



PRESS RELEASE

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Boston Secession to Postpone World Premiere of *Testimony of Witnesses: An Oratorio of Remembrance*

BOSTON, MA – January 22, 2009 – Professional choral ensemble Boston Secession has postponed the scheduled March 22 world premiere of *Testimony of Witnesses: An Oratorio of Remembrance*, at Sanders Theatre in Cambridge. The decision was made in response to the significant effect of the recession on the group's capacity to raise money for the ambitious project, a concert-length oratorio scored for chorus, orchestra, and soloists.

**2008-2009
Season**

**Bach, Brahms &
Schnittke: The Sacred
Imagination**

November 15, 2008

**Chestnuts Roasting:
A Secession Holiday
Concert**

December 5, 2008

(Un)Lucky in Love

February 13 & 14, 2009

**World Premiere of
*Testimony of Witnesses***

March 22, 2009

Testimony of Witnesses, by Boston Secession's composer-in-residence Ruth Lomon, sets the poetry of eighteen Holocaust victims and survivors to music. The texts – in seven languages – reflect both the deeply personal impact of the Holocaust for these artists, as well as the sweeping international repercussions of one of the defining events of the last century.

Carol Weir, President of Boston Secession's Board of Trustees, noted, "As difficult as this decision has been for Secession, we feel that under the current economic conditions we are making a prudent, forward-thinking choice. The Jewish community and Boston Secession's longtime patrons continue to be very supportive of *Testimony of Witnesses*, but under the circumstances we simply are not able to raise the necessary funds for a project of this magnitude. We're committed to Boston Secession's long-term strength and to ensuring that the organization has sufficient resources moving ahead."

Boston Secession's Artistic Director and Conductor, Jane Ring Frank, observed, "Candidly, this has been a very emotional decision for us. We've worked closely with Ruth Lomon for many years to make this project a reality. We remain deeply committed to *Testimony of Witnesses* and are looking into ways to premiere it in the future. We're

encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive response of the classical music community to our recording of *Transport*, one of the movements from the piece. And, we feel a profound commitment to the writers whose works and lives are in many respects memorialized by *Testimony of Witnesses*.”

The Board and staff of Boston Seccession are currently considering alternatives to the March 22 performance, and will make an announcement shortly. The ensemble’s popular alternative Valentine concert, *(Un)Lucky in Love*, will take place as scheduled on February 13 and 14 at First Church Congregational, Cambridge.

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