



**For Immediate Release**

Contact        Sheila King Public Relations  
                    fulcrumpoint@skpr.net, 773.239.2220  
                    Mary Ingram Schatz, maryingramszatz@skpr.net, 773.454.6279

**FULCRUM POINT NEW MUSIC PROJECT PRESENTS  
SONGS OF LOVE AND WAR, ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONCERT FOR PEACE  
*Meet Three Composers during Post-Concert Discussion***



**Image by  
David Lee Csicsko**

*Songs of Love and War*, the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Concert for Peace by the Fulcrum Point New Music Project, features new art music with a message of peace and hope on Tuesday, December 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance, 205 E. Randolph St. in Chicago.

“Very few Americans alive today have experienced first-hand the trauma of war,” says Stephen Burns, artistic director for Fulcrum Point New Music Project. “Those who have, often, prefer to keep their feelings private. This concert opens a portal into the lives of ordinary people touched by war. It communicates their mindsets and emotions using numerous musical styles.”

Fulcrum Point presents the world premiere of **David Schiff’s new orchestration for flute, strings and chorus of *Peace*** originally commissioned in 1984 by First Unitarian Church of Portland, Ore., as well as the Midwest premiere of *Camp Songs* by Paul Schoenfield. The ensemble also will perform the Chicago premieres of *Songs of Love and War* by Paul Moravec and *Three Letters from the Unknown Soldier* by Poul Ruders.

The words of the Prophet Isaiah, “Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more,” (Isaiah 2:4) inspired David Schiff’s composition which begins the concert. Schiff’s orchestration contrasts readings of Scripture in both English and Hebrew. Gentle, plaintive melodies complement readings in English; a more rhythmic, Madrigal-style for the Hebrew texts. A flute solo by Mary Stolper and guest performance by the New Classic Singers led by director Lee Kesselman portray the spirit of hope.

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## FULCRUM POINT SONGS OF LOVE AND WAR/ADD ONE

Schiff's major works include the operas *Gimpel the Fool*, *Suite from the Sacred Service* and *Slow Dance* along with commissions by the Oregon Symphony, Baltimore Symphony Orchestra's Marin Alsop and the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center. Schiff is the R.P. Wollenberg Professor of Music at Reed College in Portland, Ore. He is the author of "The Music of Elliott Carter" (Cornell University Press) and "George Gershwin: Rhapsody in Blue" (Cambridge University Press) as well as many articles on music for "The New York Times," "Atlantic Monthly," "Opera News" and "Tempo."

From the sweet interpretation of the aspirations of Isaiah the concert moves to **Paul Schoenfield's *Camp Songs***, a runner-up for a Pulitzer Prize in 2003, that was commissioned by Music of Remembrance and premiered at its Holocaust Remembrance concert, *Not in Vain!*, in Seattle. Schoenfield was inspired by five poems written by Aleksander Kulisiewicz in the Sachsenhausen concentration camp during World War II. The Polish, non-Jewish survivor incarcerated for his politics filled his poetry with wry humor, dark imagery and sardonic wit. Each poem-song in this cycle takes a different view of the Nazi regime and their atrocities, but presents them with a survivor's humor in a kitschy cabaret-style.

Schoenfield has composed music since he was age 6, a year after starting piano lessons. He has performed around the world and has received commissions and grants including those from National Endowment for the Arts, Ohio Arts Commission, Chamber Music America, Rockefeller Fund, Minnesota Commissioning Club, American Composers Forum and Soli Deo Gloria of Chicago. A man of many interests, he also is an avid scholar of mathematics and Hebrew.

Next, the ensemble delves into the experiences of soldiers with ***Three Letters from the Unknown Soldier* by Poul Ruders**, a dramatic composition in three sections ranging from the violent, dramatic "March" to the mysterious, foreboding "Bells" and culminating in the super soft, chromatic "Prayer."

Born in Ringsted, Denmark, Ruders has created a large body of music performed worldwide including compositions for opera, orchestra, chamber, vocal and solo performances. The overwhelming success of his second opera, *The Handmaid's Tale* (1996-98), increased demand for his work, with commissions coming in rapid succession from The Berlin Philharmonic, The New York Philharmonic, The BBC Symphony Orchestra and The Royal Danish Opera.

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## FULCRUM POINT SONGS OF LOVE AND WAR/ADD TWO

The evening concludes with *Songs of Love and War* by Paul Moravec which captures the emotional tenor of four distinct American wartime eras. From the emotionally paralyzed veteran of the Vietnam conflict to the spiritually transcendent soldier writing home during the Civil War, each character tells a very personal story. With text sung by Jeffrey Strauss, baritone and the New Classic Singers, the audience will be led through four different American wartime experiences.

In 2004, Moravec won a Pulitzer Prize for *Tempest Fantasy*. He has composed more than 80 works for orchestra, chamber and choral groups as well as scores for films. *Songs of Love and War* was released featuring the Dessoff Choirs & Orchestra which also has been performed at Carnegie Hall with the Oratorio Society of New York. Moravec has earned rave reviews, described by critics as “ebullient,” (“The San Francisco Chronicle”) “riveting” (National Public Radio) and “virtuosic” (“The Wall Street Journal”).

### **Free Post-Concert Reception: Meet Composers Schiff, Schoenfield and Moravec**

All members of the audience are invited to meet composers, musicians and Stephen Burns at a free post-concert reception sponsored by C’est Si Bon! and Vin Divino.

Tickets to Fulcrum Point’s Tenth Annual Concert for Peace, *Songs of Love*, are \$20; \$10 for seniors and students. To order, call 312.334.7777 or visit madtchi.com. For groups of 10 or more, please contact Group Tix at 877-4-GRP-TIX (877-447-7849).

To learn more about the fifth season of *Essential Arts: Essential Elements*, please visit [fulcrumpoint.org](http://fulcrumpoint.org).

### **About Fulcrum Point**

Fulcrum Point New Music Project is Chicago’s leader in new art music, presenting multi-media performances and educational programs in powerful contexts created by music, art, literature and theater. Through its concerts, Fulcrum Point invites audiences to immerse themselves in the diversity of cultures and worldviews today.