

Cover Art

Berlinski II

A MESSAGE FROM THE MILKEN ARCHIVE FOUNDER



Dispersed over the centuries to all corners of the earth, the Jewish people absorbed elements of its host cultures while, miraculously, maintaining its own. As many Jews reconnected in America, escaping persecution and seeking to take part in a visionary democratic society, their experiences found voice in their music. The sacred and secular body of work that has developed over the three centuries since Jews first arrived on these shores provides a powerful means of expressing the multilayered saga of American Jewry.

While much of this music had become a vital force in American and world culture, even more music of specifically Jewish content had been created, perhaps performed, and then lost to current and future generations. Believing that there was a unique opportunity to rediscover, preserve and transmit the collective memory contained within this music, I founded the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music in 1990.

The passionate collaboration of many distinguished artists, ensembles and recording producers over the past fourteen years has created a vast repository of musical resources to educate, entertain and inspire people of all faiths and cultures. The Milken Archive of American Jewish Music is a living project; one that we hope will cultivate and nourish musicians and enthusiasts of this richly varied musical repertoire.

Lowell Milken

A MESSAGE FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



The quality, quantity, and amazing diversity of sacred as well as secular music written for or inspired by Jewish life in America is one of the least acknowledged achievements of modern Western culture. The time is ripe for a wider awareness and appreciation of these various repertoires—which may be designated appropriately as an aggregate “American Jewish music.” The Milken Archive is a musical voyage of discovery encompassing more than 600 original pieces by some 200 composers—symphonies, operas, cantorial masterpieces, complete synagogue services, concertos, Yiddish theater, and folk and popular music. The music in the Archive—all born of the American Jewish experience or fashioned for uniquely American institutions—has been created by native American or immigrant composers. The repertoire is chosen by a panel of leading musical and Judaica authorities who have selected works based on or inspired by traditional Jewish melodies or modes, liturgical and life-cycle functions and celebrations, sacred texts, and Jewish history and secular literature—with intrinsic artistic value always of paramount consideration for each genre. These CDs will be supplemented later by rare historic reference recordings.

The Milken Archive is music of **AMERICA**—a part of American culture in all its diversity; it is **JEWISH**, as an expression of Jewish tradition and culture enhanced and enriched by the American environment; and perhaps above all, it is **MUSIC**—music that transcends its boundaries of origin and invites sharing, music that has the power to speak to all of us.

Neil W. Levin

Neil W. Levin is an internationally recognized scholar and authority on Jewish music history, a professor of Jewish music at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, music director of Schola Hebraica, and author of various articles, books, and monographs on Jewish music.

About the Composer



The Jewish creative orientation of composer and organist **HERMAN BERLINSKI** (1910–2001) represents a fertile synthesis. His Jewish roots and family traditions were fundamentally eastern European, but he also acquired and adopted

the cultural perspectives—and especially musical affinities—of German Jewry; his Paris studies added 20th-century French as well as international influences; and eventually he emerged as a thoroughly American composer and an ardent advocate of artistic innovations in the American Synagogue.

Berlinski was born in Leipzig to parents who, in the wake of the dangers of backlash following the 1905 Revolution in Russia, had emigrated from the highly developed Jewish community in Lódz (then Russian Poland). He demonstrated natural musical gifts at an early age and at sixteen entered the Leipzig Conservatory—primarily as a piano student, with additional studies in theory and composition. In 1918, when an independent Polish Republic was declared following the First World War, his father chose to declare that he and his family were Polish citizens (residing in Germany) rather than accepting an official passport classification as “stateless,” since actual full German citizenship was difficult to obtain and involved a complicated process. The family remained in Leipzig until the installation of the National Socialist regime, which barred Jewish musicians from participation or employment in musical institutions outside the Jewish community.

