

## **Press Release: German–American Composer Ursula Mamlok at 90 – Two New York Celebrations**

**October 23, 7:30 Leonard Nimoy Thalia at Peter Norton Symphony Space: Concert – Film – Dialogue**

**October 27, 2:30 Manhattan School of Music – “Ursula Mamlok *Movements*”, First U.S. Film Preview, full-length film by Anne Berrini (Germany, 2013)**

“Is she old school? New school? Post-modernist? I think she’s just being Mamlok: independent, creative, dissonant, driven from within.” (P. Hertelendy, Mercury News San Francisco).

Composer Ursula Mamlok returns to New York, her home for decades, for two special events marking her 90th birthday. The Symphony Space evening on October 23 features scenes of the new documentary “Ursula Mamlok *Movements*”- a film by Anne Berrini; a conversation with her manager, musicologist Bettina Brand; and a concert where New York musicians who have enjoyed the friendship of Ursula Mamlok for a number of years will join with Mamlok’s new friends, the Klenke Quartet from Germany in its U.S. debut.

The program spans more than 50 years of her work, including *Four German Songs* (poems of H. Hesse, 1958) performed by Lucy Shelton and Marcia Eckert, *From My Garden* (1983) for viola solo (Stephanie Griffin); *Rhapsody* (1989) for clarinet (Moran Katz), viola (Stephanie Griffin), and piano (Cheryl Seltzer); and piano pieces (1964 and 1991) performed by Joel Sachs. The celebrated Klenke Quartet will perform early and later works, *Two Bagatelles* (1961) and *String Quartet No. 2* (1998). One of Mamlok’s newest compositions, *Mosaics* for piano four-hands (2011), will be performed by Cheryl Seltzer and Joel Sachs, to whom the piece is dedicated.

“I never wanted to go back to Berlin.” But at the age of 83, after the death of her husband Dwight, Ursula Mamlok visited her home town and stayed. German filmmaker Anne Berrini’s 80-minute documentary film (2013), to be seen in a first U.S. Film Preview at Manhattan School of Music on October 27, explores the saga of Mamlok’s life. Born in Berlin in 1923, her life and musical studies were uprooted when she and family fled Nazi Germany in 1939 and found refuge in Ecuador. The plucky teenager came on her own to New York to continue composition studies at the invitation of the Mannes College of Music. Her first teacher was the renowned conductor George Szell, himself a recent immigrant. She later studied with Roger Sessions, Stefan Wolpe, and Ralph Shapey.

For 66 years Ursula Mamlok lived in New York, composing, and teaching at New York University, Temple University, and primarily at Manhattan School Of Music, and was a leading figure in New York’s musical scene. Since her move back to Berlin and still active as a composer, she has been championed by such leading musicians as Heinz Holliger, and performed widely throughout Europe. She also has been discovered by the younger generation, such as the four women of the Klenke Quartet, who have performed her music frequently. She is the subject of a biography *Time in Flux* (in German) by Habakuk Traber.

The music of Ursula Mamlok is intelligent, sensual, lyrical and full of colorful atmosphere. She delights in short forms and in playing with timbre as much as with notes. Recordings have appeared on CRI, New World, Naxos, and Music and Arts. The intrepid Bridge Records is in the process of recording all her music, and four volumes have appeared to date, with a double-disc volume in commemoration of her 90<sup>th</sup> year.

[www.ursulamamlok.com](http://www.ursulamamlok.com) ; [www.bridgerecords.com](http://www.bridgerecords.com)

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**Wed., Oct. 23, 7:30 PM**

**Concert – Film – Dialogue**

Leonard Nimoy Thalia at Peter Norton **Symphony Space**

Broadway at 95<sup>th</sup>

\$25; members, seniors, students, \$15

Box office: 212-864-5400, [www.symphonyspace.org](http://www.symphonyspace.org)

**Sun., Oct. 27, 2:30 PM**

**“Ursula Mamlok *Movements*”**

First U.S. Film Preview of 80-minute documentary by Anne Berrini (Germany, 2013)

Miller Recital Hall, **Manhattan School of Music**

Broadway at 122<sup>nd</sup>

Admission free; 917-493-4428, [www.msmnyc.edu](http://www.msmnyc.edu)

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