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*"Her voice soars with foreboding beauty..."*

***Opera Diva Raya Gonen***  
***Keeps Singing***  
***For Survival and Hope***

*"Singing for Survival – From Holocaust to Hope"*  
(A recital for soprano, narrator and piano)

Israeli- American soprano **Raya Gonen's** loving tribute to the music of composers from the Holocaust, has a powerful message for today's audiences, young and old. A daughter of survivors who were saved by Lithuanian Christians, the renowned soprano created an hour-long musical-educational program rich with historical detail and beautiful songs, as she fulfills a lifelong mission to celebrate the artistic legacy of those who endowed humanity with a resounding message of courage and hope.

*"My parents' personal stories were the inspiration for this project, and music is the perfect medium to transmit them. I selected some 17 songs written during the war, and intertwined them with connecting narrative passages which provide historical background and personal details of each composer's life," explains Ms. Gonen. "From a heart-wrenching outcry of a burning town to a call to resistance and arms; from a tender lullaby to an ode to nature or love of country – the songs give you a distinct sense of the personal voices marked by those large, at times incomprehensible, atrocities and events. Remarkably, over six decades after war ended, these voices endure with universal messages as fresh and as vital today and tomorrow - the human spirit triumphs with hope for a better future for all mankind."*



## ["Singing for Survival – From Holocaust to Hope"](#)

(A recital for soprano, narrator and piano), has a significant appeal to many organizations, institutions and presenters. Its unique format and message would be suitable for inclusion in music festivals; commemorative events; educational projects; interfaith, humanitarian and communal programs, and the concert stage, among others. The program has already been received enthusiastically by audiences at dozens of venues in the U.S. and in Israel, among them the Israeli Embassy in Washington, DC, Monmouth University, NJ, Rutgers University, NJ, Stockton College, NJ, and the San Diego and San Francisco Jewish Community Centres. The San Diego Jewish Press Heritage wrote: "Ms. Gonen sang with a beautiful voice and deep emotion, touching our hearts and leaving an incredible impact on the audience. This program deserves and needs to be repeated!"

Soprano Raya Gonen, hailed as “*diva par excellence*,” has impressed audiences and critics in Israel, Europe and the U.S. with her supreme musicality, dazzling stage presence and vocal beauty. On the opera stage, she has performed leading roles in Puccini’s *La Boheme*, Donizetti’s *Marino Faliero*, Rossini’s *Mose in Egitto*, Arieta’s *Marina*, Bizet’s *Carmen*, Verdi’s *La Traviata* and Donizetti’s *Don Pasquale*. Ms. Gonen gave a memorable performance as *Lucy* in Menotti’s *The Telephone*, and represented Israel at the *Cardiff Singer of the World Competition* in Wales.

On the recital stage, the soprano has performed works by Chopin in honour of Polish President Lech Walensa, and songs by Grieg in Oslo, Norway. She performed in some of the world’s most prestigious venues, including Carnegie Hall, The New Israeli Opera and The Israel Philharmonic, under the batons of Zubin Mehta, Roger Norrington, David Robertson and Asher Fisch.

**Raya Gonen is also the first and only vocalist to devote an entire recording to contemporary art songs by Israeli composers ([Vocal Jewels from Israel](#) - Centaur Records).** She performed the program in her **Carnegie Hall** debut under the auspices of the Israeli Consulate to enthusiastic reviews: "*the brilliance and beauty of gemstones... [performed with] passion and quiet strength...*"

Ms. Gonen has made several appearances on radio and TV in Israel and the U.S. She is the recipient of numerous honours including the **Edis de Phillip Award**, presented to her by **Placido Domingo**, and Israel’s Cultural Foundation Grant. A graduate of the Rubin Academy of Music, Israel’s Vocal Institute and Westminster Choir College at Princeton, Ms. Gonen studied with Elizabeth Schwarzkopf, Nathania Dovrat, Licia Albanese and Gary Magby, among others. Gonen is currently on the music faculties of Muhlenberg College, PA and Monmouth University, NJ.

[Click here](#) to hear *audio clips* from **Singing for Survival: From Holocaust to Hope**

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