# Dr. Laurence Sherr
# Lecture-Presentations

All lecture-presentations include media-rich slide shows.

## I. Holocaust music

*Presentations in this section integrate Dr. Sherr's work as a composer of Holocaust remembrance compositions, researcher of Holocaust music, creator of a university course on music and the Holocaust, and producer of Holocaust remembrance concerts.*

"Music of Resistance and Survival," or "Remembering the Silenced Voices of Holocaust Song Creators: Weaving Songs of Resistance and Survival into a New Cello Sonata"

*Compelling stories of the creators of the ghetto, concentration camp, and partisan source songs integrated into Sherr's new cello sonata, illuminated by live or recorded performances of the songs. Remembering the contributions of these creators, and of the culture that the Nazis slated for extermination, can help us strive for greater understanding and tolerance in contemporary society.*

*A meaningful concert event interweaves live performances of the songs and the sonata with this presentation. A condensed version provides an educational concert for students 11–18 years old.*

Given as a concert with commentary or as a pre-concert lecture: Czech Embassy, Washington, DC, 2025; Laurence Sherr 30-Year Celebration Concert, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, GA, 2025; Forsyth County Arts and Learning Center Theatre, Cumming, GA, 2024; Laurence Sherr Album Release Concert, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, GA, 2023; Yom HaShoah Commemoration, Adas Yeshurun Synagogue, Augusta, GA, 2023; New Zealand School of Music, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand, 2019; Republic of San Marino National Day of Remembrance, San Marino, 2019; Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow, Poland, 2018; Florida Holocaust Museum–Kristallnacht Commemoration, St. Petersburg, FL, 2017; University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, 2016; Holocaust Memorial Concert, Auckland, New Zealand, 2016; 2 educational presentations for students, Auckland, New Zealand, 2016; University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, 2016; Wellington Chamber Music: Sunday Concerts, Wellington, New Zealand, 2016; Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, Wellington, 2016; Days of Mutual Respect Festival, Wroclaw, Poland, 2015; Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, 2015; International Summit on Civil and Human Rights, Atlanta, GA, 2015; Music of Resistance and Survival Concert, Atlanta, GA, 2015

"Suppressed Music and Art during the Nazi Era"

*As part of their effort to exterminate the Jewish people, the Nazis also sought to exterminate their culture. An overview of the artistic suppression that extended to genres, groups or individuals that were deemed to be undesirable, the labeling of composers and artists as "entartete" (degenerate), and the rewriting of music history. Often followed by a live music component, such as compositions by suppressed composers or Sherr's solo cello work.*

Lam Museum of Anthropology, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, 2024; Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, GA, 2019; Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow, Poland, 2018; William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Atlanta, GA, 2018, 2016; Jødisk Museum, Oslo, Norway, 2017; Serenbe Institute, Chattahoochee Hills, GA, 2017; New Zealand School of Music, Wellington, New Zealand, 2016; Atlanta Opera/Breman Museum, Atlanta, GA, 2016; International Club of Atlanta, GA, 2015; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015; Limmud, Auckland, New

Zealand, 2014; University of North Georgia, Dahlonega, 2013; and Kennesaw State University, 2025, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2012, 2011, 2010

"Music at Auschwitz: Aid to Survival or Dehumanizing Degradation?"

*The impact of the four most active prisoner orchestras at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp is considered through an examination of their functions, personnel, and repertory. In which circumstances did the music of these prisoner performers contribute to prisoner survival, and in which to torturous dehumanization? Answers to these questions are provided by eyewitness video clips, prisoner-created graphics, archival documents, and Dr. Sherr's on-site photo and video documentation. The lecture can conclude on a brief personal note–the story of his mother's family members who fled Germany but were later deported to Auschwitz.*

New Zealand School of Music, Wellington, New Zealand, 2016; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015; Jewish Museum of Prague, Czech Republic, 2014; Kennesaw State University (KSU), Atlanta, GA, 2025, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2012, 2011

"Heroes of the Holocaust: Music as Defiance in the Theresienstadt Ghetto"

*Defiance and resistance were often hidden in the artistic work of Jewish musicians imprisoned in Theresienstadt, the Nazi ghetto in occupied Czechoslovakia. The presentation includes eyewitness video clips from Dr. Sherr's survivor interviews and his on-site photo documentation. Archival documents, recorded musical examples, and compelling stories further illustrate this form of defiance.*

Forfest Festival, Kroměříž, Czech Republic, 2024; Holocaust Centre of New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand, 2019; Dunedin City Library, Dunedin, New Zealand, 2019; Kadima School, Auckland, New Zealand, 2019; Auckland Hebrew Congregation, Auckland, New Zealand, 2019; Breman Jewish Heritage Museum, Atlanta, GA, 2019

