

[The Free Library](#) > [Business and Industry](#) > [Business](#) > [PR Newswire](#) > [November 3, 1998](#)
[The Free Library](#) > [Communications](#) > [News, opinion and commentary](#) > [PR Newswire](#) > [November 3, 1998](#)
[The Free Library](#) > [Date](#) > [1998](#) > [November](#) > [3](#) > [PR Newswire](#)

American Premiere of the Original Score: The Emperor of Atlantis, Or the Denial of Death.

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 3 /PRNewswire/ -- The following was issued by the Austrian Press and Information Service:

PERFORMANCE:

The opera "The Emperor of Atlantis, or the Denial of Death" by [Viktor Ullmann](#).

REASON:

The first week of November is dedicated to the memory of the Austrian composer Viktor Ullmann whose centenary we are commemorating. For this purpose the Austrian Company for Music and Theater ARBOS, under the direction of Herbert Gantschacher, will present the American Premiere of the Original Score of "The Emperor of Atlantis, or the Denial of Death" and a variety of other programs.

LOCATION/TIME:

The Joseph Meyerhoff Theatre of the [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](#) on November 8, at 3 p.m.

FOR INFORMATION: Call Phillys Conyers at 202-488-0458.

FOR RESERVATIONS: Call 202-488-0427.

INTRODUCTORY PROGRAM:

"Tracks to Viktor Ullmann" to this singular work at the Embassy of Austria in Washington, 3524 International Court N.W., on November 7, at 7:30 p.m.

Herbert Thomas Mandl, a survivor of several concentration camps, who performed with Viktor Ullmann in Terezin, and Professor Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer, Vice-President of the International Music Critics Association, who currently works on a biography of Viktor Ullmann and who brought the premiere of the original score to [North America](#) (Canada) in 1996, will participate in this event.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Viktor Ullmann's opera was written in an environment and under conditions where the link "man-art" acquired absurd dimensions. On September 8, 1942 he was deported to the concentration camp Terezin. Here, in the course of the next two years, on the borderline of life and death, he participated, as composer, organizer, publicist and performer in the making of a singular cultural phenomenon. The paradox situation of the "free town," donated by the [Fuhrer](#) to the Jews, to "protect" them from the hostilities of a fighting society, was a perverse mask behind which the project of the so-called "final solution" was hidden.

HISTORY OF THE PERFORMANCE:

In 1993, the performance was named the music theater production of the year 1993 in Prague by the theater magazine "Divadelni Noviny." In 1995, a CD was produced of the original score with Studio Matous in Prague. In the same year, the opera was performed for the first time at the location of its origin in Terezin upon recommendation of the last surviving singer of the Terezin rehearsals, [Karel Berman](#), to whom we owe many references to the original version of the opera (an arranged version of the opera had been played since 1976).

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Publication: [PR Newswire](#)

Date: [Nov 3, 1998](#)

Words: 497

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The opera was also shown in: Austria (Klagenfurt and Hallein/Salzburg in 1993, Klagenfurt in 1995 and Klagenfurt and Hallein/Salzburg in 1998), the [Czech Republic](#) (Narodni Pamatnik National Memorial in 1993, Terezin in 1995, Veletzní Palac in 1998), Germany (Dresden in 1994), Sweden (Stockholm in 1995) and Canada (Ottawa and Montreal in 1996).

The original version was recreated with the help of Karel Berman, the last surviving singer of Terezin (he died in 1995) and the musicologists Ingo Shultz and Jean-Jacques Van Vlasselaer.

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