

# *Brundibár: An Afterlife*

AMS San Francisco

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## **Example 1: Original Performances**

Winter of 1942/43: Premiere at Jewish Orphanage in Prague

-Instrumentation: flute, clarinet 1 & 2, trumpet, piano, percussion, violin 1 & 2, cello

-Hans Krása not present due to deportation to Terezín on 10 August 1942

23 July 1943: Premiere at Terezín

-Instrumentation: piccolo, flute, clarinet, guitar, trumpet, accordion, piano, percussion, four violins, a cello and a double bass

23 June 1944: International Red Cross delegation visit Terezín

-*Brundibár* presented

-Instrumentation: Same as premiere at Terezín

16 August 1944: Nazi propaganda film shot about Terezín, Kurt Geron: Director

-*Brundibár* presented

-Instrumentation: Same as premiere at Terezín

## **Example 2: Post- Terezín History of *Brundibár***

1975: *Brundibár* premieres in the United States

1977: English premiere in Canada

1993 (revised 1998): Joža Karas publishes the first English translation

1995: the organization *Jeunesses Musicales Deutschland* establishes “The *Brundibár* Project”- a project involving eyewitnesses and education about *Brundibár* and Terezín that has caused great interest in *Brundibár* as a tool of education

1997: Zuzana Justman directs and screen writes the documentary, *Voices of the Children*. This film documents the stories of three survivors of Terezín and the impact of *Brundibár*

2003: Alternative English adaptation written by playwright, Tony Kushner for the Chicago Opera

October 2003: Opera is adapted for a children’s book by Tony Kushner with illustrations by Maurice Sendak

May 2006: Popular production of *Brundibár* at the New Victory Theater in New York- set is designed by Maurice Sendak and Kris Stone

## **Table 1: Finale of *Brundibár***

Krásá, Hans. *Brundibár*. Libretto by Adolf Hoffmeister. Berlin: Bote and Bock, 2004.

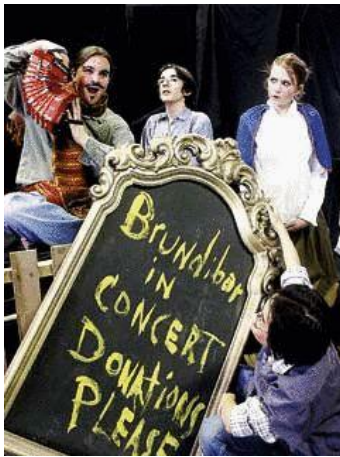
Czech Version	English Version- by Joža Karas
Brundibár poražen, utíká do dáli Zaviřte na buben, válku jsme vyhráli. Vyhráli proto jen, že jsme se nedali,	We’ve won a victory over the tyrant mean, Sound trumpets, beat your drum, and show us your esteem. We’ve won a victory, since we were not fearful, since we were not tearful.

**Illustration 1:** Winter of 1942/43: Premiere at Jewish Orphanage in Prague



Photo courtesy of Martina Siknerova and the Collections Department of The Terezín Initiative

**Illustration 2:** 2006: Arizona Onstage Productions and the BASIS School of Tucson



**Illustration 3:** 2010: Sacramento Opera



<http://tucsoncitizen.com/morgue/2006/03/30/7638-brundibar-a-wunderbar-lesson/>  
[http://blog.onopera.com/2010\\_04\\_01\\_archive.html](http://blog.onopera.com/2010_04_01_archive.html)

**Example 3: List of Quotes**

“When we sang, we forgot where we were. We forgot hunger, we forgot all the troubles that we had to go through.” Ela Stein Weissberger

“This was the only time that they said we don’t have to put on the Jewish star. A couple of minutes of freedom.” Ela Stein Weissberger

“Empathy is a particularly powerful word because it involves identification and imagination...Together, the qualities of care within the experiences of identification and imagination create empathy.” Lauren Christine Phillips

"My primary motivation to produce *Brundibár* is the knowledge that if I lived 60 years ago in Czechoslovakia, one of those children singing in the Terezin *Brundibár* could have been my daughter." Caroline Stoessinger