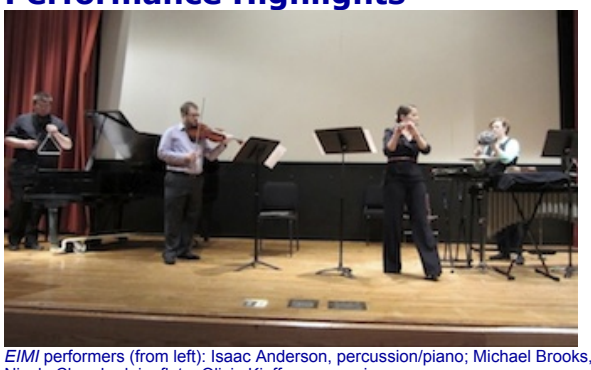
Laurence Sherr

Newsletter 2012–2013

Performance Highlights



EIMI performers (from left): Isaac Anderson, percussion/piano; Michael Brooks, viola; Nicole Chamberlain, flute; Olivia Kieffer, percussion

Faculty at Kocaeli University in Izmit, Turkey, gave a concert with four of Sherr's compositions during his 2013 guest artist and teaching residency. In 2012, the Atlanta new music ensemble Terminus staged *EIMI*, a work that features the movement of sound around the audience (link to video). *EIMI* was reprised by Sherr's faculty colleagues at the 2013 KSU (Kennesaw State University) Festival of New Music. *Elegy and Vision* for solo cello was presented by a number of cellists: Petr Nouzovsky in Prague and Atlanta, Parry Karp in Hawaii, Karen Becker in Iowa and Kansas, Theresa Villani in St. Petersburg (FL), and Nan Maddox in Georgia. Pianist Hee-Kyung Juhn included his piano prelude *Ouachita Waters* in her Texas and Georgia concerts. A more complete listing can be seen at Sherr's website.

New Cello Sonata

Consortium cellists Martina Rühmkorff (Germany), Petr Nouzovsky (Czech Republic) and Michal Schmidt (US) performing Sherr's *Elegy and Vision*

After pursuing Holocaust research for several years, Sherr's focus returned to composing in 2013. His new work for cello and piano will draw on Holocaust era songs of Jewish partisans, and songs from the ghettos and camps. A consortium of cellists from the US, Europe, and Israel will premiere the work in their respective regions starting in 2015. Sherr was awarded a a KSU Faculty Incentive Grant to support creative work on the project.

2014 Appearances

January – Washington, DC: *Flame Language* (chamber version) at Catholic University of America festival; research at USHMM
February – Knoxville: paper on music at Auschwitz at College Music Society conference
June – Czech Republic: Four Short Pieces for solo violin at Forfest Festival
July – England: paper on Sherr's settings of Nelly Sachs' poetry at an international Holocaust conference
August – New Zealand: Keynote speaker at an international Holocaust conference; performance of Sherr's Holocaust compositions

Contact

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International Lectures

Sherr at Yad Vashem workshop

Invitations for lectures on Holocaust music topics took Sherr to locations in the Czech Republic, Israel, and Turkey. At the 2013 Forfest Festival in the Czech Republic, he gave a paper on the setting of Nelly Sachs' poetry in his composition *Flame Language*. In Jerusalem in 2012, at an international conference on Holocaust education at Yad Vashem, the world's largest Holocaust museum and research center, he led a workshop on how to teach the Holocaust through the lens of music. Klezmer music was the subject of a 2013 lecture at the Ulus School in Istanbul. Closer to home, he gave presentations on music the Nazis suppressed ("degenerate music") for lecture-concerts at North Georgia University and KSU.

Holocaust Music Research

Terezín square: artist drawing-January 1944, archival photo-summer 1944 (courtesy of the Jewish Museum of Prague), Sherr photo-2013

Visiting concentration camps, researching archives, and interviewing survivors were activities Sherr pursued in the Czech Republic, Poland, Israel, and the US. At Terezín (Theresienstadt camp) and Auschwitz, on-site photo and video documentation allowed correlation with historic records. For example, the January 1944 artist drawing above shows the central square in the Theresienstadt camp fenced off to the Jewish prisoners. In the summer 1944 archival photo, one can see crowds of prisoners and the performance pavilion that was erected for a 1944 propaganda film and Red Cross visit. Sherr's photo shows the same scene 69 years later.

It is now crucial for Holocaust researchers to interview survivors before there are none left. Sherr's interviews with survivors in Israel, the Czech Republic, and the US provided eyewitness testimony about musical and general activities in the ghettos and camps.

XXIV. FESTIVAL
FORFEST
CZECH REPUBLIC 2013
Kroměříž – Olomouc – Vlkov u Brna – Hodonín
4. 5. – 31. 8. / May 4 – August 31
Member of association
European Conference of Promoters of New Music
Pondělí / Monday
24/6
Kolokvium Duchovní proudy v současném umění / Colloquium Spiritual Streams in Contemporary Arts
10.00 – Muzeum Kroměřížska / Museum of Kroměříž
Tisková konference / Press Conference to opening festival
13.00 – Obřadní síň MÚ / Town Hall
Dr. Laurence Sherr /USA/
Holocaust memorial work Flame Language
15.00 – Muzeum Kroměřížska / Museum of Kroměříž

'Degenerate Music':
Banned Composers in the Nazi Era
A KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION
Join us for a lecture and recital focused on music suppressed by the Nazi Regime in the 1930s and 1940s. Dr. Laurence Sherr, Composer-in-Residence at KSU, will present a lecture on degenerate art and music of Nazi Germany. This will be followed by a recital by Dr. Jocelyn Adelman, violinist, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and Dr. Amanda Halstead, pianist, Levine School of Music, who will be performing works by Krenek, Milhaud, and Zemlinsky.
WHEN: MONDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 7:30 P.M.
WHERE: MUSIC BUILDING RECITAL HALL (ROOM 109), KENNESAW STATE UNIVERSITY
COST: FREE
This lecture-recital is co-sponsored by the Kennesaw State University School of Music and the Kennesaw State University Museum of History & Holocaust Education.