

IRON & COAL

WORLD PREMIERE

May 3, 2018

*We take up this timely challenge
to share the memories, lessons,
and legacies of those who were
lost and those who survived.
Never Forget*

חכשא אל פלועל

We encourage your support as Strathmore looks forward to producing its next large-scale theatrical concert.

ABOUT IRON & COAL: SURVIVOR & SON

Iron & Coal is a powerful and personal rock album by acclaimed composer and performer Jeremy Schonfeld. Taking inspiration from his father Gustav's memoir *Absence of Closure*, Schonfeld traces his father's attempts to create a life out of the ashes having spent a year in Auschwitz in 1944–45 at the age of ten. The ghosts of a distant and vanished world, both of horror and the iron will to survive, mix with the present in this remarkable theatrical concert. Using projections, animation, a rock band, chamber orchestra, adult and youth choruses, and youth orchestra, this project celebrates the indomitable spirit of our ancestors and the legacy we carry with us.

IRON
&
COAL

SURVIVOR.
AND SON.

STRATHMORE

WHY THIS WORK? WHY NOW?

FROM *TIME* MAGAZINE, JULY 3, 2016:

“There are just 100,000 Holocaust survivors alive today.”

“The number of eloquent survivors is few and far between,” said Michael Zank, 58, the director of the Elie Wiesel Center for Jewish Studies at Boston University, who was mentored by Wiesel. “It puts the responsibility on us, the next generation, the children of survivors, the grandchildren of survivors, to become as articulate as we can be in maintaining this memory and the mandate that comes with it.”

FROM *IRON & COAL* COMPOSER AND LYRICIST, JEREMY SCHONFELD:

“While *Iron & Coal* exists within specific historic and Jewish contexts, it cannot simply be labeled a ‘Jewish’ or ‘Holocaust’ album. In fact, most of the themes covered in this collection of songs are universal: life, love, death, the unique relationships of fathers with sons and the path to reconciliation and perseverance.”

FROM STRATHMORE’S ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, JOI BROWN:

“What we have learned from Lin Manuel Miranda’s blockbuster *Hamilton* and other new and cutting-edge treatments of historic content, is that the contemporary vernaculars of pop, rock, rap, hip-hop, visual media, and songwriting are powerful tools to bring new audiences to our shared history and the lessons it offers.”



SURVIVOR.
AND SON.

STRATHMORE

IRON & COAL IN THE MAKING

Schonfeld began working on *Iron & Coal* following his father's cancer diagnosis. The final recording was mastered in Vienna on the day of Gustav's passing in 2011. Since that time, segments of the work have been performed and additional creative content was added to explore other dimensions of the work, including beautiful animations to enhance the theatricality and abstract narratives.

JULY 2011

Just two months after the recording was mastered, the *Iron & Coal* theme song was performed by Schonfeld as the headline of European Macabee Games Ceremonies in Vienna. Shortly after, *Iron & Coal* was nominated for several Amadeus Awards (Austrian Grammys).
<https://youtu.be/R-rQmMRu1lg>

2012–2014

Schonfeld collaborates with New York choreographers and media artists to begin to create additional content for the work, moving the project towards a full multimedia theatrical presentation.
<https://youtu.be/jKVB9uZ2rUo>

DECEMBER 2016

With the support of a generous donor, the creative team produces a chamber size production of *Iron & Coal* at Brooklyn's National Sawdust, an incubator space for new work. This is the first public performance of the full album and features Schonfeld, members of Contemporaneous (a 21-member contemporary chamber music ensemble), guest vocalists, and visual media all under the direction of Kevin Newbury, the projects founding director.

JANUARY 2017

On the heels of a successful appearance at National Sawdust, plans to formalize the expanded production begin. A broader artistic team is solidified, and Strathmore pledges resources and support for the world premiere.

FEBRUARY 2017

The *Iron & Coal* project is bolstered by the addition of Beth Morrison Productions (BMP) as lead creative producer. BMP is the most sought-after producer of

contemporary opera and theatrical concerts in the US with credits at BAM, Kennedy Center, Chicago Lyric, and Los Angeles Opera among others.