"Music at Theresienstadt"

*The activities and significance of Jewish musicians in the Theresienstadt ghetto in occupied Czechoslovakia, with musical examples of compositions created there. Presentation materials include archival documents, video testimony of eyewitnesses, and Sherr's on-site photo documentation.*

New Zealand School of Music, Wellington, New Zealand, 2016; Temple Beth-El, Birmingham, AL, 2011; KSU, 2025, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2012, 2011

"A Musical Reflection of Sorrow, Redemption, and the Universal in Nelly Sachs' Poetry: Laurence Sherr's Holocaust Memorial *Flame Language*"

Flame Language *as a musical reflection of a poem by Nobel laureate and Holocaust survivor Nelly Sachs. The significance of her life and work, and the influence of her poetry's deep spiritual meaning and universal perspective on Sherr's composition. Can include video of a 2011 performance in the Czech Republic.*

Laurence Sherr 30-Year Celebration Concert, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, GA, 2025; Laurence Sherr Album Release Concert, Kennesaw State University, Atlanta, GA, 2023; New Zealand School of Music, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand, 2019; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015; "Continuities and Ruptures" international conference, University of Leeds, England, 2014; Forfest Music Festival, Czech Republic, 2013

"Creating Connections to Forbidden Voices: Strengthening the Legacy of Music Related to the Holocaust through Composition and Education"

*Sherr's work as a composer and educator seeks to create an enduring legacy for forbidden, suppressed and silenced voices from the Holocaust. Part I: how the story of his mother's survival led to his Holocaust remembrance compositions, including those based on the poetry of Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate Nelly Sachs. Part 2: the development of a university course on music related to the Holocaust, including effective teaching strategies for positive student learning outcomes.*

Forfest Festival, Kroměříž, Czech Republic, 2017; Keynote Address at "Recovering Forbidden Voices" international Holocaust conference, Wellington, New Zealand, 2014

"Teaching the Holocaust through the Lens of Music: Guiding Students to Historical Understanding, Cultural Awareness, and Greater Tolerance"

*Effective Strategies for Teaching Music and the Holocaust*

International Conference on Holocaust Education, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel, 2012; College Music Society National Conference, Richmond, VA, 2011

"Shoah Memorial Music: Historical Precedents and the Development of Laurence Sherr's Work"

*Commemorative compositions written by composers of classical music, followed by the story of Sherr's mother's survival influencing his creation of Holocaust remembrance compositions.*

Jewish Museum of Prague, Prague, Czech Republic, 2011; Egelsbach and Seligenstadt, Germany, 2009; KSU, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2012, 2011, 2010

"An Introduction to klezmer and Gypsy Music, and their influence on Western Classical Music"

*Historical overview of the development of klezmer music, esp. in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the influence of Roma (Gypsy) and klezmer music on Western classical composers. Concludes with story of formation of Sherr's group Oy Klezmer!, and a video of the group's performance on a Georgia Public Television program.*

Libreria Esoterica Ibis, Bologna, Italy, 2019; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015; Ulus Jewish School, Istanbul, Turkey, 2013; Congregation Shearith Israel, Atlanta, 2011; Beloit College, Wisconsin, 2005; KSU, 2025, 2019, 2017, 2015, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2006

## II. 20th century music; compositions by Laurence Sherr

"The Evolution of Musical Style in the Compositions of Laurence Sherr"

*Influences, techniques, analysis, and comparison of works by Sherr, with audio or video recordings from performances.*

Stephen F. Austin State University, Nacogdoches, TX, 2024; Conservatorio Bruno Maderna, Cesena, Italy, 2019; University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, 2016; University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand, 2016; University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2015; New Zealand School of Music, Wellington, New Zealand, 2014; Kocaeli University, Izmit, Turkey, 2013; Hot Springs, AR, 2010; Clayton State University, Atlanta, GA, 2007, 2008; KOFOMI Festival, Mittersill, Austria, 2006; Beloit College, Beloit, WI, 2005; Sweet Briar, VA, 2000; various Georgia and Florida universities, colleges, and artist colonies, between 1994 and 2000

"Formal Structure in Stravinsky's Octet"

*An analysis of musical form in movements I and III follows an overview of Stravinsky's contributions.*

New Zealand School of Music, Wellington, New Zealand, 2014; Kocaeli University, Izmit, Turkey, 2013; KSU, 2009–2014

"20th Century American Experimental Composers"

*In the late 19th and early 20th century, important American composers discarded centuries of European practice to explore new ways of composing. Covers groundbreaking works by Ives, Cowell, Partch, Cage, and others.*

KSU, 2025, 2024, 2018; Kroměříž Museum, Kroměříž, Czech Republic, 2014

Note: variants of the titles given above were sometimes used for presentations given in multiple locations.

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