

Musical Introduction Series Season Continues with a Special Concert, Remember Me: Music, Art and Poetry Celebrating the Children of Terezín

Dear 92nd Street Y School Partners:

On January 18 and 19, 92nd Street Y was honored to present the second concert in the 2011-12 Musical Introduction Series, Remember Me: Music, Art and Poetry Celebrating the Children of Terezín.

This MIS concert was a special undertaking in both its scope and depth of content, and featured an unprecedented combination of multimedia and multidisciplinary performances, including the 92Y Woodwind Quintet, modern dance, poetry and visual art. At the heart of this concert was the creativity, intelligence, talent and courage of the children who lived in the Terezín ghetto in the Czech lands of Eastern Europe, as well as the NYC school children and teachers who, prior to and during the concert, explored how we can transform our lives through artistic creativity.

The entire performance was narrated by an extremely gifted young man, Benjamin Wenzelberg, who spoke from the perspectives of four different boys who lived in Terezín, and who were leaders and role models for their peers through their resilience and artistic and intellectual gifts. These four brave boys were writers, artists, performers and friends, and through their creative lives and friendships in Terezín, shared their dreams of a better world.

Through the continued collaboration between their teaching artists and classroom teachers, students learned to identify woodwind instruments and listened for the instruments' playful sounds in the woodwind quintet music of Pavel Haas, a composer who lived in Terezín. At the concert, students were then well prepared to meet the woodwind instruments in person and hear a live performance of Pavel Haas' Wind Quintet. By studying the drawings and writings of Petr Ginz, one of the four boys, students explored "What I See" and "What I Dream," and created their own drawings and poems to convey both their current surroundings and their aspirations.

At the concert, students were offered the special opportunity to discover, through live music, dance, visual art and poetry that there are infinite ways that the arts can help us when we face difficult times, and that children have powerful artistic voices that can help them to better understand themselves, one another and the world around them.

We are extremely proud of the excellent work that your students accomplished in preparation for this concert. The concepts and work in this unit of study demanded that students grow their perspectives and imaginations, and, we hope, helped them strengthen their friendships and connection to their communities.

As always, their enthusiasm and excitement at hearing and seeing world-class live performance was apparent in their excellent listening and overall engagement.

With warm regards,

Larisa Gelman, Director

Debra Kreisberg, Managing Director