

ORCHESTRA OF EXILES

A film by
Josh Aronson

85 minutes, English, 5.1 Surround & Stereo, Pro-Res File & BluRay, 2012, Documentary



FIRST RUN FEATURES

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Synopsis

One Polish violinist. 70 Jewish musicians. Together they fought the Nazis with the only weapon they had: Music.

From Academy Award®-nominated director Josh Aronson, *Orchestra of Exiles* reveals the dramatic story of Bronislaw Huberman, the celebrated Polish violinist who rescued some of the world's greatest musicians from Nazi Germany and then created one of the world's greatest orchestras, the Palestine Symphony Orchestra, which would become the Israeli Philharmonic.



Bronislaw Huberman, violinist and founder of the Palestine Symphony Orchestra

Director's Statement

Bronislaw Huberman was a man who performed a unique and extraordinary feat of sustained heroism between 1933 and 1936 – an action that ultimately saved 1,000 Jews and re-defined the cultural world forever. And yet, when his story was told to me four years ago by the daughter of one of the men he saved, I had never heard of Huberman or his powerful journey. I was instantly intrigued and soon learned that little had been written about this great man and a film had never been made of this story. I never looked back and spent the next 3 years making *Orchestra of Exiles*.

The research necessitated the translation of thousands of letters, interviews and articles in libraries from Berlin to Tel Aviv. That process would take two years and in reviewing the material and writing the script I came to realize that the film would be structurally complex and would touch on many themes. But at root it was clear the film must present the story of a man with burning moral fiber who saw intolerance and, with his response, truly changed the world.

Huberman was not born to fulfill such a high purpose – he came to it through personal struggle and heightened sensitivity that came after long years of sacrifice. By all reports he was a highly complex man – hard to know, eccentric, driven. Huberman was not given to self analysis or personal revelation in his letters or writings, and this made his personal story all the more difficult to get hold of.

Born in Poland in 1882, he was a true violin prodigy who played for Brahms at 12. Huberman's father soon saw gold in his son's violin and presented his gifted boy all over the world to make money. Young Huberman was denied a childhood, education and his family. It took his father's sudden death, and bearing witness to the human disaster of WWI, for Huberman to begin to re-create himself. He canceled all of his concerts at the height of his career and enrolled at the Sorbonne to educate himself. In 2 years he would return to a monumental career, humanized and politicized.

The artist who emerged from university re-took his place among the elite musicians of the world but he had a different perspective on life than before. Within a decade he was confronted by the realities of the political world between the Wars - Hitler, anti-Semitism, Palestine, Zionism - and by then Huberman had the power, imagination and moral fortitude to envision the remarkable goals that he would accomplish between 1933 and 1939.



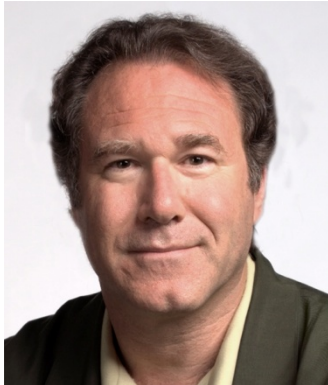
Thomas Kornmann as Bronislaw Huberman planning the Palestine Symphony Orchestra

Orchestra of Exiles depicts the grueling story of the birth of the Palestine Symphony. But at its core, this is a deeply human story of Huberman's personal transformation from a career-driven eccentric into a politically aware humanist who dedicated himself to his political and humanist goals.

I have made documentary films on a wide range of subjects and have learned that the ones I've been most proud of, and that made a difference in the world, are the films in which the basic human story grabbed me viscerally from the start and whose subjects engaged me for the thrilling extended ride of exploration and research. *Orchestra of Exiles* was one of these projects.

