

## Echoing Voices: Henry Meyer

### Key Highlights of Henry's Story

- Provides the perspective of a young German Jew who was a violin virtuoso.
- Describes the restrictions that were put on Jews during this time period, specifically Jews in the arts.
- Henry's story provides examples of resistance including escaping from a death march and the help of a Jewish doctor while he was imprisoned in Auschwitz.
- Provides insight into the cultural life before the war and some of the artistic talent within the Jewish community. Though Jews were forbidden to play music, the Judische Kulturbund was one way Jews could still remain for a short time, involved in the arts.
- Henry displays ingenuity – though he played the violin, he volunteered to play the cymbals as a means to survive. He almost injured himself from playing them incorrectly.
- Henry was forced on a death march, but escaped.
- Henry was able to rebuild his life and return to normalcy by pursuing music and teaching others. He became very successful and was nominated for two Grammys.

### Suitcase Contents

- Photograph; pre-war, Henry and brother, Fritz (Joachim) in 1937.
- German Star Badge; beginning in September 1941, a decree was established that required that German Jews wear a star badge on the outermost layer of clothing to identify them as Jewish.
- Violin; represents Henry who was a child prodigy or "wunderkind."
- Sheet Music; *Tartini Violin Concerto*, which is the piece the doctor in Auschwitz remembered Henry playing in Breslau.
- Photograph; concentration camp band.
- Cymbal; represents the cymbals that Henry volunteered to play in the Auschwitz marching band, though he had no experience with the instrument.
- Framed Photograph; post-war, La Salle Quartet, which Henry was a part of for 40 years.
- Photograph; post-war, La Salle Quartet.
- Photograph; post-war, Henry Meyer shortly after WWII.
- Photograph; post-war, Henry with his violin.