



LAWRENCE SIEGEL  
Composer and Artistic Director

JAN COHEN  
Executive Producer

GINA GOFF  
Producer

MARA WILLIAMS OAKES  
Producer

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Celebrating Our Shared Humanity**  
*Kaddish to Debut in Keene*

April 8, 2008, Keene, NH -- On May 3, the voices and lives of those touched by the Holocaust will be transformed into a compelling musical experience in the debut performance of *Kaddish*, a new work by New Hampshire composer Lawrence Siegel.

Commissioned by the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College, *Kaddish* will be performed for the first time on Saturday May 3, 2008 at 8:00 P.M. at the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond in Keene, New Hampshire.

The Cohen Center, one of the nation's oldest Holocaust resource centers, commissioned Siegel to create *Kaddish* in honor of the Center's 25th anniversary. Well-known professional soloists Peggio Horstmann-Hodes, soprano; Pamela Stevens, mezzo-soprano; Ryan Turner, tenor; and David Ripley, baritone; a chorus of 50 voices, and a chamber orchestra will perform the work at this debut performance.

The word *Kaddish* refers to the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead, recited as part of the mourning rituals at funerals and on the anniversary of the death of a loved one. Yet the Mourner's Kaddish does not mention death. Rather, it celebrates life.

The deeply personal nature of *Kaddish* creates empathy to inspire action. "It's a unique opportunity to use the power of music to teach about the Holocaust," says Jan Cohen, executive producer of the Kaddish Project. "It emphasizes the Jewish principle of 'tikkun olam' – healing, or repairing the world, and expresses our collective responsibility to make the world a better place." According to Cohen, *Kaddish* is not merely a tribute to the victims of the Holocaust, but about lifting our voices to prevent tragedies like it in the future.

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KADDISH by LAWRENCE SIEGEL was commissioned by the Cohen Center in honor of the Center's 25th Anniversary  
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Composer Lawrence Siegel wrote *Kaddish* in an eclectic style that includes elements of folk music, weaving in themes and melodies suggestive of klezmer and other traditions. “*Kaddish* is about the redemptive power of the simple virtues of daily living,” he says.

*Kaddish* will make its world premiere with the renowned vocal ensemble VocalEssence, under the direction of maestro Philip Brunelle, in Minneapolis, Minnesota on November 15, 2008, as part of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary season of VocalEssence.

The American Composers Forum has awarded a Continental Harmony grant to help underwrite the making of *Kaddish*. It was funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

### **About the Composer**

Lawrence Siegel is a composer, artist, scholar and performer with a national reputation. As artistic director and founder of Tricinium, Ltd., and director of The Verbatim Project, he has facilitated participatory, interdisciplinary residencies in the creation and performance of original works of music-theater for more than sixteen years. A three-time Fellow at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH, Siegel’s grants and awards include a Continental Harmony grant from the American Composers Forum for the production of *Kaddish*. He has also received three New Works Grants and an Artist Fellowship in Composition from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, a McKnight Fellowship, and many other awards.

### **About the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies**

The Cohen Center is a nonsectarian organization dedicated to teaching the facts and lessons of the Holocaust, motivating successive generations to recognize an ethical responsibility to respond to prejudice and hatred. These challenges are met through community programming, educational outreach activities, and multidisciplinary academic courses.

For additional information on the Open Dress Rehearsal, contact the Kaddish Project at (603) 358-2300. More information on *Kaddish* may be found at [www.kaddishproject.org](http://www.kaddishproject.org).

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