wrote in the ghetto. One of them, *To My Child*, is an elegiac message to his murdered infant son.

### Music of Remembrance Commissioned Works

**Jake Heggie** is one of today's most important composers. His operas like *Dead Man Walking* and *Moby-Dick* have been acclaimed at major houses around the world. Heggie is drawn to subjects that allow him to address questions of human rights through musical drama. His four Music of Remembrance commissions with librettist Gene Scheer (*Out of Darkness*, *For a Look or a Touch*, *Another Sunrise* and *Farewell, Auschwitz*) are compelling explorations of the Holocaust's emotional impact on the people whose lives it touched. *Another Sunrise* relates the true story of **Krystyna Zywułska**. Zywułska escaped the Warsaw Ghetto but was later arrested by the Gestapo and sent as a political prisoner to Auschwitz, where she wrote songs and poems that circulated secretly and became anthems of resistance among her fellow prisoners.

**Lori Laitman** has been described by *Fanfare Magazine* as "one of the most talented and intriguing of living composers." She has composed operas, choral works and over 250 songs, many of them setting texts by classical and contemporary poets including those who perished in the Holocaust. *In Sleep The World Is Yours*, one of her three MOR commissions, is based on the intimate verses of **Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger**, an idealistic young poet murdered in a Nazi labor camp at age 18. *The Seed of Dream* is a setting of poems written in the Vilna Ghetto by the legendary **Abraham Sutzkever**.

## Program

Introductory Remarks  
Mina Miller, Founder and Artistic Director

*Dybbuk Dances* (Lodz Ghetto, 1941) **David Beigelman**  
(b. Ostrovtse, Poland, 1887 – d. Auschwitz, 1945)

Mikhail Shmidt, *violin* Laura DeLuca, *clarinet* Jonathan Green, *double bass*

### Songs of Love and Loss

"Lullaby" from *In Sleep The World Is Yours\** (2013) **Lori Laitman**  
(b. Long Beach, New York, 1955)

*Poetry by Selma Meerbaum-Eisinger*  
(b. Czernowitz, Romania, 1924 – d. Michailowka labor camp, Ukraine, 1942)

Sarah Davis, *soprano* Laura Deluca, *clarinet* Mina Miller, *piano*

### From the Terezín Ghetto

*Ein Jüdisches Kind* (1942) **Music: Carlo Taube**  
(b. Galicia, 1897 – d. Auschwitz, 1944)  
**Text: Erika Taube**  
(b. 1913- d. Auschwitz 1944)

*Ich Wandre Durch Theresienstadt* **Ilse Weber**  
*A Suitcase Speaks* (b. Vitkovice, 1903 – d. Auschwitz, 1944)

Julia Benzinger, *mezzo soprano* Mina Miller, *piano*

### From the Vilna Ghetto

"To My Child" from *The Seed of Dream\** (2004) **Lori Laitman**  
*Poetry written in the Vilna Ghetto by Abraham Sutzkever*  
(b. Smorgon, near Vilna, 1913 – d. Tel Aviv, 2010)

Erich Parce, *baritone* Walter Gray, *cello* Mina Miller, *piano*