



YOM HASHOAH 2021

The Holocaust in the Soviet Union



Yom Hashoah Communal Commemoration

Wednesday 7 April 2021

26 Nissan 5781

Moriah College

Moshe Triguboff Auditorium

7.00pm

SYDNEY JEWISH MUSEUM
WHERE HISTORY HAS A VOICE



'The Holocaust in the Soviet Union'

Musical Notes:

Alex Parkmen was born in Odessa, Ukraine. He began to study music at the age of three, encouraged by his mother, also a musician who played and taught both piano and piano accordion.

At the age of six, Alex was acknowledged as child prodigy and was accepted to the famous Stoliarsky school for musically gifted children. After eleven years of studying, Alex joined Kiev Conservatorium where he was trained as both classical and jazz pianist. That led him to always wanting to combine the two genres, to experiment, interpret, and improvise.

Now based in Sydney, Alex calls Australia home and performs in many venues, both solo as well as with other musicians, across the country. He also participates in various international music festivals. And at every performance Alex Parkmen delights audience around the world with his brilliant technique and mesmerizing artistry.

Leo Novikov received a classical music education in Moscow, Russia and played in one of the best symphony orchestras in the world — the Moscow Philharmonic. As a member of this outstanding company Leo performed at some of the most famous venues across the world, including the Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Centre (USA), Barbican Centre (UK), the Santory Hall (Japan).

In 1993 Leo immigrated to Australia. From 1994 to 2005 he has been a Senior Lecturer at the Australian Institute of Music. Since 2005 Leo teaches at the International Grammar School (Sydney).

Leo performed as a soloist at a variety of prestigious venues, such as the Parliament House of NSW, the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House, British Consulate, Channel Nine Television, Sydney Town Hall, Sydney Recital Hall and also in Melbourne (Glen Eira Arts Complex).

Benjamin Burton is a talented young pianist with a passion for accompanying vocal and instrumental performances. In his role as accompanist, Ben has performed all over the country, and has worked for Opera Australia, Sydney Conservatorium of Music and the Australian Institute of Music, while also working as a freelance accompanist. Highlights over the last couple of years have included recording with the ABC (appearing on the CD Ballads of a Pleasant Life with Peter Coleman-Wright and the Nexus Quartet), performing with Moorambilla Voices for the Royal Visit to Dubbo, and giving recitals with Daniela Leska at Sydney Town Hall and the Polish Embassy. Ben was awarded 1st Prize in the 2017 Sydney Song Prize, and 2nd Best Pianist in the 2016 MIETTA National Art Song Competition. During 2020 Ben has become a creator of backing tracks and is greatly enjoying the return to live music performances happening in 2021.

The trio **Pearl & Sapphires** consists of three talented young singers – Veronica, David and Gabriel. All of them come from Russian-Jewish background. The band performs a diverse repertoire of different music styles and in many languages with a major focus on traditional Jewish and contemporary Israeli music. The band was founded in 2019 and since then won many hearts in Australia and around the world, constantly participating in the events of the Jewish and Russian communities in Sydney as well as in international online events. The trio is trained and directed by Natalia Melnik. Veronica will not be singing at tonight's commemoration.

Program

Music & Overview on Devastation of Soviet Jewish Communities:

Alex Parkmen & Leo Novikov
'Adagio in D minor' by Alessandro Marcello

Welcome:

Lesli Berger
President, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

Introduction to Keynote Speaker:

Dane Stern
Chair, Shoah Remembrance Committee

Keynote Address on the Holocaust in the Soviet Union:

Alex Ryvchin
Co-CEO, Executive Council of Australian Jewry

Video Survivor Testimony:

George Sternfeld
Child Holocaust survivor who fled to Siberia

Righteous Among the Nations:

Eitan Neishlos
Grandson of Tamara Ziserman, saved by Peotr, Yanina & Antonina Khodosevich in Belarus

Next Generation Address:

Sean Torban
Talking Holocaust

Lighting of the Memorial Candles Introduction:

Simone Starikov
Granddaughter of survivor from Ukraine

Candlelighters:

Ephim Lesnik & his granddaughter: *Russia*
David Binder & his daughter: *Latvia*
Francine Lazarus: *Belgium*
George Sternfeld: *Poland*
Maya Lipovetsky's daughter: *Ukraine*
Sofia Parij & her granddaughters: *Belarus*

Memorial Prayers:

Rabbi Chaim Konceptolski
Rabbi, Cremorne Synagogue

Closing Remarks:

Vic Alhadeff
CEO, NSW Jewish Board of Deputies

Partisan Song:

All present, led by **Rabbi Chaim Konceptolski**

National Anthems:

Pearl & Sapphires, accompanied by **Benjamin Burton** on piano

Message from the Chair of the Shoah Remembrance Committee

This year's Yom Hashoah theme is "The Holocaust in the Soviet Union". 2021 marks 80 years since Nazi Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union, where over one million Jews were murdered by the Nazis and their willing collaborators.

In August, 1941, SS Chief Heinrich Himmler attended the mass shooting of Jews in Minsk, present-day Belarus, after which he vomited. He ordered that less stressful methods of killing should be found, caring deeply for the humanity of the killers. This led to the development of the gas van and, in turn, the gas chambers that represent humanity at its worst.

Many Holocaust survivors from the Soviet Union came to Australia in the 1980s and 1990s, yet few in our community have heard their stories. For some, the language barrier remains impenetrable; others don't see themselves as "survivors" in the traditional sense of surviving ghettos and concentration camps. Tonight is an opportunity for Holocaust survivors and victims in the Soviet Union to have their stories told to the wider community.

Our keynote speaker, Alex Ryvchin, wrote in the Australian Jewish News: "The decision by the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies to focus this year's Yom Hashoah event on the Holocaust in the former Soviet Union will mean a great deal to every Australian Jew of Soviet descent. More than that, it will mean that through these acts of remembrance, in some way, we have thwarted the killers who sought to obliterate not only Jewish life but any memory that our people ever lived and died".

Tonight, the NSW Jewish Board of Deputies and its Shoah Remembrance Committee welcome you to honour those who survived and remember those who were murdered in the Holocaust in the Soviet Union.

Acknowledgements

This year's communal Shoah commemoration events were made possible with the generous financial support of the JCA. We also thank the following communal organisations whose representatives and other members of the Shoah Remembrance Committee give their time:

COA	Australian Association of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Descendants
Courage to Care	Kangarusski
Sydney Jewish Museum	Youth HEAR

Shoah Remembrance Committee:

Dane Stern, Chair	Danny Hochberg	Juliane Michaels
Dr George Foster	Michael Jaku	Sandra Rothman
Margaret Foster	Michelle Levitt	Simone Starikov
Rosalie Hirsch	Anna Maylis	Rachel Tanny
		Aviva Wolff

NSW Jewish Board of Deputies Staff:

Vic Alhadeff, CEO	Suzanne Green, Manager, Education & Holocaust Remembrance
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....and all other Board of Deputies staff

Communal Security Group



Thank you to Dashing Digital Rose Bay for printing the programs and flyers.