

ABOUT MONA GOLABEK

Mona Golabek is the daughter of Lisa Jura, a child piano prodigy born in Vienna, Austria, who came to England as a refugee in 1938 as part of the Kindertransport rescue operation. Her father, Michel Golabek, was a French resistance fighter, who received the Croix de Guerre. Mona's grandparents died at Auschwitz.

Mona, deeply inspired by her mother's story and the last words her mother heard at the train station - "*Hold on to your music.... it will be your best friend*", became a concert pianist and has performed with major conductors and orchestras worldwide. The Grammy nominee and prolific recording artist has been the subject of several documentaries including *Concerto for Mona* with conductor Zubin Mehta.

Her mother is the subject of Ms. Golabek's acclaimed book, *The Children of Willesden Lane*, co-authored by Lee Cohen. The book, now in its 24th printing, has been translated and published in French, Italian, German, Hebrew, Spanish and Polish. The feature film based on the book will be released in 2021.

In 2012, Mona made her debut at the Los Angeles Geffen Playhouse in *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*, adapted from the book. The production, directed by Hershey Felder, has been celebrated by critics and audiences, with sold out theatrical runs in New York and London. Ms. Golabek has received Best Actress Nominations from the New York Drama Desk and Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle.

In 2003, Ms. Golabek formed the *Hold On To Your Music* Foundation. With the help of the Milken Family Foundation, Facing History and Ourselves, and the Annenberg Foundation, she created educational resources for the book that have been adopted into school curricula across America. At year's end, close to one million students and families will have experienced the WILLESDEN READ – the educational mission, spearheaded by the non-profit, that is devoted to spreading the inspirational message of her mother's story.

Now, in a unique and groundbreaking partnership with the USC Shoah and Koret Foundations, she will bring the educational mission and her mother's story to students across the globe.

