

## Drew University Center for Holocaust/Genocide Study



Please join us for a talk by  
**Leslie Sprout, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor of Music, Drew University

### *The Moral Complexity of French Composers during World War II*

When: Tuesday, March 22, 2016  
5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Where: Dorothy Young Center for the Arts,  
Room 106, Drew University

In the immediate aftermath of the liberation of Paris from German occupation in 1944, people in France were quick to make clear distinctions between *résistants* and *collaborateurs*, with no room for middle ground. Among French composers, in the court of public opinion, Francis Poulenc was praised for his heroic acts of resistance, whereas Arthur Honegger was found guilty of collaboration. Seventy years later, scholarly research has led to a more nuanced view not only of what each man actually did during the war, but also of what it means--in an art as abstract as music--to resist or collaborate while pursuing a career as a composer in politically charged times.

**Leslie Sprout** is associate professor of music and chair of the Music Department at Drew University. Her scholarship focuses on music, modernism, and national identity in twentieth-century France. Additional research interests include the film music of Arthur Honegger and the engagement of European composers with American popular music and jazz between the two world wars. She is author of the book, *The Musical Legacy of Wartime France*.

This talk is part II of a three-part study seminar: ***Modern Aesthetics / Nazi Aesthetics***. It will explore the way that the modern conception of art clashed with that of the German National Socialist Party. Modern art, often called modernism, stressed innovation, irony, and subversion. Nazi art, by contrast, sought to emphasize heroism, clarity, and racial superiority. By comparing these two very different aesthetic paradigms, participants will learn about the ways that art can be misused for political purposes. **The other two sessions in the three-part study seminar:**

**Session I: March 15, 2016: "Churchill and Hitler: Their Literary Lives"**

**Session III: March 29, 2016: "Modern Art in Nazi Germany"**

**\$10.00 per session / \$30 for all three**

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