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**CLARION QUARTET RELEASES ALBUM OF MUSIC BY SUPPRESSED COMPOSERS**

**Pittsburgh, PA, February 23, 2018** — The Clarion Quartet, comprised of members of the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra, is excited to announce release of their debut album, *Breaking the Silence.*

Dedicated to championing the music of suppressed composers, the quartet was formed by violinists Jennifer Orchard and Marta Krechkovsky, violist Tatjana Mead Chamis, and cellist Bronwyn Banerdt with a mission to bring once-unknown works of music to their deserved place of prominence in the repertoire and give voice to unjustly silenced composers.

In May of 2016, the newly formed quartet took a short detour from the Pittsburgh Symphony’s European tour to travel to Terezín, the site of the former Nazi concentration camp of Theresienstadt in the modern-day Czech Republic, where numerous artists such as Viktor Ullmann created works of unparalleled beauty while suffering unfathomable injustices. The quartet was joined by a large group of PSO musicians, staff, and board members, as well as Music Director Manfred Honeck. After touring the grounds of the camp, the quartet played an emotional concert on the original barrack's stage that included Viktor Ullmann’s Third Quartet.

A crew of German videographers had been filming the symphony’s tour and were present to document the Terezín concert. Recording engineer Nick Prokop, who headed the crew, was himself deeply touched by the event, and told the quartet of his personal interest to record the same program for his record label, TYE (Trust your Ears). Months later, the call came from Germany that he had secured a grant from BSCW to fund the recording project, and in the summer of 2017, Nick and his brother Clemens Prokop traveled to Pittsburgh to record the Clarion Quartet at Duquesne University. The result is this album.

The CD features three works by composers in different periods of oppression by the Third Reich:

**Erwin Schulhoff (1894-1942) *Five Pieces for String Quartet***

**Viktor Ullman (1898-1944) *String Quartet No. 3, op. 46***

**Erich Wolfgang Korngold (1897-1957) *String Quartet No. 3, op. 34***

**David Zehavi (1910-1977) / arr. Boris Pigovat (b. 1953) *A Walk to Caesarea (Eli Eli)***

Erwin Schulhoff wrote his Five Pieces for String Quartet in Vienna, where his career flourished until his work was labeled “degenerate” by the Nazis. He was arrested and eventually perished in the Wülzburg concentration camp. Viktor Ullmann wrote his Third String Quartet in the midst of the Holocaust, while he was imprisoned in Theresienstadt. He was executed in Auschwitz. Erich Korngold narrowly survived the war, having fled to the United States, where he became known for his film music. He vowed during exile not to write a single note of classical music while Hitler was in power, and his Third String Quartet was his first such composition since before the war. To this day, his impact on the world of film has eclipsed his contributions to the world of art music. The last short work on the album is piece by David Zehavi arranged by a living composer, Boris Pigovat, based on the Israeli poem *A Walk to Cesarea* by Holocaust victim Hannah Senesh.

The mission of the Clarion Quartet is restoring to life music by composers whose works were once banned. The forces of political oppression denied these compositions their rightful place in the chamber music repertoire, but now, their rediscovery serves as a clarion call, giving voice to works of genius.

*Breaking the Silence* is available for purchase from Naxos Direct and for direct streaming on iTunes and Amazon Music.

For more information, visit [www.clarionquartet.com](http://www.clarionquartet.com).