

It is my pleasure to bring to your attention several programs focusing on the tenacity of the human spirit and the tragedy of the Holocaust created by Music Director Robert Franz. I hope you will take the opportunity to speak to Maestro Franz personally and learn more about the background and inspiration behind the creation of these programs as we trust your readers will find the story compelling. Please let me know if I can coordinate an interview with Robert.

Best regards,
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**MUSIC DIRECTOR ROBERT FRANZ
CONDUCTS TWO PROGRAMS COMMEMORATING THE
HOLOCAUST: DIARY OF ANNE FRANK
AND THE MUSIC OF TEREZIN**

**"Our will to create art has always been as strong as our will to survive"
- Pavel Haas**

For Immediate Release: Robert Franz, Music Director of the Boise Philharmonic and the Windsor Symphony Orchestra and Associate Conductor of the Houston Symphony, has created several programs focusing on the tenacity of the human spirit and the tragedy of the Holocaust. On January 17-18 Maestro Franz conducted the Boise Philharmonic in three works, highlighted by Michael Tilson Thomas' *From The Diary of Anne Frank*. Franz continued the theme on February 6 when he presented an educational program for high school students with The Windsor Symphony Orchestra entitled *The Music of Terezin* featuring music performed at the Terezin Concentration Camp during World War II. Students were also invited to read poetry from the camp during the Windsor Symphony subscription concerts.



According to Maestro Franz, "The purpose of these concerts is to express through music that which can't be expressed by words alone. It is not only the horrors of World War II that motivated these programs, but more importantly the perseverance and strength of the human spirit. Through studying these extraordinary human beings as they faced unimaginable atrocities, we are forced to question and thereby more deeply understand our own humanity."

The Boise program celebrated "The Inextinguishable" human spirit with three works. *From the Diary of Anne Frank*, presented in partnership with the Human Rights Alliance, the Synagogue in Boise and the Boise Contemporary Theatre, included a narrator reading excerpts from the book. Also on the program were Martinu's *Memorial to Lidice*, a tribute to those felled by Nazi Germany in a small Czech town, and Nielsen's *Symphony No. 4, "The Inextinguishable,"* a work celebrating human resolve and hope.

The Windsor Symphony Orchestra's educational program for high school students, *The Music of Terezin*, featured Pavel Haas' *Study for Strings* and Antonin Dvorak's *Serenade for Strings*. The program was inspired by a concert performed by the prisoners of the Theresienstadt (Terezin) Concentration Camp where most of the Jewish artists and intellectuals were sent during World War II. In 1944, the International Red Cross visited the Terezin Concentration Camp and the Nazis, seeking to present a picture of "happy workers" prepared several cultural events to take place during the Red Cross' visit. One of these was a string orchestra concert featuring music that had been composed in Terezin by prisoner Pavel Haas, performed by prisoners, and conducted by prisoner (and later, Canadian immigrant and conductor of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra) Karel Ancerl. Within two weeks of the Red Cross performance, all musicians, composers, and conductors involved in the concert were sent to Auschwitz. Only Karel Ancerl survived.



Pavel Haas

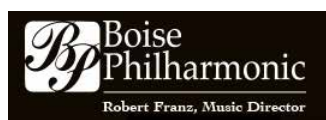
In addition to the WSO education program, a variety of students, including local Windsor Youth Symphony Orchestra members and elementary students read poetry at the WSO concerts from the book *I Never Saw Another Butterfly*, which is a compilation of poetry by children in the Terezin camp, in between movements of Dvorak's *Serenade for Strings*. The poems included "At Terezin," "A Letter to Daddy," "The Little Mouse," "The Butterfly" and "On a Sunny Evening."

Franz is acclaimed for his success in reaching out to the community and engaging audiences of all ages in all of the communities he serves. For additional information, visit www.robertfranz.com. High resolution images for your use are available at <http://www.robertfranz.com/press>

To read concert reviews click below:

 **Holocaust recalled in moving WSO concert - Windsor Star**

 **WSO concert "creative and touching"
- Leamington Southpoint Sun**



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