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AMERICAN COMPOSER IRVING FINE CELEBRATED AT COLUMBIA'S MILLER THEATRE

The Irving Fine Society and the Orchestra of the League of Composers Join Forces to Present Fine's *Notturmo* for Strings and Harp (1951)

World Premiere of Morris Rosenzweig's *A League of Notions* (2015), and New York Premieres of Works by Kaija Saariaho and David Felder

New York City – The centennial of American composer IRVING FINE will be celebrated at Columbia University's Miller Theatre on June 11, 2015 at 8:00pm with a concert by the [ORCHESTRA OF THE LEAGUE OF COMPOSERS](#). In addition to performing Fine's *Notturmo* for Strings and Harp (1951), the orchestra performs New York premieres of [KAIJA SAARIAHO](#)'s *Leino Songs* (2008) and [DAVID FLEDER](#)'s *Les Quatre Temps Cardinaux* (excerpts) (2013). [MORRIS ROSENZWEIG](#)'s *A League of Notions* (2015), commissioned by the League of Composers/ISCM, will receive its world premiere. Soprano [HEATHER BUCK](#) and bass [ETHAN HERSCHENFELD](#) are featured in the Saariaho premiere.

The ORCHESTRA OF THE LEAGUE OF COMPOSERS is an ensemble of the League of Composers, one of the oldest organizations in the United States dedicated to contemporary music. The League has a distinguished history of presenting and supporting premieres of major contemporary works, such as Schoenberg's *Die Glückliche Hand* and Samuel Barber's Piano Sonata. American premieres supported by the League include those of Stravinsky's *Le Sacre du Printemps*, Ligeti's Horn Trio, and Stockhausen's *Harlequin*, as well as many works by former honorary board co-chairs, Elliott Carter and Milton Babbitt.

Founded in 2006, [THE IRVING FINE SOCIETY](#) (IFS) 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, Goethe-Institut Boston, and other venues around the greater-Boston area. IFS serves as the principal coordinator for planning of the Irving Fine Centennial, assisting with efforts nationally and internationally to advocate for Fine's music and legacy. IFS recently collaborated with Boston Modern Orchestra Project and Brandeis University to present a concert of Fine's orchestral music at Jordan Hall in Boston and to produce a commercial [recording](#) of Fine's orchestral works. [The New York Times](#) praised the recording as “an essential and rewarding new recording” that “brought some overdue attention to this significant and influential figure.”

LISTING: Thursday, June 11, 2015 – 8:00pm

ORCHESTRA OF THE LEAGUE OF COMPOSERS

(Miller Theatre, Columbia University, 116th Street; 2960 Broadway, New York, NY)

Works by Irving Fine, David Felder, Morris Rosenzweig and Kaija Saariaho

[Tickets](#): \$20 (General), \$10 (Students/Seniors) | www.leagueofcomposers.org

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.

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.

Despite his tragically sudden early death at the age of 47 and his academic and administrative commitments, Fine produced a remarkably varied output. Many of his compositions have become standard repertory works representing the American neoclassical school. 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.

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