

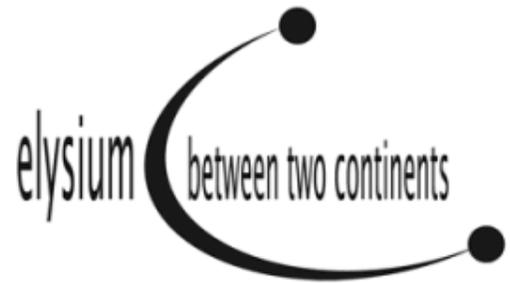
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Elysium Between Two Continents

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Social Justice Activist and Feminist Käthe Leichter Honored on the 80th Anniversary of Her Death in a Musical Literary Collage by Elysium Between Two Continents

Elysium Between Two Continents will present an evening of readings and music in honor of the prominent socialist feminist Käthe Leichter at the Austrian Cultural Forum of New York on March 16, 2022 at 7:30 PM.

Leichter, a Social Democratic politician, labor organizer, and author, was the first Austrian woman to receive a doctorate in national economics. In 1921, Käthe married another left-wing activist, Otto Leichter, and until 1934, played active roles in the socialist government, and thereafter, the socialist underground in Austria. After the Anschluss of Austria to Nazi Germany in 1938, her husband and sons managed to escape to Switzerland and then the United States, but Käthe was arrested and eventually murdered by the Nazis 80 years ago in 1942.

Elysium Artistic Director Gregorij von Leitis will read selections from the diary of Käthe's husband, Otto, as he wrote her letters she would never receive during her internment at the Ravensbrück concentration camp. Jeannie Im, a longtime performer with Elysium, will read memoirs and letters by Käthe.

Soprano Alexis Rodda and pianist Dan Franklin Smith will present songs from Vally Weigl and her husband, Karl Weigl. Vally Weigl, née Pick, was Käthe's sister, and with her husband Karl, found refuge from the Nazis in the United States, and composed dozens of art songs until her death in 1982.

The program was conceived by Elysium Program Director Michael Lahr, and presents a portrait of a courageous woman who remained true to her ideals until the end. This musico-literary collage will commemorate the anniversary of her untimely death 80 years ago, and celebrate her accomplishments as a leader for social justice.

Admission is free, but RSVP is required. To RSVP, please email events@acfny.org with your name and number of tickets desired.

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Elysium Between Two Continents is a nonprofit arts organization dedicated to fostering artistic and academic dialogue, creative and educational exchange, and mutual friendship between the USA and Europe, especially the German speaking countries. Through arts and educational programs, Elysium fights against discrimination, racism, hate, anti-semitism, and Holocaust denial and distortion. It was founded in New York City in 1983 by Gregorij von Leitis, who serves as Artistic Director alongside Executive and Program Director Michael Lahr.

For further information, photos, and/or to arrange interviews, please contact Alexis Rodda at alexisrodde@gmail.com or 201-790-3055.