

WINNIPEG SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA



*So many high school students I've dialogued with knew more about computer technology and the world of modern communications than about one of the most intellectually and emotionally impacting events in human history. We must study history and by extension the Holocaust to better understand ourselves and to hopefully become informed compassionate citizens of the world. It is in the spirit of human rights, education, and the pressing need for informed peace that **I Believe** finds its raison d'être.*

Composer Zane Zalis, 2008

October 4, 2010

Dear Colleague,

These words are the premise of ***I Believe***, a vivid and deeply moving concert work, by Winnipeg composer **Zane Zalis**, with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra premiered on May 21, 2009 to a sold out audience that was on its feet in acclaim following the final notes. I am writing to you in support of ***I Believe*** with the hope that your orchestra will consider this remarkable work for one of your season offerings.

I Believe is a large scale 80-minute concert work about the Holocaust. In 12 movements using music and words, a story of hate, survival and hope is told from within the minds of the victims and perpetrators. It is cast for symphony orchestra, large mixed chorus, children's chorus, ensembles, soloists and narrator.

I Believe encompasses not only a narrative from the beginning of the Holocaust through liberation but also a plea for awareness, understanding and peace wherever issues of human rights are concerned. The musical syntax is accessible, the choral writing rich and resourceful and the orchestral forces are used with skill. Mr. Zalis's gift for melody is a hallmark of ***I Believe***, and a number of the movements can stand alone for purely memorable songwriting.

It is rare to find a Canadian piece of this scope, quality and universality of message that, as we found, can move an audience with such intensity. ***I Believe*** is just that. I do hope you will explore a presentation and I am confident your audience will respond as ours did.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Trudy Schroeder".

Trudy Schroeder
Executive Director