

A moving new work on the Holocaust for chorus, soloists, and chamber orchestra

"Magical and genius!"

BETH HEALY, *New Hampshire Charitable Foundation*

"Not since my days in New York... have I heard a musical composition of such spellbinding power."

JEROLD GOLDBERG, *Former CBS Executive*



SYNOPSIS OF LIBRETTO

With words taken directly from interviews with survivors of the Holocaust, *Kaddish* (duration one hour) is an innovative, engaging, and inspiring new work for chorus, soloists and chamber orchestra by Lawrence Siegel. *Kaddish* will reach a broad, engaged audience. By singing the actual words of Holocaust survivors, *Kaddish* creates empathy in its audience. With its passionate story of the redemptive power of the simple virtues of daily living, *Kaddish* motivates its audience to take a stand against genocide. The fifteen songs of *Kaddish* are grouped into three movements.

The World Before reflects on life in central Europe before the Holocaust and introduces some of the individual

survivors whose stories make up this work. Urban and rural, rich and poor, secular and religious, their social experiences are diverse but reflect a common Jewish cultural identity. This section illuminates details of the daily lives of Jewish families: the intersection of religion and food, the love of learning, and the perennial hostility of Polish and Ukrainian neighbors.

The Holocaust movement tells just a few personal stories of unimaginable events that took place in the ghettos, the trains, the camps. This section evokes the enduring power of the past in a child who carries the name of an aunt who was killed as a child, in the contemplations of a present-day survivor in a California garden, and in memories of the horrific moments of

arrival at the death camps. The finale of this movement combines fragments of Biblical verse, survivors' comments and other writings to engage with the ongoing theme of Jewish otherness.

Tikkun Olam (*repair the world*) begins with a spoken-word improvisation whose text consists of the names and barest details of the lives of a very small portion of the perished. This is followed by a setting of the words of the Mourners' *Kaddish* itself, sung for these and all victims of genocide. The words "I am here! I survived, and look who is with me!" close *Kaddish*, serving as an emblem of the resilience and determination of the survivors to carry on their lives and, in some way, the lives of those who perished.

**KADDISH**[™]
"I AM HERE"

by LAWRENCE SIEGEL
Music of Remembrance and Hope

"The breadth of the impact it will have I predict will be global, but the piece itself possesses a humility and optimism that is unlike any other piece on the Holocaust... it is the most uplifting piece I have ever heard on the subject, full of hope."

RICHARD N. SWETT, *US Ambassador*



KADDISH DEBUT

After a triumphant debut before a capacity audience at the Redfern Arts Center in Keene, New Hampshire, whose Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies commissioned the work, *Kaddish* is being readied for its world premiere to be performed by *VocalEssence* under Philip Brunelle at the Ted Mann Concert Hall at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, on November 15th, 2008. Choral organizations are invited to contact the composer or visit the website of *VocalEssence* for more information and to consider attending the premiere.

PERFORMING FORCES

SATB Chorus with soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor and baritone solo quartet.

INSTRUMENTATION

Flute	Trumpet
Oboe	Trombone
Clarinet	Piano
Bassoon	Percussion (2 players)
Horn in F	Strings (3-3-3-1)

“What a powerful story, what a passionate, eloquent text, what expressive, beautiful music, what a wide-ranging musical palette!”

PETER AMIDON, Choral Arranger

The image displays two pages of a musical score for the choral work *Kaddish II, Like Cherries in Winter*. The score is written for SATB Chorus and Piano. The first excerpt (measures 6-11) features a soprano solo part and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "brat-ed all the hol-i-days. My moth-er cooked, The a-ro-ma of the won-der-ful bak-ing of chal-lah, And ev-'ry-thing: It was a". The second excerpt (measures 12-16) features a soprano solo part and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "ver-y nice life. The life be-fore: We had a small farm. I was poor, hun-gry, and hat-ed. My moth-er would". The score includes dynamic markings such as *mf* and *p*.

Above: Excerpt from *Kaddish II, Like Cherries in Winter*.

SCORE AVAILABLE SEPTEMBER 1, 2008

Recording of *VocalEssence* performance of *Kaddish* and arts-based educational materials available January 1, 2009.

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ABOUT LAWRENCE SIEGEL, COMPOSER

Lawrence Siegel brings to the writing of *Kaddish* twenty-five years of experience in creating and directing music and music theater



projects using texts from oral histories, interviews, and community dialogues. As the Artistic Director of Tricinium, he brings his “Verbatim Project” to communities, schools, and organizations around the world. He has written a great deal of choral music, including the comic oratorio “Do They Just Sing All Day?” for the American Boychoir, several widely performed anthems, and many choral numbers for Verbatim and musical theater projects. His music has won awards from the McKnight Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts, Mid-Atlantic Arts Foundation, the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, and many others. He has been a fellow in composition at the Tanglewood Music Center, and three times at The MacDowell Colony. In addition to composing his own concert music, Dr. Siegel has co-written musical theater work with Paul Hodes, Dan Hurlin, Andrew Periale, and Valeria Vasilevski, a symphonic tone poem with Edie Clark, and many other collaborative projects. He has been composer-in-residence at the Eugene O’Neill Puppetry Conference since 1999 and is also a nationally known performer of traditional music. He has lived primarily in Westmoreland, New Hampshire since 1986. For more information on Lawrence Siegel, go to www.tricinium.com.