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## Milken Archive Colleagues Collaborate on New National Television Series

### Two Editorial Board Members Brings Us An "All-Star Orchestra"



The Milken Archive of Jewish Music has often been called a "living archive," since its purpose is to stimulate the growth and appreciation of music related to the Jewish spirit. Throughout the history of the Archive, hundreds of composers and performers have been brought together in new and enriching musical partnerships. One recent offshoot involves two of the Archive's Editorial Board members who have recently created an eight-part series for national public television that will air this fall, and that is devoted to classical

music education: the [All-Star Orchestra](#).

The internationally famous conductor [Gerard Schwarz](#) and recording industry veteran [Paul Schwendener](#) joined the Milken Archive Board in the late 1990s. They had never met previously. Within a short time the two were collaborating on a series of Archive recordings that would take them to orchestras in New York, Barcelona, Prague, Berlin, Los Angeles and Seattle. An abundance of recordings for the Archive resulted, including the Grammy-winning "[Genesis Suite](#)."

Based upon their collaboration at the Milken Archive, Schwarz approached Schwendener to help realize his vision for a television/internet series of classical music programs featuring an "all-star" orchestra comprised of top players from America's major orchestras. The goal: to make great music in outstanding performances easily accessible to new and younger audiences.

"Jerry's vision to bring musical masterpieces to a wide audience comes at an important moment when the need for music education is greater than ever. His charisma and musical leadership are amazing, and it is no wonder that American Public Television seized upon the opportunity to broadcast the series nationwide this fall," Schwendener said.

Schwendener credits the Archive with providing creative stimulus for the All-Star Orchestra: "Through our work together on the Milken Archive, Jerry and I came to appreciate the importance of music education, and in many ways the All-Star Orchestra is an outgrowth of ideals fostered by the Archive. Although the repertoire featured by the All-Star Orchestra is not overtly Jewish in character, it shares in the universality of the creative musical spirit." In fact, several composers featured in the Milken Archive are also included in the All-Star Orchestra programs, such as David Stock and Philip Glass.

The inaugural season of the All-Star Orchestra was filmed at New York City's Manhattan Center in August 2012. Sitting side-by-side for the very first time, a roster of Schwarz's hand-picked musicians from orchestras across the country performed a total of 19 symphonic works ranging from Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 to Bright Sheng's *Prelude to Black Swan*. Meanwhile 19 high-definition cameras swiveled and dove in and out of the action from the first downbeat, allowing for a series of televised classical music concerts that allow the viewer to become part of the experience; to get closer than ever before.

The brainchild of Schwarz and Schwendener, the All-Star Orchestra is unprecedented in the world of classical music, and will certainly change how we introduce, educate and inspire audiences to this art form. It is a match made in the Milken Archive – a partnership that has brought classical music to an international audience while keeping to an all-American theme.

*The All-Star Orchestra begins airing nationwide in September. [Check broadcast dates](#), and visit [allstarorchestra.org](#) for the latest information. Photo by Steve J. Sherman.*