

Jocelyn Pook's *Drawing Life* – a multi-media composition
about the children in the Terezin Concentration Camp –
tours around the UK in January 2016



January 2016

25th Tower Hamlets School
27th Nottingham Lakeside Arts
28th Warwick Arts Centre
30th Milton Court, London

Jocelyn Pook *composer*
Dragan Aleksic *video artist*
Emma Bernard *director and dramaturg*

Melanie Pappenheim *soprano*
Lorin Sklamberg *tenor*
Flora Curzon *violin/vocals*
Laura Moody *cello/vocals*
Kate Shortt *cello/vocals*
Susi Evans *clarinet*
Milos Milivojevic *accordion*

Commissioned by the Jewish Music Institute in 2014

Jocelyn Pook tours her multi-media composition *Drawing Life* around the UK in January having shown previews of the project in 2014 to launch Jewish Book Week. The official premiere of the piece takes place at the Barbican's Milton Court on 30 January. *Drawing Life* was originally commissioned by the Jewish Music Institute and is inspired by the drawings and poems of the children who were at the Terezin concentration camp. The collection of poems and drawings come from a book called *...I never saw another butterfly...* which was named after a poem by Pavel Friedman, a young man who was held captive at Terezin.



***"I never saw another butterfly...
That butterfly was the last one.
Butterflies don't live here
In the ghetto."***
Pavel Friedman, 1942

Butterflies and Grass, Margit Koretzová (1933-1944)
©Jewish Museum in Prague

Devised by dramaturg **Emma Bernard** and visual artist **Dragan Aleksic**, *Drawing Life* includes video projections, combining children's drawings with survivor interviews, archive photographs and footage from propaganda films made inside the camp. In composing the piece, Jocelyn Pook spoke to Holocaust survivor **Zdenka Fantlova**, after reading her moving book *The Tin Ring*. Born in Czechoslovakia, Fantlova spent time in Terezin, Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen and weighed only 77lbs when she was rescued by a British Army officer in 1945. Her book, *The Tin Ring*, takes its name from the handmade tin ring she was given by her young lover on the last occasion she saw him.



Click below to watch Jocelyn Pook talk to Channel 4 News about *Drawing life* in 2014



Jocelyn Pook commented:

"The Jewish Music Institute approached me to compose a piece inspired by the poems and drawings of Terezin's children. What shines through in these works, and also in many survivors' testimonies, is the capacity to find hope, courage and beauty in the direst and bleakest of circumstances. It is about the human ability to find ways to nourish and strengthen the spirit even in the harshest conditions, against all the odds. This piece will, I hope, be reflective without being devoid of light."

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An 18th-century garrison town in the former Czechoslovakia, Terezin housed the Theresienstadt concentration camp, which held around 150,000 Jews across the course of the war. Misleadingly advertised to Jewish families as 'The Führer's gift to the Jews', a town rich in culture and education, Terezin was in fact a transit stop on the way to the gas chambers of Auschwitz or Bergen-Belsen.

An unlikely hub of creativity, there was a surprising amount of music and art in the camp. Alice Herz-Sommer, the pianist, was an inmate there, and performed around 100 recitals. Other notable musical inmates include Pavel Haas, Hans Krása, and Viktor Ullmann, composer of *Der Kaiser von Atlantis*. There was a lending library of around 60,000 volumes, and around 2,300 lectures were given as part of a makeshift 'open university'. Terezin inmate Friedl Dicker-Brandeis encouraged children to draw and paint, organizing classes for inmates to allow them to express themselves despite their captivity.



One child, Helga Weiss, was encouraged by her father to 'draw what you see' rather than what was in her imagination, as a record of cruelty. After the liberation of Theresienstadt, children's drawings were found stuffed into crannies in the walls, or buried outside. Of 15,000 children interned at the camp, only 100 survived.

[Read more about Theresienstadt, from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#)

Jocelyn Pook



Jocelyn Pook is one of the UK's most versatile composers, having written extensively for stage, screen, opera house and concert hall. She has established an international reputation as a highly original composer winning her numerous awards and nominations including a Golden Globe, an Olivier and two British Composer Awards.

Often remembered for her film score to *Eyes Wide Shut*, which won her a Chicago Film Award and a Golden Globe nomination, Pook has worked with some of the world's leading directors, musicians, artists and arts institutions - including Stanley Kubrick,

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Martin Scorsese, the Royal Opera House, BBC Proms, Andrew Motion, Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack and Laurie Anderson.

Pook has also written film score to Michael Radford's *The Merchant of Venice* with Al Pacino, which featured the voice of countertenor Andreas Scholl and was nominated for a Classical Brit Award. Other notable film scores include *Brick Lane* directed by Sarah Gavron and a piece for the soundtrack to *Gangs of New York* directed by Martin Scorsese.

With a blossoming reputation as a composer of electro-acoustic works and music for the concert platform, Pook continues to celebrate the diversity of the human voice. Her first opera *Ingerland* was commissioned and produced by ROH2 for the Royal Opera House's Linbury Studio in June 2010. The BBC Proms and The King's Singers commissioned to collaborate with the Poet Laureate Andrew Motion on a work entitled *Mobile*. *Portraits in Absentia* was commissioned by BBC Radio 3 and is a collage of sound, voice, music and words woven from the messages left on her answerphone. She has received critical acclaim for her song cycle *Hearing Voices*, which was premiered in December 2012 by the BBC Concert Orchestra and singer Melanie Pappenheim at the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Pook graduated from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in 1983, where she studied the viola. She then embarked on a period of touring and recording with artists such as Peter Gabriel, Massive Attack, Laurie Anderson and PJ Harvey and as a member of the Communards.

She also tours extensively with The Jocelyn Pook Ensemble, performing repertoire from her albums and music from her film scores.

Pook won an Olivier Award for the National Theatre's production of *St Joan*, and for her music-theatre piece *Speaking in Tunes* she won a British Composer Award. She won a second British Composer Award for her soundtrack to *DESH*, which accompanies Akram Khan's dance production of the same name. Pook has also composed scores for television shows and commercials, and was nominated for a BAFTA for Channel 4's *The Government Inspector* (Dir: Peter Kosminsky).

In 2014 Pook composed the score for a new dance piece *Lest We Forget* choreographed by Akram Khan for English National Ballet to mark the centenary of the First World War, as well as the score for *King Charles III*, a new play by Mike Barlett being performed at Wyndham's Theatre, London. Both *Lest We Forget* and *King Charles III* won Sky Arts Awards in 2015 for their productions.

Pook has chaired and been a judge on various panels including the British Composer Awards, Ivor Novello Awards and BBC Proms Young Composers Competition.

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