**Presenters feedback**

“A terrific performance! The show is really special and I hope you find many more venues to present it.”

- Eric Stein, Artistic Director, Toronto Ashkenaz Festival

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“A moving and beautiful musical tribute. The concert was a polished and creative feat of story-telling, performed at the highest level.

- Cynthia Weinstein, Executive Director, Congregation Dorshei Emet, Montreal

“It was such a special program and I am so glad we had the opportunity to present it. We have received excellent feedback.”

- Dara Solomon, Executive Director, Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto

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**Testimonials from Thieves of Dreams audiences**

I am still marvelling at the gifts and talents of Lenka and her group…the other gifted female musicians. It was one of the most moving and special concerts my husband and I and friends attended. It is hard to find words for the emotional evening….the combination of music and voices and multi instruments…plus the videos telling the very sad but mainly uplifting story of Lenka and her grandmother and mother, the finding of the poetry after their deaths and the beautiful application to music. I will be following Lenka and her music from now on and reviewing her whole history of so many types of music.

Such a gift, Lenka, you have brought to the world. Your story … needs to be told, especially now….for me, your story brings both tears and joys about the power of both writing and music and art.

Such a special evening I will continue to remember with the songs of both sadness and, especially, of hope. Continued success to you and to all your groups.

DK, Montreal

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Review, February 4, 2023

Lenka Lichtenberg, Jessica Deutsch (violin, bass guitar), Fern Linzon (keyboard, vocals), and Auri Fell (sax, ukulele, beat boxing) took the audience at Dorshei Emet Synagogue, Montreal,QC, on a beautiful journey on Saturday evening, Feb. 4, 2023.  They presented us with Lichtenberg’s Thieves of Dreams, her Juno nominated album. Conceived and composed by Lichtenberg, the songs and interlude music were atmospheric, tightly woven and wonderfully performed by Lichtenberg and her band.  We were introduced to Lenka’s amazing, beautiful Grandmother through poetry, songs, and photos.  Lichtenberg drew us into the Czech world just before the war, the degradations and then deprivations that led to the concentration camp, Theresienstadt .  Her grandmother’s poetry helps us experience the feelings of a young, beautiful woman full of life and love.  It was ninety minutes that flew by as we listened to voices weaving together with easy modulations, pure pitches and echoes of old world folk tunes and rhythms. Even with extensive use of technology , the performance felt intimate, seamless, and focused on the very human emotions of betrayal, love and loss. Kudos to Lichtenberg and her musicians.  Thank you for this moving experience.

DEK, Montreal

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This was a richly layered, deeply poetic and moving performance. What at times was devastating material, was rendered palatable by the music’s refusal to descend to the depths of darkness and despair. The wide range of musical styles and voices with a rich tapestry of timbres heard from the combinations of different female voices, piano, violin, bass guitar, strings and more, held the interest of the audience and was interwoven with images and the written words of the poems of Lena Lichtenberg’s grandmother in English. Ms. Lichtenberg’s voice gave beautiful, soulful expression to her grandmother’s poems, often in the original Czech language they were written in.

I so appreciate the opportunity to experience a first-hand account of the Holocaust through the eyes of an artist.

I highly recommend this performance.

SS, Montreal

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I'd like to applaud you and your group of performers for tackling an extensive amount of information and stories and presenting it in such a rich fashion. I felt there was so much to digest, but it was palatable due to the play between word, song, visuals and the various instruments. Your choosing to have the different band members sing or read was lovely, especially because your story is about women presented by women.

i was especially struck by the last sentence of the performance. It left me with the feeling of ..wow, and we think we know people. You were not being critical, but making a profound observation which seemed to confess your discovery of secrets behind a woman that you only knew in a certain way, and that you had to get to know in a new way all over again. People are so multi-dimensional.

I enjoyed the sincerity of the story and especially watching it come from you, the granddaughter.

Thank you for introducing me to sound of your music. It was powerful, often very moving. I left the evening feeling that I witnessed a very powerful story, a real story. It was truly meaningful and touched me to the core.

Best of luck to the ongoing journey of this performance. I hope it continues to blossom for what it is and more,

MR, Montreal

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From a young audience member:

Hi Lenka - I left the show right away for my hockey game so I didn’t get a chance to tell you how awesome it was! It was so beautiful to hear your musical adaptations and read your grandmothers words. I am wondering if you can send me the words to one of them. It was the second last stanza about grief being a part of living. It was very touching. Thanks!

AC, Toronto

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From a young mother with a toddler:

Thank you for your beautiful concert. I was totally blown away by the performance & music, and so touched by your grandmother's story.

I found your album on Spotify and I have been playing it every night to (my 2-year old) at bedtime. He loves it & falls asleep so peacefully to the music (not to mention it’s also the nicest way to wind down my day).

TK, Toronto

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The Thieves of Dreams concert was very moving with beautiful musical accompaniment and Lenka’s exquisite voice. Very interesting to hear were the variety of instruments producing varied sounds. In all a very meaningful concert.

GO, Montreal

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I found the Thieves of Dreams performance excellent and very moving. My guess is that her grandmother wrote nothing after her release because it was her way of coping with where she was.

NS, Montreal

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The concert Thieves of Dreams of Feb.4 to which I went with two other ladies was wonderful and very touching. All three of us, long standing friends of Czech origins enjoyed not only the poems but the musical arrangements which were new in style to us. Obviously, we bought the CDs.

JK, MF and LP

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