

**ORCHESTRA OF EXILES EXPLORES THE CREATION OF ONE OF THE GREATEST SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS AS A WORLD WAR APPROACHED, AIRING SUNDAY, APRIL 14 AT 10 P.M. ON PBS**

*Feature-length documentary film from THIRTEEN tells the story of Jewish violinist Bronislaw Huberman’s heroic efforts to save 1,000 Jews from Nazi-occupation*

On the brink of World War II and the rise of Nazi-occupation, one man’s remarkable four-year odyssey helped rescue Europe’s premier Jewish musicians and their families from persecution, while preserving the musical heritage of Europe. *Orchestra of Exiles*, a 90-minute documentary film by Academy Award nominated Josh Aronson, airing Sunday, April 14 at 10 p.m. ET on PBS (check local listings), tells the dramatic story of celebrated Polish violinist Bronislaw Huberman (1882-1947) who — with courage, resourcefulness, and an entourage of allies including Arturo Toscanini and Albert Einstein — bravely stood up to racial intolerance, ultimately saving almost 1,000 Jews from 1933–1936 while forming the Palestine Symphony Orchestra.

In New York, THIRTEEN will present the program at the same date and time listed above. Receiving high praise after playing in front of Johannes Brahams at age 12, Huberman quickly rose to fame as a young violin prodigy. Pressured by his father, the teenager supported his family by touring Europe and playing concerts for society’s elite. After the death of his father and desiring the broader education that his father had denied him, Huberman canceled all his scheduled concerts and enrolled at the Sorbonne, sacrificing his own professional and financial security. It was studying there, as well as witnessing the devastation of World War I, that triggered an intense interest in humanity and politics. After university, Huberman regained his place among the elite musicians of the world but with a new perspective, now astutely aware of the realities of world politics.
In the early 1930s, as part of his anti-Semitic agenda, Adolph Hitler began forcing Jewish musicians out of the great German orchestras. Sensing the ominous danger looming and seeing an opportunity, Huberman set out to create an orchestra in Palestine made of these top-tier Jewish exiles. He aspired to form a world-class orchestra that would build the prestige of Jews everywhere while serving as a powerful tool to protest the Nazi regime on a global stage.

“I had to descend into the furthest depths of my soul to find the hidden link between my impulse towards art and my impulse towards politics, and then I made a huge discovery. The true artist does not create art as an end in itself. He creates art for human beings. Humanity is the goal,” Huberman noted about his political consciousness in a letter.

Over a course of three years, Huberman conducted auditions with the top Jewish musicians in Austria, Germany, Hungary, Netherlands, Palestine, and Poland. He lobbied for hundreds of certificates of entry into Palestine and turned his own concerts into fundraisers to raise the substantial money needed for the creation of the orchestra. By December 1936, Huberman had safely brought hundreds of Jews to Palestine — including 56 musicians to play in the inaugural concerts conducted by the world-renowned Arturo Toscanini, who agreed to conduct as a public protest of the Nazi regime. The rehearsals and inaugural concerts were seen by 15,000 people and were heard on radio around the world, changing the landscape of cultural history. In 1948, with 44 of its founding members, the Palestine Symphony Orchestra was renamed the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra by the first Prime Minister of Israel David Ben Gurion, and still carries on today under the artistic direction of Zubin Mehta as a leading force in the world of music.

_Orchestra of Exiles_ features interviews with acclaimed musicians Joshua Bell, Leon Botstein, Mehta, Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, and others, and draws from archival footage, photographs, and re-creations shot in Germany, New York, Poland, and Israel.

_Orchestra of Exiles_ is an Aronson Film Associates Production in association with THIRTEEN for WNET, one of America’s most prolific and respected public media providers. For 50 years, WNET has been producing and broadcasting national and local arts programming to the New York community. _Orchestra of Exiles_ is produced, written and directed by Josh Aronson. Julie Anderson is executive producer for THIRTEEN.


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About WNET
In 2013, WNET is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of THIRTEEN, New York’s flagship public media provider. As the parent company of THIRTEEN and WLIW21 and operator of NJTV, WNET brings quality arts, education and public affairs programming to over 5 million viewers each week. WNET produces and presents such acclaimed PBS series as Nature, Great Performances, American Masters, Need to Know, Charlie Rose and a range of documentaries, children’s programs, and local news and cultural offerings available on air and online. Pioneers in educational programming, WNET has created such groundbreaking series as Get the Math, Oh Noah! and Cyberchase and provides tools for educators that bring compelling content to life in the classroom and at home. WNET highlights the tri-state’s unique culture and diverse communities through NYC-ARTS, Reel 13, NJ Today and MetroFocus, the multi-platform news magazine focusing on the New York region.