



**A CONCERT
COMMEMORATING
THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING**

**MAY 9, 1993
EASTMAN THEATRE**

**SPONSORED BY:
ROCHESTER AREA HILLEL FOUNDATION**

Remembering the Past: Ensuring the Future

The Rochester Area Hillel Foundation's concert, "Remembering the Past: Ensuring the Future" is dedicated to those brave men, women and children who gave birth to the Warsaw Ghetto uprising 50 years ago. At that time, 50,000 Jews remained in the Warsaw Ghetto (450,000 already having been deported to their death at the Treblinka death camp). When on April 18, 1943 more than 2,000 SS soldiers entered the Ghetto with tanks and field artillery, 750 young ghetto fighters were ready and the fierce resistance began.

The uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto lasted longer than the resistance against Nazis by entire independent European countries. It inspired Jews in the ghettos of Vilna, Cracow, Lvov, and others, scattered across Poland, to revolt. It inspired the partisans in the forest to continue their struggle. The rebellion was the first armed uprising in Nazi-occupied Europe by an urban population, and it was unique in that a fighting force worked closely with unarmed men and women for a common cause. The uprising constituted "a great turn," a prototype of modern behavior that exhibited inner strength and determination when, or perhaps because, all else seemed lost. (Warsaw Ghetto Uprising: A Primer)

A final message from the ghetto was released on April 26 (Arad, Documents, 1981).

We are now in the 8th day of our fight to the death ... The Germans have suffered heavy losses... (but) the number of Jewish losses is enormous. Our days are numbered... We have rejected the German ultimatum calling upon us to capitulate. Since we see our end drawing near we beg of you: Do Not Forget!

The attack finally ended on May 16th with the destruction of the Warsaw synagogue.

Fifty years later we look back on this moment and reflect on its meaning. We begin to understand how the dream of freedom can energize even those who face overwhelming opposition. We marvel over the strength of the human spirit and acknowledge that no individual or group can survive long in isolation. Resistance was possible when the many faced the foe as a single entity. Resistance, both military and spiritual, depended on men and women, religious and secular Jews, to hold out with hope for a better future. Against overwhelming odds they could imagine and dream, and with that dream came the determination to survive and forge a future for the Jewish People and humankind. The philosopher Martin Buber reminds us that:

...the true history of man is not composed of sterile victories but of fruitful defeats. A hopeless minority fighting an anti-human oppressor does not experience what we are used to calling success, it 'fails', but succumbing, it may announce and prepare a great turn. Out of the seed decomposing in the soil, the new stem invisibly sprouts.

REMEMBERING THE PAST: ENSURING THE FUTURE

Introductory Remarks: Sharon Waldow, Concert Co-Chair

Reconciliation: A Cycle of Songs

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| 1. THE LAST LETTER OF MORDECHAI ANIELEWICZ by Michael Isaacson | 6. ITS SOUNDLESS AFTERMATH by Morris Rosenzweig |
| 2. A WAY SEPARATE by Louis Karchin | 7. GOING BACK by Allen Gimbel |
| 3. WARSAW SPRING, 1943 by Richard Becker | 8. EIL MALEI RACHAMIM - MERCIFUL GOD by Michael Rose |
| 4. THE SILVER SWAN by Joel Eric Suben | 9. RECONCILIATION by Samuel Adler |
| 5. ZOG NIT KEYNMOL... by David Snow | |

Vallery Watts, Flute; Susan Warner, Clarinet; Margaret Leenhouts, Violin;
Robert Choi, Cello; David Mattingly, Piano; Brian Zoelch, Conductor
Rachel Gottlieb, Soprano • Mark Goldman, Tenor

INTERMISSION

BAAL SHEM E. Bloch

(Three Pictures of Chassidic Life)

Vidui (Contrition)

Nigun (Improvisation)

Simchat Torah (Rejoicing)

Zvi Zeitlin, Violin; Barry Snyder, Piano

BALLADS #1, #2, #3: F. Chopin

Josef Verba, Piano

EARLY WILL I SEEK THEE, H. C. Adler

YISM'CHU (1957) S. Adler

L'CHAH DODI (1987) S. Adler

SEASONS OF TIME (1984) S. Adler

The Rochester Jewish Chorale

Zog Nit Keynmol As Du Geyst Dem Letstn Veg

by David Snow

Zog nit keynmol az du geyst dem letstn veg,
Chotsh himlen blayene farshteln bloye teg;
Kumen vet noch undzer oysgebenkte sho,
S'vet a poyk ton undzer trot – mir zaynen do!

Fun grinem palmenland biz vaysn land fun shney,
Mir kumen on mit undzer payn, mit undzer vey,
Un vu gefaln s'iz a shprits fun undzer blut,
Shprotsn vet dort undzer gvure undzer mut.

S'vet di morgn-zun bagildn undz dem haynt,
Un der nechtn vet farshvindn mitn faynt,
Nor oyb farzamen vet di zun un der kayor -
Vi a parol zol geyn dos lid fun dor tsu dor.

Dos lid geshribn iz mit blut un nit mit blay,
S'iz nit kayn lidl fun a foygl oyf der fray,
Dos hot a folk ts'vishn falndike vent
Dos lid gezungen mit naganes in di hent.

Never say that you have reached the end of the road
Even though darkness obscures the blue sky.
The hour we yearn for will yet come
And our footsteps will thunder: We are here.

From the green land of palm trees to the white land of
snow
We are here with our pain, our agony.
And wherever a drop of our blood is shed
There blooms our courage, our strength.

The morning sun will gild the day,
And the darkness of yesterday will vanish.
But if the dawning sun shall be delayed
Let this song be a watchword from generation to
generation.

This song is written in blood, not lead.
It is not the call of a bird flying free,
But of people trapped between crumbling walls
Who sang it with guns in their hands.

(Words by Hirsh Glik; English translation by Helen Kieval)

David Snow received his advanced musical training at the Eastman School of Music, the Yale School of Music, and Brandeis University, studying with Joseph Schwantner, Warren Benson, Samuel Adler, Jacob Druckman, Martin Boykan and Arthur Berger. He is the recipient of many prestigious awards and grants, including those from BMI, ASCAP, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Maryland State Arts Council. Snow has been a resident of the artist's colony at Yaddo in Saratoga Springs and he participated in the first workshop for composers and choreographers at the American Dance Festival in 1978. His music has been performed in concert at the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall, the Aspen and Tanglewood Music Festivals, and across the United States.

*Mr. Snow also writes professional music software for the Atari ST/Mega line of personal computers and is the author of numerous articles that have appeared in **Electronic Musician**, **Keyboard**, **Start**, and **Atari Explorer** magazines, dealing with MIDI and related topics.*