THE Zekelman HOLOCAUST CENTER

The Zekelman Holocaust Center and the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance to Host 'Music From Auschwitz: A Concert' on May 22

The free concert will feature 10 short musical pieces arranged by Polish political prisoners who were members of the men's orchestra in the Auschwitz I camp.

Farmington Hills, Mich., May 2, 2022 – The Zekelman Holocaust Center (The HC) and the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance present *Music From Auschwitz: A Concert* on Sunday, May 22 at 2:00 p.m. The free performance, followed by refreshments will feature 10 short musical pieces arranged by Polish political prisoners who were members of the men's orchestra in the Auschwitz I camp.

A University of Michigan student orchestra led by conductor Oriol Sans will perform the original musical pieces interspersed with lines—spoken by the singers—from testimonies and interviews with members of the Auschwitz I men's orchestra after the war. Silent for more than 70 years, the voices and stirring melodies of those imprisoned at Auschwitz will be brought to life.

Using popular German hits of the 1930s and '40s, the prisoners arranged and orchestrated these tangos, waltzes and foxtrots for a dance band that played Sunday concerts for the Auschwitz garrison near the camp commandant's villa. The musical pieces were recently rediscovered in the archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum in Poland.

Sans has inspired musicians and audiences across North America and Europe, including the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Chamber Winds and Strings, the Orquesta Filarmónica de Jalisco in Guadalajara (Mexico), the Flint Symphony Orchestra, the International Contemporary Ensemble and the Four Corners Ensemble. As Music Director of the Detroit Symphony Youth Orchestra—a position he has held since 2016—Sans has initiated collaborations with other musical institutions in the community, like the Young Artists Program at the Michigan Opera Theater.

"We are honored to welcome Conductor Sans to The Zekelman Holocaust Center to lead the University of Michigan student orchestra through these beautiful and moving musical pieces," said Rabbi Eli Mayerfeld, CEO, The Zekelman Holocaust Center. "He has inspired and led many orchestras here in Michigan. His performance has such deep contemporary relevance. This will be an exceptional music event."

The performance is sponsored by the Burton A. Zipser and Sandra D. Zipser Foundation, and is supported by Robin & Leo Eisenberg, Garry Kappy and the PNC Foundation.

Register for this free concert at www.holocaustcenter.org/May or call (248) 556-2511 by Friday, May 20.

About The Zekelman Holocaust Center
The Zekelman Holocaust Center (The HC) is a 55,000 square foot museum and Library Archive in Farmington Hills that teaches about the senseless murder of millions and why each of us must respect and stand up for the rights of others if we are to prevent future genocide and hate crimes.

The lessons of history are used to create a call to action, teaching visitors through the examples of those who risked their lives to save others, and asking our guests to react to contemporary challenges such as racism and prejudice.

Exhibits include artifacts such as an authentic WWII-era boxcar, video testimonies, films, paintings, and a sapling from the tree located outside Anne Frank's hiding place window that is described in her diary.

Located on the second floor above the museum, the Library Archive is an important resource for academics, the media and families researching their heritage. A national leader in innovative genocide education, The HC serves over 100,000 Michiganders each year.

Hours: Sunday through Thursday 9:30 am to 5:00 pm and Friday 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The last admission is one hour before closing. Wheelchair accessible. Free parking. For additional information, visit www.holocaustcenter.org *or call 248-553-2400.*

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