MARCH–JUNE 2017

BMP guides the artistic personnel and producing partners through the first phase of planning and fundraising. A workshop with all creatives is planned for September 2017 in New York. Plans are solidified for the world premiere at Strathmore in May to include the core cast of 30, an additional 30 members of MCYO, members of SCC, and an adult concert choir. Total number of artists on stage is anticipated at 150 or more.

JULY 2017

Staff from Strathmore and BMP together launch a broad fundraising campaign in the New York and Washington, DC metro areas to support the project and achieve a combined goal of \$75,000. The total project budget to produce *Iron & Coal* and fund its world premiere is \$250,000—making it the third most ambitious in Strathmore's history along-side our 2016 production of *I Am Anne Hutchinson / I Am Harvey Milk* by composer Andrew Lippa, and our 2017 production of *All Rise* by Wynton Marsalis.

LONG TERM GOAL FOR PROJECT

The process of building and premiering *Iron & Coal* at Strathmore will also serve as launch pad for future touring. Artists from the world premiere will develop a core group of touring personnel that can tour and collaborate with local choirs and musicians so that *Iron & Coal* can be experienced by other communities. In this way, Strathmore is not only supporting the creation of new work for our own audiences but playing a role in works that live beyond their time in our community.



SURVIVOR.
AND SON.

STRATHMORE

ARTISTIC TEAM



JEREMY SCHONFELD, COMPOSER/LYRICIST

is a celebrated singer-songwriter, composer, lyricist, occasional actor, producer, mentor, and teacher. His rock concept album, *Iron & Coal*, produced in Vienna, Austria, with producing partners Beat4Feet (Martin Gellner

and Werner Stranka), was nominated for several Amadeus Awards (the Austrian Grammys) and is currently in development as a large-scale, multimedia theatrical production. Previously, Schonfeld created the album *37 Notebooks* featuring vocal performance contributions from friends including Adam Pascal, Julia Murney, Tracie Thoms, Amy Spanger, Lauren Kennedy, and Donnie Keher. “House of Love,” recorded by Shoshana Bean and featuring the Broadway Dreams Chorus for *37 Notebooks*, is consistently used in many diverse charitable campaigns including Defying Inequality and Rockers on Broadway.

As a composer/lyricist, Schonfeld has several shows under his belt and many in development. *Drift*, based on the rock concept album *Iron & Coal*, won numerous awards for productions at the New York Musical Theater Festival and the Kennedy Theater in Raleigh, North Carolina. Schonfeld also recently broke ground on a new project with respected journalist and author Steve Fishman of *New York Magazine*.
JeremySchonfeld.com

STRATHMORE, CO-PRODUCER & PRESENTER

Strathmore continues to push into new territory as a producing partner of major new works. *Iron & Coal* will be a centerpiece of a season-long series titled “Windows” in which songwriting is explored as a window of understanding to place, people, and perspectives. Strathmore’s own young artists will be on the front lines of participation with the inclusion of Strathmore Children’s Chorus (SCC) and members of Maryland Classic Youth Orchestras of Strathmore (MCYO), collaborating with professional guest artists.

Through its commitment to support new work, Strathmore has taken on an increasing role in several large-scale productions over the past few years. In 2016, Strathmore produced the world premiere of *I Am Anne Hutchinson / I Am Harvey Milk* by acclaimed composer Andrew Lipka, featuring Broadway icon Kristin Chenoweth. This was followed in 2017 by a very ambitious production of Wynton Marsalis’ masterwork *All Rise*—which had not been produced in over ten years due to its size and complexity. Strathmore’s role as co-producer for *Iron & Coal* demonstrates our continuing commitment to innovative product and emerging artists and our role as an industry leader.
Strathmore.org

KEVIN NEWBURY, DIRECTOR

KevinNewbury.com

CONTEMPORANEOUS, MUSICAL ENSEMBLE

Contemporaneous.org

WENDALL K. HARRINGTON, PROJECTION DESIGN

WendallHarrington.com

BETH MORRISON PRODUCTIONS, CREATIVE PRODUCER

BethMorrisonProjects.org

STRATHMORE.ORG | 301.581.5100



SURVIVOR.
AND SON.

STRATHMORE