



LAWRENCE SIEGEL
Composer and Artistic Director

JAN COHEN
Executive Producer

GINA GOFF
Producer

MARA WILLIAMS OAKES
Producer

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Celebrating Our Shared Humanity

Sold Out Holocaust Musical Performance to offer Simulcast

April 8, 2008, Keene, NH --- On May 3, the voices and lives of those touched by the Holocaust will be transformed into a compelling musical experience in the debut performance of *Kaddish*, a new work by New Hampshire composer Lawrence Siegel. *Kaddish* will be performed to a sold out audience at the Redfern Arts Center at Keene State College in Keene, New Hampshire on May 3 from 8-9:30pm. Due to unprecedented sales, a simulcast of the live performance will be offered from 8-9:30pm, as well as the opportunity to meet the composer and survivors at a reception afterward. Composer Lawrence Siegel has also agreed to an Open Dress Rehearsal for public viewing, on Friday, May 2 at 7pm in the main theatre of the Redfern Arts Center.

The Cohen Center, one of the nation's oldest Holocaust resource centers, commissioned composer Lawrence Siegel to create *Kaddish* in honor of the Center's 25th anniversary. The word *Kaddish* refers to the traditional Jewish prayer for the dead, recited as part of the mourning rituals at funerals and on the anniversary of the death of a loved one. Yet the Mourner's Kaddish does not mention death, rather it celebrates life.

"It's a unique opportunity to use the power of music to teach about the Holocaust," says Jan Cohen, executive producer of the Kaddish Project. "It emphasizes the Jewish principle of 'tikkun olam' – healing, or repairing the world, and expresses our collective responsibility to make the world a better place."

Composer Lawrence Siegel wrote *Kaddish* – an evening-length concert work comprised of fifteen movements – in an eclectic style that includes elements of folk music, weaving in themes and melodies suggestive of klezmer and other traditions. It is a celebration of the human spirit through the beauty of song and the power of individual testimony. "*Kaddish* is about the redemptive power of the simple virtues of daily living," Siegel says.

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KADDISH by LAWRENCE SIEGEL was commissioned by the Cohen Center in honor of the Center's 25th Anniversary
www.kaddishproject.org • (603) 358-2300 • information@kaddishproject.org

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Well-known professional soloists Peggo Horstmann-Hodes, soprano, Pamela Stevens, mezzo-soprano, Ryan Turner, tenor, and David Ripley, baritone, a chorus of 50 voices, and a chamber orchestra will perform the work at this debut performance.

The American Composers Forum has awarded a Continental Harmony grant to help underwrite the making of *Kaddish*. It was funded in part by a grant from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

About the Composer

Lawrence Siegel is a composer, artist, scholar and performer with a national reputation. As artistic director and founder of Tricinium, Ltd., and director of The Verbatim Project, he has facilitated participatory, interdisciplinary residencies in the creation and performance of original works of music-theater for more than sixteen years. A three-time Fellow at the MacDowell Colony in Peterborough, NH, Siegel's grants and awards include a Continental Harmony grant from the American Composers Forum for the production of *Kaddish*. He has also received three New Works Grants and an Artist Fellowship in Composition from the New Hampshire State Council on the Arts, a McKnight Fellowship, and many other awards.

About the Cohen Center for Holocaust Studies

The Cohen Center is a nonsectarian organization dedicated to teaching the facts and lessons of the Holocaust, motivating successive generations to recognize an ethical responsibility to respond to prejudice and hatred. These challenges are met through community programming, educational outreach activities, and multidisciplinary academic courses.

For additional information on the Open Dress Rehearsal, contact the Kaddish Project at (603) 358-2300. More information on *Kaddish* may be found at www.kaddishproject.org.

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