

FEATURED COMPOSERS



Dick Kattenburg
(NL 1919-1944)

Murdered by the Nazis at 24 years of age, only a single composition was thought to have survived – until his sister discovered a forgotten box in the attic 60 years after his death.



Marius Flothuis
(NL 1914-2001)

Composer and conductor of the famed Concertgebouw Orchestra, Flothuis was imprisoned at Camp Vught for his resistance work.



Ilse Weber
(CZ 1903-1944)

A poet and musician who worked as a nurse in the children's infirmary at Terezín, Ilse sang to the children during their last breaths at Auschwitz.



Leo Smit
(NL 1900-1943)

Enjoying a posh life in Paris as a successful composer, Leo made the fateful decision to move back to Amsterdam; his hauntingly beautiful flute sonata was his final composition.

*Musical selections may vary depending on whether the venue has a piano.
Inquire for details.*

"The best program we've had in years."

- Zekelman Holocaust Center



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sankyo Flutes

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Humanities Nebraska

Samuel Bak Museum & Learning Center

University of Nebraska at Omaha

REFUGE, TORTURE, & RESISTANCE:

The Role of Music During the Holocaust



A poignant and powerful lecture-recital, masterfully presented by internationally acclaimed flutist, Dr. Christine Beard



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

This deeply moving and powerful lecture-recital delves into the extraordinary and often haunting role of music during the Holocaust, examining repertoire banned by the SS Kulturkammer and what type of music was performed in the camps and ghettos. Through the heartbreaking stories of Jewish composers whose lives were extinguished by the Nazi regime, Dr. Beard exposes how the Nazis twisted music into a weapon of psychological cruelty, even as prisoners reclaimed it as a lifeline. In the darkest of circumstances, music became a fragile sanctuary: an act of courage, identity, and resistance against a world intent on erasing them.

NOW BOOKING FOR 2026-2028

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

World Without Genocide (MN)
Holocaust Museum Houston
Jewish Federation of Tulsa (OK)
Zekelman Holocaust Center (MI)
Illinois Holocaust Museum
Lied Library (Clarinda, IA)
Norfolk Public Library (NE)
Elkhorn Valley Museum (NE)
Jewish Community Center of Omaha
National Flute Association Convention
World Flutes Festival (Argentina)
UMKC Conservatory of Music (MO)
University of Texas at Austin
University of Texas-San Antonio
University of Houston
University of Nebraska at Omaha
Samuel Bak Museum & Learning Center
Gallery 1516 (NE)

ARTIST BIO

Described as ...“having the capacity to reveal the deep soul of a composition,” Christine Beard is an internationally acclaimed American flutist and sociomusicologist whose work centers on music shaped by political and social (in)justice. A leading voice in this area, she has commissioned and championed repertoire born from struggle, resistance, and marginalized narratives. As the founder of the **#flutistactivist initiative**, Beard develops educational programs that advocate for the preservation, performance, and visibility of composers who have been marginalized, persecuted, or silenced throughout history.



WHY THIS PROGRAM MATTERS

This lecture-recital serves not only as a memorial to the countless lives lost during the Holocaust but also as a reminder that we all share responsibility in rejecting hatred, discrimination, and dehumanization of any kind.

