

## Ordinary Lives: The Merlin Shepherd Quartet

Thursday 26 January 2023  
7.15pm – 8.15pm

**Howard Assembly Room  
at Opera North**

New Briggate, Leeds LS1 6PA

**Tickets: £10 – £15**

Performers:

**Merlin Shepherd** clarinets

**Anna Lowenstein** violin

**Joshua Middleton** accordion

**Simon C Russell** bass



A special concert for Holocaust Memorial Day focuses on the theme Ordinary Lives, with a klezmer performance by The Merlin Shepherd Quartet together with readings in poetry and prose.

The music of East European weddings and social occasions, klezmer was played for and by Yiddish-speaking Jews and formed a stepping stone between the worlds of the secular and the sacred. Much of Klezmer music is made up of modes and melodies taken from prayer and is deeply emotionally charged.

Klezmer music takes us to the heart of understanding the spiritual world of Eastern European Jews. The destruction of the Holocaust led to the loss of so much culture, musical material and so many players and singers. Hopefully, tonight's performance will remind us of the depth and power of the people and their music.

*A DARE presentation in association with  
the University of Leeds.*

## Researching Jewish Ancestors

The Leeds Libraries Secret Library Leeds blog looks at how, with the help of the Wiener Holocaust Library and the International Tracing Service, family histories can still be researched, despite the disruption to record keeping that resulted from the Holocaust.

The blog will be published at [www.secretlibraryleeds.net](http://www.secretlibraryleeds.net)  
on Thursday 26 January 2023.

LEEDS ARTS  
EVENTS & VENUES



opera  
north

# Holocaust Memorial Day 2023

## Programme of events



## This year's theme is Ordinary People

**Holocaust Memorial Day** is the international day of remembrance of six million Jewish men, women and children murdered in the Holocaust, and millions of other people killed under German Nazi persecution, and in subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, and Darfur.



LEEDS ARTS  
EVENTS & VENUES





# Holocaust Memorial Day

## Civic Remembrance Event

Join the Lord Mayor for an afternoon of commemoration

The theme for this year's event is 'Ordinary People'

Sunday 22 January 2023, 2pm

**City Varieties Music Hall**

Swan Street, Leeds LS1 6LW

**Free and open to all**

The event is free, but seats are limited. Free tickets are available from 6 January 2023 – please book via:

**Box office: 0113 243 0808**

**[leedsheritagetheatres.com](http://leedsheritagetheatres.com)**



There will be British Sign Language (BSL) interpreters at the event.



**CITY VARIETIES**  
MUSIC HALL • LEEDS

The Lord Mayor will open this year's civic remembrance event, with a speech which will reflect upon his visit to Auschwitz in Autumn 2022. He will be joined by Wojciech Soczewica, CEO of the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation.

The event will include an interview with Arek Hersh MBE about his experience of being chosen to be painted by Massimiliano Pironti as one of the seven portraits of Holocaust survivors, commissioned by King Charles III.

Leeds Heritage Theatres' Leeds Actors in Training (LAIT) have created a performance for the event inspired by the

graphic novel *Irmina* by Barbara Yelin, which explores in a few chapters the ways in which 'Ordinary People' stood by and ultimately allowed an event such as the Holocaust to take place.

There will also be music by Rabbi Alby Chait and the UHC choir and a memorial prayer will be sung.

The event will conclude with a reading of the seven statements of commitments with candles lit by representatives of the different groups persecuted, including Holocaust survivors, people with additional needs, the LGBT+ community and Remembering Srebrenica.

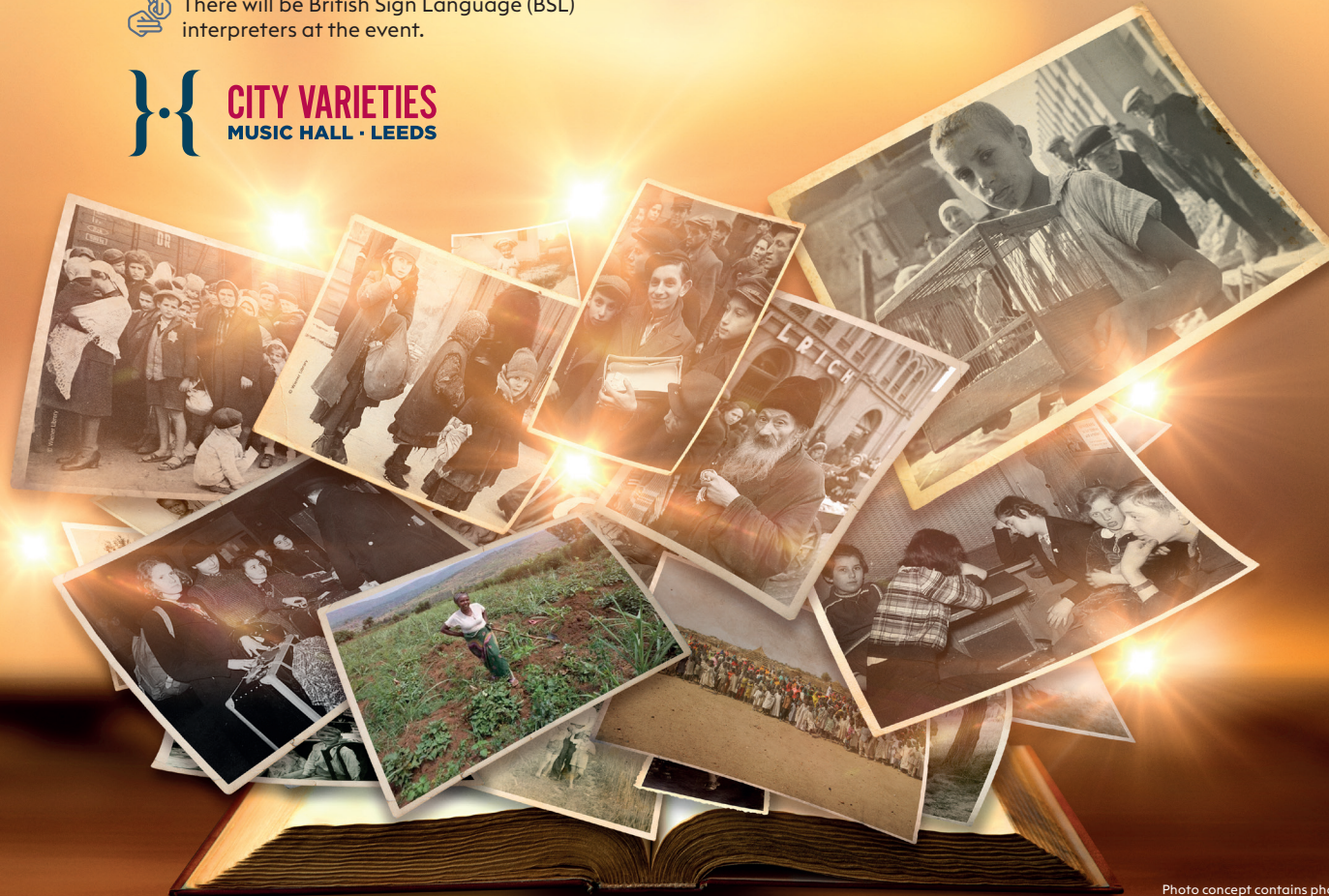


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