

Gray Academy
OF JEWISH EDUCATION



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**STUDENTS AT GRAY ACADEMY OF JEWISH EDUCATION
PERFORM IN COMMUNITY WIDE CHOIR WITH WSO**

October 19, 2006 – Rory Paul, Head of School and CEO, and Hart Sera, Principal, Gray Academy of Jewish Education, are pleased to announce a unique partnership with River East Transcona School Division and the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra.

Over 300 student voices from 31 schools will participate in an outreach setting with Gray Academy of Jewish Education, Mennonite Children’s Choir, Miles Macdonell Collegiate and River East Transcona Children’s Choir involving grades 4, 5 and 6. This unified choir will be performing with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra on the evening of Wednesday, November 15th, 2006 at Kildonan East Collegiate, 845 Concordia Avenue at 7:30 p.m. The cost per ticket is \$10.00 and can be purchased at McNally Robinson Booksellers.

The composition, written by Zane Zalis, a music teacher/composer, is part of a large-scale concert musical/oratory work entitled *I Believe*. *I Believe* is based upon Kristallnacht, a pivotal moment in Hitler’s plan for the Final Solution. The excerpt entitled “The Children” will educate and challenge the audience about the Holocaust.

Talented music students from all involved schools have been chosen to sing in this wonderful choral presentation which is a part of the Winnipeg Symphony Outreach Concerts. Gray Academy is pleased to be able to participate in this event, which provides an enrichment experience beyond the regular music program for our students.

Miriam Bronstein, music teacher at Gray Academy of Jewish Education says, “We are so pleased to be included in a community event with a large choir and of course with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra. Most important is the educational value of being in a

room with 350 students from River East Transcona School Division who are learning about children in the Holocaust.”

“It is my conclusion that the scope, intent, and deliberately engineered destruction of the Jewish people during Hitler’s reign as chancellor are unprecedented in human history. This is in light of the unbelievable atrocities committed with regards to the Armenian people, Rwanda, Cambodia, Bosnia and the disturbing record of human persecution throughout history. The result of my efforts is the decision to create a large-scale orchestral/stage work that will inform and challenge the audience about the Holocaust experience,” says Zane Zalis, composer of *I Believe* and music teacher at Miles Macdonell Collegiate, who will direct the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and the student choir.

“It will inform the audience from a host of perspectives e.g. survivors (adult and child), Nazi, political, Allies, etc. It is from these stories that we build our hope and faith in humankind to say in a unified voice, ‘**Never Again**’.”

The following Gray Academy students will be performing under the leadership of Miriam Bronstein, music teacher for the school:

Shayna Wilhelmer
Noah Palansky
Arielle Block
Cassie Ackerman
Haley Yurman
Jenna Adelman
Jana Elazar

Sami Palay
Julia Kroft
Juan Mohadeb
Sydney Chochinov
Alexa Smith
Dafna Schultz

Michael Benarroch, President of The Winnipeg Board of Jewish Education, applauds the students for their commitment to music and for being ambassadors of the school in this high profile Winnipeg event.

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For further information, please contact:

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