



The Kaddish Project Newsletter

Fall Update

November 2007

Dear Friend,

We are now six months away from the world premiere of *Kaddish*, Lawrence Siegel's musical reflection on the Holocaust. It will premiere May 3, 2008, at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire. More information will be available soon on our website, www.KaddishProject.org, and those of Keene State College and the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies. As we build towards the excitement and enthusiasm for the world to hear this music, much is also happening behind the scenes.

We are fortunate to have received the endorsement of U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos, D-CA, the only Holocaust survivor ever to be elected to Congress and a passionate voice for peace in our world. Congressman Lantos has kindly added his name and that of his wife Annette, another survivor, to our list of *Kaddish* Advisors, and we are indebted to them for their support.

We are working with world-renowned choral conductor Philip Brunelle of VocalEssence in Minneapolis, to take *Kaddish* around the world. Philip recently received the "Champion of New Music" award from the American Composers Forum (ACF) for making "a significant local and national impact in (his) efforts to commission, perform, and promote new music by both American and international composers."

According to the ACF President and CEO, John Neuchterlein, "In the case of Philip Brunelle, this is a richly deserved award. Philip has been a true champion of new choral music and has commissioned and premiered over 120 works, beginning in 1973. Philip's level of

Save the Date!



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

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.

energy and enthusiasm for bringing new choral music to life is contagious." Bravo, Philip!

In addition to conducting *Kaddish* in Minneapolis in the Fall of 2008 as part of VocalEssence's 40th anniversary season, Philip is advising us on the accompanying educational program that is being developed for school children and teachers. His advice and support are without measure, and we are grateful for his participation.

The Kaddish Project has also recently received a generous grant, in partnership with the Redfern Arts Center on Brickyard Pond at Keene State College, from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. The grant will be used to support the work of the soloists, choir and chamber ensemble at the premiere performance in Keene.

Several people have asked the difference between *Kaddish* and The Kaddish Project. *Kaddish* is both the name of Larry's composition and of a Hebrew prayer recited for the dead, which never mentions death, but rather sanctifies life.

The Kaddish Project is the world tour, educational program, libretto, commissioned articles, media events and the like that support the piece as it is performed in multiple venues.

In *Kaddish*, you will hear the words of survivors we have interviewed in this country and abroad - people such as Naomi W., Bill M., Celina F., Walter K. and many others whose actual testimony has been fashioned into the text of Larry's piece. We are lucky to have these first-hand accounts of what they endured. This work will be a musical record of those experiences. Sometimes, it is only through music and art that we can begin to fathom the unfathomable.

Thank you to all of you for your continued support. Please watch for news about the world premiere of *Kaddish* and for information about how to purchase tickets.

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



To learn More About Composer
Lawrence Siegel visit:

www.tricinium.com



Visit VocalEssence at:

www.vocalessence.com

With this work, we will begin "tikkun olam," to heal the world.

Warmest regards,

Jan

Jan Cohen
Executive Producer
The Kaddish Project
Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies
Keene State College

Kaddish Advisors

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



Visit the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts at:

www.nh.gov/nharts



Visit the American Composers Forum at:

www.composersforum.org

The Kaddish Project

**Kaddish: a prayer recited by mourners after the death of a close relative, as part of Jewish liturgical practice.*

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.

The Kaddish Project 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 premiere 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.

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

www.KaddishProject.org