



NOVEMBER 8, 9M

BRUNDIBÁR

A Children's Opera In Two Acts
Music By Hans Krása | Text By Adolf Hoffmeister
English Version By Joža Karas

Raise Up Your Voice

Prologue Created By Martha Collins And Jessé Martins

Conductor

Stage Director

Costume Designer

Lighting Designer

Hair and Make-Up Designer

Assistant Conductors

Jessé Martins

Martha Collins

Howard Tsvi Kaplan

Ken Yunker

Sue Schaefer

Andrew Downs, Lisandra Rodriguez-Varela

CAST

Brundibár

Kayla Farrell (11/8)

Ara Martinez-Oliva (11/9)

Annette

Giuliana Bordes (11/8)

Isabella Maltese (11/9)

Little Joe

Cara Carlson (11/8)

Reyna Kim (11/9)

Policeman

Kai Casey (11/8)

Balthazar O'Neil (11/9)

Sparrows

Mia Moreno, Isla Outerbridge, Briana Wadsworth

Cats

Vittoria Morales-Franco, Abril Sanchez-Rodriguez,

Elle Zukas

Dogs

Yaëlle Katz, Aria Tillman, Mia Trainor

Milkman

Olivia Novak

Ice Cream Seller

Eitan Katz

Baker

Jocelyne Wilkins

Mother

Sophie Lunsford

Doctor

Dylan Alan

**Youth Opera Production sponsored by
the Les and Carol Brualdi Foundation**

**Sarasota Opera *Brundibár* Orchestra
Chorus: Sarasota Youth Opera**

BRUNDIBÁR SYNOPSIS

RAISE UP YOUR VOICE; INTOLERANCE THROUGH THE VOICES OF CHILDREN

BY JESSÉ MARTINS AND MARTHA COLLINS

"We Hold These Truths"	Music: Antonín Dvořák Text: The Declaration of Independence
On A Sunny Evening	Music: César Franck and Antonín Dvořák Text: Anonymous, by children in Barracks L318 and L417, Terezín
It All Depends on How You Look at It	Music: Antonín Dvořák Text: Miroslav Košek
To Olga	Music: Giacomo Puccini Text: Alena Mukova-Synkova, Terezín survivor
The Little Partridge	Music: Komitas Armenian Folk Song English Version: Martha Collins
Oh, Freedom	Traditional Spiritual
"Lost Dreams"	Poem by Mahogany Brim
"When the Whole World Is Silent"	Music: Giacomo Puccini Text: Malala Yousafzai
Incidental Music	Jessé Martins

BRUNDIBÁR

BY HANS KRÁSA AND ADOLF HOFFMEISTER
ENGLISH VERSION BY JOŽA KARAS

Overture for a Small Orchestra	Hans Krása
Lullaby	Music and Text: Ilse Weber Written while at Terezín Arrangement: Jessé Martins English Text: Martha Collins

RAISE UP YOUR VOICE FEATURED SOLOISTS

SINGERS

Dylan Alan
Giuliana Bordes
Kai Casey
Eitan Katz
Isabella Maltese
Ara Martinez-Oliva
Mia Moreno
Olivia Novak
Natalia Peno
Abril Sanchez-Rodriguez
Sophia Silva-O'Connell
Briana Wadsworth
Jocelyne Wilkins

SPEAKERS

Dylan Alan
Stefaniia Biedakurova
Giuliana Bordes
Kai Casey
Kayla Farrell
Eitan Katz
Reyna Kim
Finley MacBeth
Isabella Maltese
Ara Martinez-Oliva
Elise McEwen-Haworth
Fiona Muolo
Olivia Novak
Balthazar O'Neil
Celeste O'Neil
Natalia Peno
Isabella Scaccino
Sophia Silva-O'Connell
Philomena Tilden
Aria Tillman
Sawyer Tillman
Briana Wadsworth

BRUNDIBÁR SYNOPSIS

A brother and sister, Little Joe and Annette, need to buy milk for their sick mother but have no money. They see the organ-grinder, Brundibár, playing his hurdy-gurdy on the street corner and collecting money from the townspeople. The children decide that they too will sing and collect money, but they are chased away by Brundibár.

