



The Association of Jewish Refugees

SERVING HOLOCAUST REFUGEES AND SURVIVORS NATIONWIDE

www.ajr.org.uk

November 2014

His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales attends AJR Kindertransport concert

The Association of Jewish Refugees (AJR) was delighted to welcome His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales as our guest of honour at the London premiere of *The Last Train to Tomorrow* at The Roundhouse on Sunday 9 November 2014.

Commissioned by the Halle Orchestra, *The Last Train to Tomorrow* tells the extraordinary story of the Kindertransport through a sequence of ten songs that was composed and conducted by the internationally acclaimed artist Carl Davis and performed by The Finchley Children's Music Group.

The event also featured The Marriage of Figaro Overture by Mozart and Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto. The music was performed by City of London Sinfonia together with Louisa Staples, a young violin soloist from The Yehudi Menuhin School.

Natasha Kaplinksy, the newsreader and television presenter, and member of Prime Minister David Cameron's Holocaust Commission, introduced the event. As 9 November marked the anniversary of Kristallnacht*, the concert began with a dedication given by Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg together with six Kinder lighting memorial candles.

The devastation of Kristallnacht led to the mass emigration of Jews from Germany and Austria and persuaded the British government to create the Kindertransport, through which some 10,000 children, aged between three and 17, found refuge in Britain from Nazi oppression.

The premiere concluded the series of events that The AJR has organised in recent months to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Kindertransport.

Announcing Prince Charles's involvement, AJR Chairman Andrew Kaufman and Chairman of the AJR-Kindertransport special interest group, Sir Erich Reich, said: "The AJR was deeply honoured and enormously proud that The Prince of Wales personally decided to honour us with his presence. Having met Kinder at events to mark the 70th and 75th anniversaries of the Kindertransport, we feel very privileged that he could be part of this historic occasion.

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Notes on the AJR for Editors:

The AJR is the national charity exclusively delivering social and welfare services, including financial assistance, to Jewish victims of Nazi oppression as well as their dependants and descendants living in Great Britain.

Following the debate in the House of Commons on refugee policy on 21 November 1938, the British government agreed to allow up to 10,000 unaccompanied children under the age of 17.

There have been three reunions of former Kindertransport refugees prior to the gathering in June 2013: in 1988, 1999 and 2008.

The AJR supports Holocaust education and research projects and initiatives to commemorate the Holocaust.

The AJR has produced the ground-breaking audio-visual testimony archive, *Refugee Voices*. This collection of 150 filmed interviews creates a legacy of the experiences of the refugees and will advance and enhance Holocaust research for future generations. *Refugee Voices* enables Holocaust researchers and scholars to watch up to 450 hours of film and read fully edited and transcribed accounts. For the first time, researchers will also be assisted by time-codes that, together with a summary sheet and key words section, direct users to specific sections of the films. Details of Refugee Voices are at www.refugeevoices.co.uk

The AJR is part of the UK delegation to the [International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance \(IHRA\)](#), which brings together governments and non-governmental organisations to raise awareness of the Holocaust and places political and social leaders' support behind the need for Holocaust education, remembrance, and research both nationally and internationally.