



Kaddish Project Newsletter

Winter Update

February 2008

Dear Friend,

Three months from now, the world will hear "Kaddish" for the first time. The debut performance will be Saturday, May 3, 2008, at the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. We hope those of you who can, will join us for the performance and for the Benefit Dinner preceding the debut. The evening will benefit the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies' expansion to include genocide studies, along with the Kaddish Project's mission to take Larry Siegel's music of healing and its companion education program around the world.

Beyond preparing for this debut performance, the Kaddish Project team has been busy gearing up for our national and international tours. We are working closely with Philip Brunelle, founder and artistic director of Minneapolis's world-renowned choral group, VocalEssence. "Kaddish" will be featured as part of the VocalEssence 40th anniversary season in 2008-2009 and will be performed on Saturday, November 15, at the Ted Mann Concert Hall on the campus of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Perhaps you will join us in Minneapolis for the world premiere, for which we are planning a very special dedication ceremony.

The Kaddish Project Education Committee, which is comprised of classroom teachers, historians, dancers, musicians and visual artists, have created a series of arts-based classroom activities using five of the fifteen songs in "Kaddish." They will pilot the program in Monadnock (NH) area schools in the Fall of 2008, after which, these curricula will be available to choral groups, schools, youth groups, arts programs and faith communities across the country, as they incorporate the stories and lessons of "Kaddish" into their tolerance and diversity curriculum.

Mara Williams Oakes, who has been working with the Kaddish Project team for about a year, has recently accepted the title of Producer and has busily applied her skills and savvy to our

Save the Date!



"Kaddish" will debut on Saturday, May 3, 2008 at the Redfern Arts Center at Keene State College, Keene, NH.



Introducing Our New Logo

The Kaddish Project has recently unveiled a new logo, reflecting our human connection through the interconnected letters of "Kaddish" and the evocation of a flame. The logo also incorporates the words of a survivor - the powerful, closing words of the composition: "I Am Here."

fundraising, marketing, production and artistic efforts. She and fellow Brattleboro-based "Kaddish" supporter Melany Kahn, daughter of American artist Wolf Kahn, a Holocaust survivor, recently mounted a presentation of excerpts from "Kaddish" at the New England Youth Theater in Brattleboro, Vermont. It was extremely well-attended, and members of the audience were visibly moved as they listened to the well-known and highly respected Apple Hill Chamber Players perform "Piano Quartet on Themes from 'Kaddish'" and the Keene State College Chamber Singers perform two songs from the piece.

We also presented the same program in Springfield, Massachusetts, at the Hatikvah Holocaust Education Center and Jewish Community Center to another packed house. It is gratifying to know that people are asking to hear these stories and this music. We know you will be moved when you hear it in its entirety.

Finally, I'd like to publicly wish United State Congressman Tom Lantos of California, the only Holocaust survivor ever elected to Congress, heartfelt good wishes for improved health. Tom and his wife Annette, also a survivor, have been ardent supporters of the Kaddish Project, and I recently had the honor of hearing his keynote address at the United Nations Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony in New York. Although Tom was unable to travel to the UN to deliver his address, his daughter Katrina Lantos Swett, another early Kaddish Project supporter, delivered it powerfully and passionately for her father. In it, Tom said, "We MUST be our brothers' and sisters' keepers. And we must never forget the lessons of the Holocaust, for such genocides are possible even today."

Thank you for continuing to support The Kaddish Project as we take this message of peace and brotherhood around the world.

Warmest regards,

Jan

Jan Cohen
Executive Producer
The Kaddish Project
Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies
Keene State College
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We have received an overwhelmingly positive response to the logo. Here are just a few of the comments:

"It looks like a beautiful flame."

"The logo looks like a woven basket..."

"I see a net that carries souls and provides hope."

In the coming months, look for more exciting announcements, as we bring our mission of promoting global peace and justice and, in the Hebrew phrase, "tikkun olam," repair the world, to fruition.

In the Next Issue:

-The May 3, 2008 Kaddish Debut

-The Kaddish Benefit Dinner

-How to Purchase Your Performance Tickets

-New Website Launch

Kaddish Project Advisors

- Tom Lantos, US Congress, D-CA, Holocaust survivor
- Annette Lantos, Holocaust survivor
- Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett
- U.S. Ambassador Richard Swett
- Richard & Sarah Bayles, New Hampshire
- H. Neil Berkson, Bragdon & Berkson, P.C.
- Philip Brunelle, VocalEssence
- Richard Cohen, C&S Wholesale Grocers
- Jack & Linda Hoeschler, Minnesota Commissioning Club
- John & Jean Hoffman, Hoffman Family Foundation
- Dr. Henry F. Knight, The Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies
- Drew Landry, John Burk & Associates
- Charlton & Diana MacVeagh, Raylynmor Opera Company
- James & Judith Putnam, Putnam Foundation
- Bishop Eugene Robinson, Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire
- Eric Stumacher, Keene Chamber Orchestra, SONAD Peace Project
- Richard & Frances Winneg, New Hampshire

2008 UN Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony



Dr. Katrina Lantos Swett, daughter of U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos of California, delivers her father's address at the 2008 UN Holocaust Remembrance Ceremony at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Surrounding her are the members of the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Symphony Orchestra from Tel Aviv, conducted by Zubin Mehta and comprised of 2nd and 3rd generation descendants of Holocaust survivors.



Donate

Please consider supporting the **Kaddish Project** today.

Revenue from contributions, after expenses, will benefit the expansion of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College and the Kaddish Project's national and international tour.

Donations may be sent to:

Kaddish Project
c/o Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies
Mason Library
Keene State College
229 Main Street
Keene, NH 03435-2701



Visit The Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at:

www.keene.edu/cchs

Kaddish

**The Mourners' Kaddish is 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. It focuses on the sanctity of life.*

"Kaddish" was commissioned by the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies at Keene State College to commemorate the Center's 25th anniversary in 2008 and, to quote Elie Wiesel, "further the cause of remembrance." At the project's heart is an original musical work, "Kaddish", by composer Dr. Lawrence Siegel.

"Kaddish" will take audiences on a musical journey through the words and memories of survivors, bystanders and perpetrators of the Holocaust. The text of the work will be adapted from testimonies and stories collected in interviews conducted in the United States and abroad. The musical score, written for soloists, chorus, and a large chamber ensemble, will culminate in a message of hope and peace that extends beyond the lines of religion, race, and ethnic background.

By reflecting on the destruction of the vibrant lives and culture of European Jews, the Kaddish Project aims to raise awareness and inspire action to prevent injustice and genocide in the world today. The Project will offer an education component in the form of a study guide, providing age-appropriate learning opportunities for children and adults that can be used by schools, community groups and faith-based organizations.

"Kaddish" will have its debut performance on May 3, 2008, in Keene, New Hampshire, home of the nationally recognized Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies and Keene State College. Performances in a variety of domestic and international cultural and civic centers will follow. Proceeds from the Kaddish Project will further the mission of the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies.

www.KaddishProject.org



To learn More About Composer Lawrence Siegel visit:

www.tricinium.com



Visit VocalEssence at:

www.vocalessence.com



Visit the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at:

www.nh.gov/nharts



Visit the American Composers Forum at:

www.composersforum.org

The American Composers Forum has awarded a Continental Harmony grant to help underwrite the making of the Kaddish Project.