

Lisa of Willesden Lane

Every Piece of Music Tells a Story

Biographies

Mona Golabek is a Grammy-nominated recording artist, an internationally celebrated concert pianist, and the star of a one-woman show *The Pianist of Willesden Lane*. She travels the world, sharing the inspirational story of her mother, Lisa Jura. Mona even wrote *The Children of Willesden Lane* books about her mother's story.



Rose Schwartz (born Rose Halpert), daughter of Martin and Etel Perl, was born in Krivé, Czechoslovakia (now Krivé, Slovakia) on November 27, 1926. The family was Orthodox. Rose had six siblings – four sisters and two brothers – and the family lived on a farm. Rose and her siblings attended public school, and their classmates were Jewish and non-Jewish children. On March 15, 1939, Czechoslovakia was occupied by German armed forces. As a safety precaution, Rose was sent to live with her aunt, and her siblings were also sent away. During the war, Rose was forced to work in a brick factory. There, she was taught songs in Hungarian. Rose believes that the music she learned to sing helped her survive. After the war, Rose married Joseph Schwartz. They immigrated to the United States, where they raised their sons, Mark and Eddie. At the time of her interview, Rose had four grandchildren. This interview was conducted on December 15, 1995 in Margate, Florida.

