

**23 January 2025**



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27 January 2025 will mark the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi German concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau. Over one million people were murdered in this vast complex alone, most of them Jews. Marking this important anniversary and the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust, UNESCO is organizing a series of events recalling the continued relevance to teach and learn about the Holocaust, globally.

These events are made possible with the generous support of Austria, France, Germany, the Principality of Monaco, and Poland. They are organized in partnership with the *Mission du 80<sup>e</sup> anniversaire des débarquements de la Libération de la France et de la Victoire, Mémorial de la Shoah* and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

**Symposium *As the witnesses fall silent: Young generations and the Holocaust***

**Room IV, 3 – 4.45 p.m.**

In partnership with United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

**Welcome remarks**

- Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO

**Conversation**

**Moderator:** Valérie Gauthier Lindell, journalist

- Ms Sarah Gensburger, Research Director, National Centre for Scientific Research and Sciences Po Paris, France
- Ms Jennifer Ciardelli, Director of Pedagogy, William Levine Institute for Holocaust Education, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Mr Dov Forman, author, social media creator, United Kingdom

**Round-table: Experiences from the UNESCO-USHMM International Programme on Holocaust and Genocide Education**

**Moderator:** Mr Tad Stanhke, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

- Mr Freddy Mutanguha, Chief Executive Officer, Aegis Trust
- Ms Glauca Cristine Silva Burckler, Technical Assistant for Education, City of São Paulo, Brazil
- Mr Nisay Hang, Director, Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, Cambodia
- Mr Subarno Chattarji, Professor, University of Delhi, India

**Official ceremony**

**Room I, 6.30 – 7.30 p.m.**

**Music**

- Ms Hagar Sharvit, Mezzo-soprano

**Welcome address**

- Ms Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO
- Mr Eric de Rothschild, President, Mémorial de la Shoah

**Music**

- Mr Wolfgang Holzmair, barytone, & Mr Olivier Godin, piano

**Testimony**

- Mr Shelomo Selinger, Artist, Survivor

**Music**

- Mr Wolfgang Holzmair, barytone, & Mr Olivier Godin, piano

**Testimony**

- Ms Ginette Kolinka, Survivor

***El Maleh Rachamim and Kaddish***

- Rabbi Olivier Kaufmann

## Side events

- **Exhibition (Fences)** – *Beyond the Abyss*, Mr Olivier Mériel, UNESCO, Mémorial de la Shoah, Region of Normandy
- **Exhibition (Segur Hall)** – *Timeless Treasures: The Jewish Cultural Legacy through the Eyes of Young Photographers*, UNESCO

### *Timeless Treasures: The Jewish Cultural Legacy through the Eyes of Young Photographers*

Segur Hall, 5 – 5.20 p.m.

#### Opening remarks

- Mr Ernesto Ottone, Assistant Director-General for Culture, UNESCO

#### Statements

- Ms Mathilde Augé, Executive Director, WMF France
- Mr Xavier Bourgois and Mr Christophe Viseux, Curators of the exhibition

### *Inauguration of artworks by Shelomo Selinger donated by the artist to UNESCO*

Segur Hall, 5.30 p.m.

#### Remarks

- Ms Stefania Giannini, Assistant Director-General for Education, UNESCO
- Mr Frédéric De Clercq, President, Works of Art committee, UNESCO
- H.E. Mr Mariusz Lewicki, Ambassador, Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO

#### Statement by artist

- Mr Shelomo Selinger, survivor, artist

## Musician Biographies

### *Hagar Sharvit*

Hagar Sharvit is an Israeli mezzo-soprano who has performed widely across Europe, winning multiple prizes, including the 1st and Audience prizes at the "Das Lied" international song competition. She has appeared in renowned venues such as the Elbphilharmonie and Pierre Boulez Saal, with roles in operas by Händel, Mozart, and Rossini, and will debut in major productions of *Rusalka* and *Die Liebe der Danae* in 2024-2025.

### *Olivier Godin*

Appointed as Artistic Director of Bourgie Hall of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts in June 2022, Olivier Godin leads a remarkable career as a concert artist, chamber musician, and teacher both in Canada and abroad. With Wolfgang Holzmair, he shares a commitment to music from concentration camps. In recitals he also collaborated with singers such as Gordon Bintner, Marc Boucher, Julie Boulianne, Étienne Dupuis, Karina Gauvin, Hélène Guilmette, Marie-Nicole Lemieux, François Le Roux, Michèle Losier, Philippe Sly, and many others. In chamber settings, he has performed alongside with pianists like Michel Béroff, Suzanne Blondin, Myriam Farid, and François Zeitouni, cellist Stéphane Tétreault, and oboist Louise Pellerin.

He has performed in numerous festivals in Canada and at venues around the globe, including the Palazzetto Bru Zane in Venice, Wigmore Hall in London, and La Monnaie in Brussels. Olivier Godin has recorded thirty CDs to widespread critical acclaim, including the complete mélodies of Poulenc, Fauré, Duparc, and Dutilleux as well as Rachmaninoff's complete works for two pianos. Recently, he recorded Jules Massenet's 333 mélodies in their entirety with a dozen renowned singers for ATMA Classique. Appointed professor at the Conservatoire de musique de Montréal at age 25, Olivier Godin served as director of this institution's Atelier d'opéra for close to 15 years.

### *Wolfgang Holzmair*

Wolfgang Holzmair (barytone) studied economics as well as singing and Lieder in Vienna and holds a master's degree from the renowned Mozarteum University (his thesis focused on rediscovering the work of Max Kowalski, a Jewish lawyer and composer, who emigrated to London after he survived concentration camp in 1938). Thus, Wolfgang Holzmair began dealing with the musical legacy of concentration camp survivors very early in his professional career.

For years, Wolfgang Holzmair has been particularly committed to the works of composers who were persecuted and defamed as 'degenerate' under the Nazi regime. He has released several CDs with recordings of works among others by Erich Zeisl, Franz Schreker and Ernst Krenek. He also released music from composers from the Theresienstadt ghetto.

## The Composers

### *Ilse Weber*

(1903, Witkowitz – 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau)

### *Pavel Haas*

(1899, Brünn – 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau)

### *Hans Krása*

(1899, Prague – 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau)

### *Adolf Strauss*

(1902, Žatec – 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau)

### *Carlo S. Taube*

(1897, Galicia – 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau)

### *Viktor Ullmann*

(1898, Teschen – 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau)

### *Otto Skutecky*

(Unknown Date, Vienna - 1944, Auschwitz-Birkenau)