

For Immediate Release:
The Irving Fine Society
Contact: Nicholas A. Brown
240-706-7392
irvingfinesoc@gmail.com
www.irvingfinesoc.org



**AMERICAN COMPOSER IRVING FINE'S CENTENNIAL YEAR
TO LAUNCH AT CARNEGIE HALL ON DECEMBER 7**

**Orpheus Chamber Orchestra Begins National Commemorations
with a Performance of Fine's *Serious Song, Lament for String Orchestra***

**The Irving Fine Society & Fine Family Join Forces with Leading Arts Institutions
Nationwide to Commemorate Fine's Music and Legacy**

Washington, DC – The life, legacy and music of celebrated American composer Irving Fine (1914-1962) will be commemorated by a special centennial year of events programmed throughout the United States. The centennial officially kicks-off this December 7 at **CARNEGIE HALL** with a special performance of Fine's *Serious Song, A Lament for String Orchestra* (1955) by the **ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA. THE IRVING FINE SOCIETY**, in conjunction with the Fine family, is working in collaboration with leading arts and academic institutions to shed light on Fine's role as a major figure in American music history.

Highlights of the Fine centennial include a week-long festival at the **LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**, performances by the **BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS** at Boston's Jordan Hall, several events at **BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY**, and performances by **MUSIC FROM COPLAND HOUSE**. The Library of Congress Irving Fine Centennial Festival features a new commission by American composer **JEFFERSON FRIEDMAN** played by the **CHIARA QUARTET** and pianist **SIMONE DINNERSTEIN**, a symposium on Fine and his contemporaries, the release of a new master class documentary led by Pulitzer-winning composer **RICHARD WERNICK**, and a new transcription of Fine's *Toccata Concertante* for two pianos by **DAVID HENNING PLYLAR**.

"Composer, scholar and conductor, Irving Fine was one of the most gifted products of Boston musical life in the 1940s... there is an attractive lyrical impulse, as well as an ever-impressive economy of thought and texture." —Gramophone

The Irving Fine Society || Nicholas Alexander Brown, Music Director & Founder

Founded in 2006, The Irving Fine Society represents the family of Irving and Verna Fine, and acts as a producing organization for concerts, educational programs and scholarly activities related to the legacy of composer Irving Fine, and the global impact of American culture in the twentieth century. Led by music director Nicholas Alexander Brown, IFS has been featured in concerts at Harvard University's Sanders Theater, Brandeis University, the Goethe-Institut Boston, as well as other venues around the greater-Boston area. Recent projects include tributes to Benjamin Britten, Aaron Copland, Olivier Messiaen, Erwin Schulhoff, and the U.S. premiere of works by German composer Edwin Geist, whose life was cut short during the Holocaust. IFS serves as the principal coordinator for planning of the 2014 Irving Fine Centennial, assisting with efforts nationally and internationally to advocate for Fine's music and legacy.

About Irving Fine

Born in Boston, Irving Fine (1914-1962) is considered one of America's greatest neoclassical composers, though he shifted to romanticism and serialism later in his career. He trained as a pianist and completed studies at Harvard College with Walter Piston and Edward Burlingame Hill, as well as Nadia Boulanger. He studied conducting with Serge Koussevitzky, who became a close friend and mentor. In the mid-twentieth century Fine was a key member of a group of composers known as the "Boston Six"—along with Arthur Berger, Leonard Bernstein, Aaron Copland, Lukas Foss and Harold Shapero. His compositions include *Partita for Wind Quintet* (1948), two sets of *Alice in Wonderland* choruses (1942/1953), *String Quartet* (1952) and *Symphony* (1962), commissioned by the Boston Symphony Orchestra and premiered under the baton of Charles Munch. Though Fine's output as a composer was limited, due to his passing at the young age of 48 and a commitment to building the School of the Creative Arts at Brandeis University, many of his compositions have become standard repertory works representing the American neoclassical school.

Fine began his career as a music educator at Harvard, where he taught theory and composition classes, and directed the Glee Club. He also taught composition at Tanglewood for nine years. Fine left Harvard in 1950 to build a new music department at Brandeis University. He is the father of the great arts tradition at Brandeis, where he was a model administrator and devoted educator. Fine made Brandeis a hub for creativity at a pivotal juncture in American history by bringing major artists to the faculty, including Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland. He founded the university's annual Festival of the Creative Arts, which first attracted international attention to the then-fledgling institution. It was under Fine's auspices at the first festival in 1952 that Marc Blitzstein's translated adaptation of Weill's *The Threepenny Opera* and Bernstein's *Trouble in Tahiti* were premiered.

Selected Centennial Events

December 7, 2013 (7pm) – Carnegie Hall, New York, NY

ORPHEUS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA with MARTIN FRÖST, clarinet

HANDEL | Concerto Grosso in F major, op. 6, no. 2

MOZART | Clarinet Concerto in A major

FINE | *Serious Song, A Lament for String Orchestra*

MOZART | Symphony no. 29 in A major

January 12, 2014 (3pm) – Jordan Hall, Boston, MA

BOSTON SYMPHONY CHAMBER PLAYERS with GILBERT KALISH, piano

COPLAND | *Vitebsk, Study on a Jewish Theme*, for piano, violin, and cello

FINE | *Fantasia for String Trio*

MOZART | Quintet in E-flat for piano and winds, K. 452

BRAHMS | Quartet no. 3 in C minor for piano and strings, op. 60

March 9, 2014 (3pm) – Slosberg Recital Hall, Waltham, MA

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY TRIBUTE TO IRVING FINE

Program Details To Be Announced

December 2-6, 2014 – Coolidge Auditorium, Washington, DC

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS IRVING FINE CENTENNIAL FESTIVAL

Library of Congress Commission by Jefferson Friedman

Chiara Quartet with Simone Dinnerstein, piano

New transcription of Fine's *Toccata Concertante* by David Henning Plylar

Symposium on Irving Fine's Music, World and Legacy

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