Murry Sidlin

Thurs., November 1
7 p.m. in Plachta Auditorium
Central Michigan University

Terezín, 1941-1945:
The Most Unlikely, Curious, Accidental, Enigmatic, and Inspiring
‘Improvised University’ in History

Murry Sidlin is a distinguished conductor, educator and artistic innovator. He is the founder and president of The Defiant Requiem Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to illuminating the legacy of Terezín, primarily the practice of arts and humanities by its many prisoners.

During World War II, the Nazis established a unique concentration camp as an elaborate scheme to show that they were treating prisoners humanely. Terezín was a prison to thousands of scholars, performers, musicians, actors, writers and philosophers from Central Europe. Overwhelmingly Jewish, these prisoners performed, created, taught, lectured and composed not merely as entertainment, but as necessity and nourishment, as critical to staying alive as eating and drinking.

The Fireflies: Narrated by Terezín survivor Ela Stein
Thurs., Nov. 1 at 3:30 p.m. in the Park Library

Originally performed in the Terezín concentration camp, The Fireflies tells a charming story of hope through music, dance and humor. Ela Stein, who was a cast member when the play was performed at Terezín, will narrate and host a post-show discussion from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Documentary film screening: Defiant Requiem
Fri., Nov. 2 at 12:30 p.m. in Anspach 162

A chorus of 150 Jewish prisoners in the Nazi concentration camp at Terezín learned Verdi’s Requiem (a Catholic Mass) by rote and then performed the piece 16 times before audiences of other prisoners, SS officers and German Army staff members. Their purpose: to sing to their captors words that could not be spoken—a statement of defiance and resistance.

Free and open to the public

The Dr. Harold Abel Endowed Lecture Series in the Study of Dictatorship, Democracy and Genocide was established in 2009. The series invites to campus distinguished scholars to discuss the impact of worldwide genocide and historical events such as the Holocaust and mass murders in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central America. For more information, visit www.chsbs.cmich.edu/abel.