

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release | list under OPERA, CLASSICAL MUSIC

CONTACT: Jay Meetze | info@operabrooklyn.com | 212-567-3283
<http://www.adamsilverman.com/korczak> | <http://www.operabrooklyn.com>

On May 3, 2008 at 7:00 pm, The Opera Company of Brooklyn presents “Korczak’s Orphans” at The Stephen Wise Free Synagogue (30 West 68th Street, Manhattan; subway: 1 to 66th Street or B/C to 72nd Street). Tickets are \$25, and are available at the door, by calling 212-567-3283 or at <http://www.operabrooklyn.com>.

The Opera Company of Brooklyn presents “Korczak’s Orphans,” a new American opera based on a true story of fragile heroism in World War II Warsaw.

New York, NY (April 17, 2008) — This Yom Hashoah (Day of Remembrance), when people around the world pause to remember the victims of the Holocaust, the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue will join together with the Opera Company of Brooklyn to bring the opera ***Korczak’s Orphans*** to the stage for the first time. This opera, by composer Adam Silverman and librettist Susan Gubernat, is an impassioned story based on the life of the renowned Holocaust martyr, **Janusz Korczak** (1878-1942).

A Polish Jew, Korczak was a medical doctor, radio celebrity, and author who protected 200 children in a Jewish orphanage he founded amidst the chaos of the Nazi-occupied Warsaw Ghetto. Korczak maintained the orphanage as a refuge until he and his orphans were expelled from it and led to death at Treblinka.

Korczak is a famous figure in Poland, one of the heroes of World War II. He spent his life tending to the needs of orphaned children, and he used his influence to gain necessary supplies for his orphanage: food, money, and medicine. Unwilling to let the Nazi occupiers define him, he refused to wear the yellow Star of David required for all Jews, an offense for which he was jailed by the Gestapo. As the war progressed and his grim fate became increasingly evident, his response was to prepare himself and the children for a dignified processional out of the gates of the orphanage, past a stunned citizenry and muted cadre of SS officers.

The New York City Opera’s orchestra and soloists under the baton of Music Director George Manahan performed act II of Korczak’s Orphans in 2004. The New York Times raved that “the music of Act II, performed complete, was pulsing, glitteringly orchestrated and harmonically pungent.”

Jay Meetze, founder and artistic director of the Opera Company of Brooklyn, will conduct, Judith Weinstein will direct the cast, Christopher Bruckman will assist on the piano, with the OCB Children’s Chorus prepared by Sarah Jane Hintz-Rauh. Tracy Wise, reprising his role as Korczak, leads a cast of singers that features Mary Rauh, Maija Lisa Currie, Candice Hoyes, Kathryn Krasovec, Danielle Musick, Laurie Rubin, Giuseppe Spoletini, Mark Kaczmarczyk and Jonathan Hare. For more information about *Korczak’s Orphans*, the history behind the opera’s story and the artistic partners, please visit <http://adamsilverman.com/korczak>.

Founded in 2000, the Opera Company of Brooklyn offers a diverse selection of opera favorites and overlooked rarities, drawing talented artists from the rich resources of the New York Metro area, and allowing artistes and singers to share their enthusiasm and love for the art form with audiences in an intimate setting. For more information on sponsorship opportunities, please email us at info@operabrooklyn.com.