

DEC THE WALLS EXHIBITION

FEATURING NYSCA DECENTRALIZATION GRANTEES

LEONARD J. LEHRMAN, *CREATIVE INDIVIDUAL GRANT 2018*

DEC PROJECT: "*THE LAST WORD*"

On Dec. 2, 2001, at Roslyn's Bryant Library, and Jan. 5, 2002, at Chapel Off Chapel in Melbourne, Australia, Helene Williams, accompanied by the composer, premiered Leonard Lehrman's song cycle, "An Australian Odyssey", on 18 poems by 14 Australian poets, including two by poet/editor Alex Skovron. Fifteen years later, Lehrman drew on Skovron for inspiration again, setting his dystopian poem, "The Last Word," to music for performance by Williams and Margo Andrea with the Alba Consort of the L.I. Baroque Festival. The work was premiered in Valley Stream with piano on June 3, 2018, and at Roslyn's Trinity Church with instruments on Oct. 14, 2018. This was the first time a Creative Individual grant had been awarded to a composer.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Leonard J. Lehrman, Founder/Director of The Metropolitan Philharmonic Chorus; Artistic Administrator of The Prof. Edgar H. Lehrman Memorial Foundation for Ethics, Religion, Science & the Arts; and pianist of The Dakule Trio (also Daniel Hyman, violin, and the late Kurt Behnke, cello), is Long Island's most prolific composer. He has 244 works to date, including 12 operas and 275 individual works for voice. He is the author of books on his teacher Elie Siegmeister and Leonard Bernstein's friend and mentor, Marc Blitzstein. Lehrman completed works by both of them, including Blitzstein's self-styled magnum opus, the opera "Sacco and Vanzetti", which premiered at The White Barn Theatre in Westport, CT, Aug. 17-19, 2001. It is slated for its New York premiere at Hofstra's Italian Festival on Sept. 13, 2020. Reference Librarian at Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library since 1995, Lehrman has a B.A. from Harvard, M.F.A. & D.M.A. from Cornell, and a M.S. from Long Island University.