-Josh Aronson

Filmmaker Bios



Josh Aronson, Director

After starting his career as a still photographer for Time Life, Aronson began directing television films and commercials. Through Aronson Films he directed MTV videos, television pilots and specials and over 500 commercials before turning to documentaries in 1999. Since then Aronson has made award-winning documentaries on a fascinating variety of topics. He is also a concert pianist and regularly plays chamber music in New York and at the Telluride Musicfest, the chamber music festival he founded in 2002 with his wife, violinist Maria Bachmann. From 1985-1993 Aronson was president of Gilson/Aronson Films, a commercial and MTV production company based in New York. Gilson/Aronson Films directed scores of commercials and MTV videos for agencies and record companies worldwide.

Filmography

2010-2012 – Producer/Director	<i>Orchestra of Exiles</i>
2008-2009 Producer/Director	<i>Hudson River Short Films Series</i>
2006-2007 Producer/Director	<i>Sound and Fury: 6 Years Later</i>
2004 -2005 Director	<i>Bullrider</i>
2004-2005 Co-Director/Producer	<i>Beautiful Daughters</i>
2002-2003 Co-Producer/Director	<i>The Opposite Sex</i>
2000-2004 Producer/Director	<i>Feelin' No Pain</i>
2000 -2001 Producer/Director	<i>Playing for Real</i>
2000-2003 Director/Producer	<i>Twins</i>
2000 Director/Executive Producer	<i>Sound & Fury</i>
1999 Director	<i>Outward Bound</i> (15 episodes)
1998 Director	<i>Take a Moment</i>
1997 Director/Producer	<i>Drawing in Space</i>
1996 Director	<i>The Many Trials of Tammy B</i>
1996 Director	<i>Nurses</i>
1995 Director	<i>A Decade of Digital Sound</i>
1994 Director/Producer	<i>On the Road with John Cafferty</i>
1990 Director	<i>The Hat Factory</i>

Awards

Awards: Academy Award nomination, Time Life Freddy Award, Best Film Heartland Film Festival, Best Documentary St. Louis Film Festival, Golden Spire - San Francisco Film Festival, National Board of Review Freedom of Expression Award, Independent Spirit Award nomination, Best Documentary LA Outfest, Best Documentary NY Visionquest, The Japan Prize, Grand Prize, Clio Award, Addy Award, Bronze Prize, Columbus Film Festival.

Nancy Kennedy, Editor

Nancy Kennedy is an award-winning editor based in New York whose many credits include *Why We Fight* (Sundance Grand Jury prize winner), *For the Bible Tells Me So*, *When the Drum is Beating*, *Thank You and Goodnight*, *Einstein's Letter*, and many more. She has also co-directed and edited several independent documentaries including *Who Does She Think She Is?*, *Bluegrass Journey*, and *Who's on First?* She has worked for all the major networks on such series as *American Masters*, *Great Performances*, *National Geographic Specials*, and *American Experience* among others. She has recently completed *Gregory Crewdson: Dreams in Twilight*.

Interviewee Bios

Itzhak Perlman is an Israeli-born violinist, teacher, and conductor, considered to be one of the preeminent violinists of the century. Perlman has received four Emmy Awards and fifteen Grammy Awards, and he was awarded the Kennedy Center Honor in 2003. He also performed the violin solos on the score for Steven Spielberg's *Schindler's List*, composed by John Williams. Outside of performing, Perlman devotes a significant amount of time to education, instructing students at the Perlman Music Program and at the Juilliard School. For more information visit www.itzhakperlman.com

Zubin Mehta is an Indian born conductor and Music Director for Life of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO). He is one of the most sought after conductors in the world and has served as Music Director for several of the world's finest orchestras including the Montreal Symphony Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic, and the New York Philharmonic. As Music Director for Life he has led over 3,000 concerts with the IPO to date. For more information visit www.zubinmehta.net

Pinchas Zukerman is an Israeli-born violinist considered to be one of the preeminent violinists of our time. Zukerman first began playing the violin at 8 years old and the prodigious young musician attracted the attention of violinist Isaac Stern and cellist Pablo Casals. He went on to study at the Juilliard School and now teaches at Manhattan School of Music. Zukerman is also much in demand as a conductor and was appointed Music Director of Canada's National Arts Centre Orchestra in 1998, where he remains today.

