

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### ***TRUENORTH PERFORMS HOLOCAUST CANTATA*** ***Event on Thursday, April 24 at 7:30 pm at Bay United Methodist Church***

Bay Village, OH – The TrueNorth Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will present a special performance on Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 p.m. at Bay United Methodist Church, 29931 Lake Road (southwest corner of Lake and Bassett Roads in Bay Village). April 24<sup>th</sup> is the internationally recognized date for Holocaust Remembrance Day.

***Holocaust Cantata: Songs from the Camps***, is a work based on the songs and letters written by Nazi concentration camp prisoners. The cantata, composed by Donald McCullough, stands as a tribute to the victims and survivors of the Holocaust. The program includes selected readings from the collections of the Veterans History Project.

Composer Donald McCullough was the founder of the Virginia Symphony Chorus and the fully professional Virginia Chorale, and music director of the Master Chorale of Washington.

Based on research of original music sung by incarcerated inmates in Holocaust concentration camps, the cantata is an emotional, musical journey through one of the bleakest episodes in human history. Working from translations of original Polish materials found in the archives of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. and starting with just a single line of melody, McCullough fashioned a haunting choral tribute to the 6 million Jews who were systematically persecuted and murdered as well as to the millions of other individuals the Nazi Party classified as “undesirables,” including Poles, Romanian gypsies, homosexuals, transsexuals, political opponents, religious dissidents, the mentally ill and the physically disabled. What emerges from the insanity of one of history’s worst examples of man’s inhumanity to man is a sense of music’s life-affirming powers.

The texts, drawn from interviews and historical data, deal with injustices, repression, resignation, pride, and love. They are set against a mournful dialog between cello and piano by pianist Michelle Massouh Makhoul and cellist Joan Wojcicki Fortney. The names of several movements, alone, indicate the nature of “Holocaust”-“In Buchenwald,” “The Train,” “The Prisoner Rises,” “Song of Days Now Gone,” “The Striped Ones,” and “Song of the Polish Prisoners.” “The Train” is brought to life by tenor soloist JR Fralick, Vocal Chair of the Baldwin Wallace Conservatory. Interspersed among the songs are readings, snippets of personal expression garnered from notes and letters written by those touched by the Holocaust by actors Paul Floriano, Carla Petroski, Greg Violand,

and Maryann Nagle Violand. The songs and text come together in a personal, touching, and inspired performance that, indeed, serve for thoughtful reflection and prayer.

In addition to the ***Holocaust Cantata***, the TrueNorth Chamber Orchestra Strings will be playing Edvard Grieg's ***Holberg Suite Op. 40, IV. Air***, Samuel Barber's ***Adagio for Strings***, and Roksana Smirnova's ***Peace Prelude*** interspersed by selected readings / quotes from ***The Diary of Anne Frank***. ***Peace Prelude*** is one of the premier performances in the United States, written by Ukraine composer , Roksana Smirnova who composed this piece during the blackout in 2021 reflecting the feeling of a hope for better and inner strength.

Please join us as we remember, paying tribute to those who lost their lives during a horrific chapter in our world's history and to those still being persecuted today. May history never repeat itself. The Concert is free, with a love offering to help defray the cost of the performance.



TrueNorth is a multidisciplinary arts organization committed to building and strengthening individuals and communities through the performing, visual and the literary arts. Our vision is two-fold: To educate, equip, and empower individuals so they can embrace and succeed in the creative arts; and to envision and encourage communities where creative arts and art appreciation flourish. To learn more visit [www.TNCArts.org](http://www.TNCArts.org)

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