As night approaches, a group of animals encourage the children to stand up to the organ-grinder. The next morning, with the help of the neighborhood children, they sing a charming lullaby which earns them money from the townspeople. Brundibár tries to steal their money, but after a brief chase he is caught and the children sing a song of victory.

World Premiere: Jewish Children's Home, Hagibor, Czechoslovakia, August 1942

BRUNDIBÁR BACKGROUND

Written before the start of World War II, *Brundibár* was performed over 55 times in the Theresienstadt Jewish camp-ghetto and is considered one of the most performed youth operas, receiving hundreds of performances each year around the world. Also known as Terezín, the camp-ghetto supported a cultural community amidst the atrocities of the Holocaust. *Brundibár* was even used several times by the Nazis as propaganda, first in a film entitled "Der Führer schenkt den Juden eine Stadt" (The Führer Gives the Jews a City) and again on June 23, 1944, during an inspection visit by the International Red Cross. The plays, music, poems, paintings, and other works of arts created by the prisoners of Terezín which survive today are a testament to how art, as one survivor wrote, "transcended itself and acquired a dimension of sheer survival."

Composer Hans Krása and librettist Adolf Hoffmeister originally wrote *Brundibár* as an entry for a children's opera competition organized by the Czechoslovakian government in 1939. The results of the competition were never announced and a 1941 attempt to perform the work at the Prague Jewish Orphanage was thwarted as martial law and deportations began. A production without orchestra took place August 1942 at the Jewish Children's Home, Hagibor. However, neither author was there to see the performance since Krása had already been deported to Terezín and Hoffmeister, thanks to *Brundibár*, had received an invitation to London and returned to Czechoslovakia only after the liberation.

The following June, Rudolf Freudenfeld, stage director of the Hagibor performance, smuggled the piano score into Terezín and Krása set about re-orchestrating the work for available instruments. *Vedem*, a secret magazine created by a group of about 100 boys ages 13 to 15, chronicled the start of rehearsals:

The first rehearsals were mostly boring. They were held in a dusty attic with a screeching harmonium and suffocating heat. The choir sang "This is little Pepiček..." twice, learned another verse, repeated "Brundibár defeated..." and then gladly escaped the stifling atmosphere to get a breath of fresh air. In the meantime the candidates for solo parts stood with trembling voices before the sweating Rudi (Rudolf Freudenfeld) and sang "la la la la" after him. We were on tenterhooks to know who would get what parts and who would say a few more words than anyone else on stage. (Rudolf Lauf)

Brundibár received its official premiere on September 23, 1943, in the attic hall of the Magdeburg barracks. In the 54 official and countless unofficial performances that would follow, the cast continually changed as people were deported to the extermination camps. Krása would compose several more works in Terezín, including his *Overture for Small Orchestra*, before his own death in Auschwitz on October 16, 1944.

Hans Krása, composer of *Brundibár*



The opera all but disappeared after WWII until Joža Karas, a professor at the University of Hartford, became acquainted with Terezín survivor Eliška Kleinová. Using a piano reduction and complete score provided by Kleinová, Karas created a transcription and English translation for the work's North American premiere in Ottawa, Canada, in 1977.

Ben Jewell-Plocher was Sarasota Opera's Director of Education. He is currently Associate Director of Engagement, Moss Art Center at Center for the Arts at Virginia Tech University.

ABOUT RAISE UP YOUR VOICE

BY MARTHA COLLINS AND JESSÉ MARTINS

When we first began our research into *Brundibár*, we were profoundly moved by the history surrounding the work - that of it having been performed by children in the Terezín camp-ghetto. As we delved more into the lives and writings of these young artists, most of whom did not survive the Nazi regime, we became deeply inspired and humbled to learn they strove to stay creative artistically under such prohibitive conditions. It quickly became imperative to us that the companion piece we would create to go with *Brundibár* not use words and stories created by us, but rather the actual words of young people. The search led us to the diaries and letters of children throughout the world, written while they were living through the challenges of intolerance in its many forms.

In 1948, Winston Churchill said "Those who fail to learn from history are condemned to repeat it." We can learn from wisdom beyond their years in the words of these young people who were questioning the world that adults had created; these children who were able to see the world through a lens of what life could be when not limited by hatred.