Leon Botstein is an American conductor and scholar who serves as president of Bard College. He has done much research and writing in the worlds of music, history, culture and education. Botstein is the Music director and conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra and is Conductor Laureate of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra.

Joshua Bell is a Grammy Award-winning American violinist who currently plays the Stradivarius violin once owned by Bronislaw Huberman. Bell is a critically acclaimed classical recording artist, whose album *Romance of the Violin* was named the Billboard 2004 Classical CD of the Year, and Bell himself was named the Classical Artist of the Year. For more information visit www.joshuabell.com

Amnon Weinstein is an internationally renowned violinmaker. From their shop in Tel Aviv, Amnon and his son make and repair violins brought in from all over the world. For the past 20 years Weinstein has been locating and repairing the violins made by the Nazis for the sole use of Jewish musicians playing in concentration camp orchestras. Through his organization, Violins of Hope, Weinstein has taken these instruments around the world in a series of exhibitions, performances, and educational programs that has explored the history of music and art in the face of oppression.

Music

Symphony No. 2, in D, Op. 73: I. Allegro Non Troppo, Johannes Brahms
Performed by The NBC Orchestra & Arturo Toscanini
Courtesy of the Estate of Arturo Toscanini

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 77: I. Allegro, Johannes Brahms
Performed by Monte Carlo Phil Orchestra Derrick Inouye & Aaron Rosand
Courtesy of IDM Music Ltd o,b.o. Countdown Media GmbH

Introduction et Rondo Capriccioso in A Minor, Op. 28, Camille Saint-Saëns
Performed by Orchestra of Radio Luxemburg & Pierre Cao
Courtesy of IDM Music Ltd. o.b.o. Countdown Media GmbH

Violin Concerto, Op. 35: III. Finale: Allegro, Peter Tchaikovsky
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman
Courtesy of Opus Kura

Violin Concerto, Op. 35: I. Allegro Moderato, Peter Tchaikovsky
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman,
The Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, & Eugene Ormandy
Courtesy of Music and Arts Programs of America, Inc.

Violin concerto, Op. 35: II. Cansonetta: Andante, Peter Tchaikovsky
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman,
The Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, & Eugene Ormandy
Courtesy of Music and Arts Programs of America, Inc.

Carpaccio-Valse, Op. 7, Henryk Wieniawski
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman
Courtesy of Geffen Records, under license from Universal Music Enterprises

**Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, Op. 125, Choral": IV. Presto – Allegro Assai – Choral
Finale**,
Ludwig Van Beethoven
Performed by The London Symphony Orchestra & Joseph Krips
Courtesy of IDM Music Ltd. o.b.o. Countdown Media GmbH

Kol Nidrei, Op. 47, Max Bruch
Courtesy of Geffen Records, under license from Universal Music Enterprises

Sonata for Violin and Piano in A: III, César Franck
Performed by Maria Bachmann and Adam Neiman

Violin Concerto in D., Op. 61: I. Allegro Ma Non Troppo, Ludwig Van Beethoven
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman, The Vienna Philharmonic & George Szell

Symphony No. 2 in C Minor: 'Resurrection,' Gustav Mahler
Performed by The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra
Courtesy of The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Trio in E Flat Major for Piano, Violin & Cello, Op. 40: II. Scherzo Allegro – Molto meno Allegro, Johannes Brahms
Performed by Ludwig Günther, Dieter Vorholz & Erich Penzel
Courtesy of IDM Music Ltd. o.b.o. Countdown Media GmbH

Hungarian Dance No. 1 in G Minor, Johannes Brahms
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman
Courtesy of Opus Kura

String Quintet No. 1 in B Flat, K. 174, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Performed by Young Concert Artists
Courtesy of Young Concert Artists

