



CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY

CHRISTOPHER WARREN-GREEN
music director

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Contact: Jamie Wolf, 704-714-5112 or jamiew@charlottesymphony.org

MUSIC AND THE HOLOCAUST

***A CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY AND UNC CHARLOTTE COLLEGE OF ARTS + ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION PROGRAM***



1943 still life of a violin and sheet music behind prison bars by Czech Jewish artist Bedrich Fritta

APRIL 12, 2013 | CHARLOTTE, NC – The history and practice of music in the face of oppression is exemplified in the Charlotte Symphony's new educational program, Music and the Holocaust.

Music and the Holocaust was presented for the first time at Marie G. Davis Military and Global Leadership Academy on March 18, 2013, and the experience will enhance what 6th, 7th, and 8th-graders are learning in their classrooms at Randolph Middle School on April 15, 18, and 22. April is Holocaust remembrance month.

In the integrative Music and the Holocaust program, an ensemble of Charlotte Symphony musicians play music of significance to the Holocaust as well as to the Jewish culture, while UNCC and Symphony

education staff present their accompanying narrative and slide show. The program also provides teachers with educational materials to help students make lasting learning connections to the performances.

The narrative, images, and music explore chronologically from the period right before WWII to the rise of the Third Reich, the ghettoization of Jewish people, the concentration and extermination camps, through to the end of WWII and the Holocaust.

The repertoire features a mix of traditional Jewish and Klezmer music, forbidden music that was considered “degenerate” by the Nazis, music composed in concentration camps, and music that evokes survival and healing after the Holocaust. Led by the Charlotte Symphony's principal clarinetist Eugene Kavadlo, the four-man Klezmer ensemble is made up of violinist Carlos Tarazona, bassist Ron Brendle, and bassist Mike Mosley playing the guitar.

Students will also learn about Jewish composers as well as the stories of three Jewish musicians whose lives were each spared separately by the Nazis precisely because of their musical abilities.

The new Music and the Holocaust program was inspired by the 2012 Violins of Hope partnership between the Symphony and UNC Charlotte's College of Arts and Architecture. Violins of Hope was inspired by a violin maker who collected and restored violins with extraordinary histories connected to the events of the Holocaust, and eighteen such violins were on a one-time exhibit in Charlotte in 2012. Connected to the Violins of Hope exhibit and public concerts, the Symphony presented a handful of in-school education programs. The schools reacted so positively to the presentations that the Charlotte Symphony and UNCC agreed that the value to the community was too great for such an experience to be merely a one-time gig; thus, Music and the Holocaust was born.

CMS teachers and administrators can arrange for Music and the Holocaust to come to their schools through the Arts and Science Council's (ASC) Education Provider Directory using a portion of their allotted ASC Education School Grants Program funds. Although to date performances of Music and the Holocaust have been done solely in schools, the program could be presented to any group for a nominal fee. Interested persons should contact the Charlotte Symphony's Education Programs Manager, Chris Stonnell, at 704-714-5110.

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