

## Press Release



### **Kept Under Glass: Unheard Women's Voices**

Works of rarely-heard Austrian and German women composers unleashed in a stirring multimedia street concert

**April 19, 2021, Washington, DC** – The Goethe-Institut, the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington, IN Series Opera Theater, Spooky Action Theater, Whitman-Walker, and The Corner at Whitman-Walker, have partnered to present *Kept Under Glass: Unheard Women's Voices*: a multimedia pop-up performance of songs about love and longing for connection by under-recognized Austrian and German women composers from throughout music history. This cooperation with neighborhood theatre partners and long-time project collaborators highlights friendships between art and cultural institutions throughout the 14th Street neighborhood and beyond.

*Kept Under Glass* was conceived and curated by Gillian Drake, Jared Mezzocchi, and Gordon Nimmo-Smith, with Rob Bowen Smith (Choreographer), Timothy Nelson (Music Director), and Shanara Gabrielle (Director).

On May 5-6, *Kept Under Glass* will celebrate music composed over eight centuries, expressed in styles from medieval chants to classical opera to romantic *Lieder* to early 20th century works. The four performances will take place across two evenings at Whitman-Walker's new cultural center, The Corner at Whitman-Walker. Three performers, each in their own bay window, will sing to their audience gathered on the sidewalk on the other side of the glass. Performances will be 30 minutes long with a live projection show designed for each singer and song.

"We are all very excited to bring *Kept Under Glass* to 14th Street," said Lena Jöhnk, Director of Cultural Programming at the Goethe-Institut Washington. "This production has been put together by neighborhood partners, for the neighborhood, and it is also the first in-person event we've presented since before the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thrilled to finally see our audience again while respecting all precautions."

Gillian Drake, Producer and Curator of *Kept Under Glass*, sought to find parallels between the struggles expressed in the music and the struggles that individuals and communities have been facing throughout the pandemic. "Just as these magnificent female composers were kept under the glass ceiling of their potential by a male-controlled industry, our singers perform behind glass separating artist and audience - longing for a barrier-free future," she said. "With these songs, these glorious singers express our year-long communal experience: demoralized, muffled, isolated from those we love... our stifled voices yearning to be unleashed. We are so happy to bring to our neighborhood a covid-observant and humanly-exuberant street concert to enjoy together."

*Kept Under Glass* is a part of the [Stay Alive to Life!](#): Resilience in Times of Covid exhibition, presented by The Corner at Whitman-Walker.

Address:  
The Corner at Whitman-Walker  
1701 14th St. NW  
Washington, DC 20009

Concert times are:  
May 5 – 8:30pm - 9:00pm  
May 5 – 9:30pm - 10:00pm  
May 6 – 8:30pm - 9:00pm  
May 6 – 9:30pm - 10:00pm



Bay Windows at The Corner at Whitman-Walker, 1701 14th St. NW

The program will operate within Washington, DC's health and safety regulations, and social distancing will be monitored on the sidewalk.

No registration is necessary.

Music for the program is by Austrian and German women composers: Hildegard von Bingen, Wilhelmine von Bayreuth, Anna Amalia, Marianna Martines, Corona Schröter, Maria Theresia von Paradis, Bettina von Arnim, Louise Reichardt, Fanny Mendelssohn, Josephine Lang, Clara Schumann, Johanna Müller Hermann, Vilma von Webenau, and Anja Plaschg (Soap&Skin).

**Online Listings** – [Goethe-Institut Washington](#) website, [Austrian Cultural Forum Washington](#) website, [Eventbrite](#), [Facebook](#)

### **Social Media -**

Goethe-Institut Washington: @GoetheDC (Facebook, Twitter), @Goethe\_DC (Instagram)

Austrian Cultural Forum Washington: @ACFDC (Facebook), @acfwashington (Twitter, Instagram)

IN Series Opera Theater: @INseriesDC (Facebook, Twitter), @INseriesOpera (Instagram)

Spooky Action Theater: @spookyactiondc (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

The Corner at Whitman-Walker: @thecornerdc (Facebook, Instagram)

Whitman-Walker: @whitmanwalker (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)

### **About the Goethe-Institut –**

The Goethe-Institut is the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany with a global reach promoting knowledge of the German language abroad and fostering international cultural cooperation.

### **About the Austrian Cultural Forum Washington –**

The Austrian Cultural Forum Washington (ACFDC) serves as a focal point to promote Austrian culture and art in the Washington, DC metro area. By organizing a variety of cultural events throughout the year, ACFDC aims at encouraging cultural exchange between Austrian and American artists and its audiences.

### **About IN Series Opera Theater –**

IN Series Opera Theater makes theater from music: transforming artists, audiences, and community by disrupting expectations, nourishing empathy, stimulating insight, and deepening the conversation.

### **About Spooky Action Theater –**

Spooky Action Theater is a dynamic young company committed to recharging the audience's imaginative, intuitive, emotional core by linking artists & audience in the collaborative adventure of live theater.

### **About The Corner at Whitman-Walker –**

The Corner is dedicated to cultural expression as a life-force that allows all to recognize the world in its diversity and complexity, that encourages all to acknowledge and affirm otherness in all its forms as an essential part of existence, and that conveys a broader understanding of what needs to be learned and practiced in support of individual, communal, social and political empowerment and justice.

### **About Whitman-Walker Health –**

Through multiple locations throughout DC, Whitman-Walker provides stigma-free care to anyone who walks through their doors. They are proud and honored to be a place where the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer communities, as well to those living with or affected by HIV feel supported, welcomed and respected.

For questions regarding *Kept Under Glass*, please contact:

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