String Quintet in C Major D. 956, Franz Schubert
Performed by Telluride Musicfest Musicians

Kreuzer Sonata: I. Adagio Sostenuto-Presto, Ludwig Van Beethoven
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman & Ignaz Fiedman
Courtesy of Opus Kura

Sonata for Violin & Piano: Movement I, Philip Glass
Performed by Maria Bachmann and Jon Klibonoff
Published by Duvagen Music Publishers, Inc.
Courtesy of Orange Mountain Music, Inc. (add copyright symbol 2008)

Violin Concerto No. 1, BWV 1041: I. Allegro Moderato, Johann Sebastian Bach
Performed by Bronislaw Huberman
Courtesy of Opus Kura

Piano Trio No. 1 in B Major, Op. 8: II. Scherzo. Allegro Molto, Johannes Brahms
Performed by Maria Bachmann, Jon Klibonoff & Alexis Pia Gerlach
Performed by Trio Solisti

Sonata Op. 77, Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
Performed by Yaacov Mishori, Avraham Aharoni, Ram Vidan & Meir Rimon
Courtesy of Yaacov Mishori

String Quintet No. 4 in G Minor, K. 516, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
Performed by Young Concert Artists Performers
Courtesy of Young Concert Artists

A Midsummer Night's Dream: II. Scherzo, Felix Mendelssohn
Performed by The Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra & David Zinman
Courtesy of IDM Music Ltd. o.b.o. Countdown Media GmbH

Hatikva, Naphtali Herz Imber
Historical recording

Sonata for Violin and Piano in A: IV. Allegretto Poco Mosso, César Franck
Performed by Joshua Bell & Jeremy Denck

Violin Concerto in D Major, Op. 77: I. Allegro, Johannes Brahms
Performed by Joshua Bell with The Czestochowa Philharmonic Orchestra
Courtesy of Sigmund Rolat



Conductor Arturo Toscanini and Bronislaw Huberman on stage after the first Palestine Symphony Orchestra concert, Nov. 1936. Courtesy of the Felicja Blumental Music Center Library/Huberman Archive

Credits

Produced, Written and Directed by
Edited by
Cinematography by
Executive Producers

Associate Producer
Composer
Co-Producers

Music Supervisors
Music Editor
Sound Editor
Graphic Design & Animation

Josh Aronson
Nancy Kennedy
Amnon Zalait, Nitay Netzer, Daniel Kedem
MICHAEL & CAROLE MARKS, VICTOR &
SONO ELMALEH, ANNE & VINCENT MAI,
DORIT STRAUS
NINA KRSTIC
WLAD MARHULETS
AVRAHAM PIRCHI, CHILIK MICHAELI, TAMI
LEON
SUSAN JACOBS, JACKIE MULHEARN
NANCY ALLEN
CJ DEGENNARO
PAUL DOCHERTY

Cast

As Bronislaw Huberman:

Adult
14 Year Old
8 Year Old
playing

THOMAS KORNMANN
ELIN KOLEV
HENK REINICKE
REGI PAPA

Ida Ibbeken
Jacob Huberman
Arturo Toscanini
William Steinberg
Chaim Weizmann
Horst Salomon
Lorand Fenyves
Wilhelm Furtwängler
Joseph Goebbels
Jacob Surowicz

GENO LECHNER
JAN UPLEGGER
ALEX ANSKY
YIGAL SACHS
VLASTO PEYITCH
GIL BAXPEHLER
BRETT LORIER
STEFAN HAUSER
HARALD MAGARIN
WOLFGANG RONFELDT

Narrator
Voice Over Artists

TIM ELLIOT
YELENA SHMULENSON, PAUL J.
BELLANTONI, ANTHONY VISCUSI, ANDREW
CLATEMAN, HEIKE BACHMANN, PETER
CORMICAN, HOWARD ROSS, CHRIS
KORDOS, ADAM BONCZ, JACK LUCENO