Berlinski left Germany in 1933, easily able to secure an exit permit with his Polish passport. He went initially to Lódz, where he had many relatives and where he did some concertizing. Not prepared to accept Polish army service, however, he left shortly afterward for Paris. There he studied at the prestigious École Normale de Musique: composition with the legendary Nadia Boulanger, teacher of many of the 20th century's most important composers; and piano with the subsequently infamous Nazi sympathizer and collaborator, world-renowned pianist Alfred Cortot. Berlinski supported himself by directing, arranging, and sometimes composing incidental music for productions of an émigré Yiddish art theater, known then as PIAT (Paris Jewish Avant-Garde Theatre). This troupe in effect comprised the survivors of the well-known Yiddish art theater in Vilna, whose repertoire ranged from Shalom Aleichem and Peretz to classic Russian plays in Yiddish. These were literary plays, unrelated to the musical Yiddish theater in America—the so-called Second Avenue variety—or to its Romanian foundations in the operettas of Goldfaden. Nonetheless, it was common to include appropriate incidental music and even to superimpose or incorporate some songs in those productions. For Berlinski, this was not only an artistic but a “human experience,” because it brought him into contact with so many Ukrainian, Polish, and Lithuanian Jews then stranded in France—a profound personal episode that was later to find reflection and expression in some of his American works.

Berlinski found his studies with Boulanger less than fulfilling. Unlike many of her other American pupils (or so he felt), he was not seeking to shed ethnic boundaries, as perceived limitations, in favor of the more universal approach and technique of the so-called international school. Moreover, he found

her unable to relate to his artistic preoccupations with things Jewish. After two years he parted ways with her and entered the Schola Cantorum, where the respected Sephardi synagogue composer and music director Leon Algazi actually taught a course on Jewish music (in a fundamentally Roman Catholic religious musical environment). Berlinski later recalled that he was received "with open arms" by the French composer Daniel-Lesur and his circle, La Jeune France, which included Olivier Messiaen. Messiaen—a deeply and mystically religious Christian whose faith informs many of his major works—understood, along with others in that group, Berlinski's natural inclination to draw upon his Judaism. Berlinski later credited Messiaen with having encouraged him personally to use the musical language of his traditions, as fellow composers in that circle made use of Gregorian chant.

In 1934–35 Berlinski applied for French citizenship, which carried with it the obligation of military service in the French Foreign Legion. Though he never did obtain his citizenship, he later recalled with pride his participation at the Belgian border when German army units broke through; and he always took great satisfaction in being "one of the few Jews with the opportunity to have a machine gun in my hand and shoot at them."

After France's surrender to Germany and the establishment of the Vichy government, Berlinski determined to leave while he (and his wife) still could, and to head for America. His father had gone there earlier, and he also had a number of relatives who had emigrated directly from Lódz and were residing in New Jersey. In this he was assisted by a man named Varian Fry ("the American Schindler"), who had come voluntarily to France to facilitate the rescue and emigration of stranded European intellectuals.

As both a German native and a veteran French Legionnaire who had fought against Germany, Berlinski was technically ineligible for an exit visa, since the cooperating French authorities were required to hand over all such individuals to the Germans. His illegally "purchased" exit visa still required an approval stamp. He obtained that only because the French official did not realize that Lipsk, shown as his birthplace on his passport, was simply the Polish translation for Leipzig, and thus assumed incorrectly that Berlinski had been born in Poland rather than Germany. There was still the problem, however, that Poland was occupied by Germany as well. Fry helped him invent a Russian identity, which finally qualified him for exit, since the Soviet Union was still technically neutral as a result of the infamous but soon-to-be-violated nonaggression pact. He left France and arrived in the United States only two weeks before the German invasion of the Soviet Union.

Berlinski's first fruitful contact in New York was Moshe Rudinov, cantor of the nationally prestigious Reform synagogue Temple Emanu-El. Rudinov introduced him to the small but intensely committed coterie of Jewish music intellectuals, the Jewish Music Forum, and he soon became well acquainted with the leading personalities of that society, such as Lazar Weiner, Joseph Yasser, Abraham Wolf Binder, and Lazare Saminsky. Always on the lookout for Jewish-related pieces for its intimate recital events, the Forum programmed the only full piece that Berlinski had saved from his French period, a flute and piano sonata on Jewish themes. On the same program that evening, Leonard Bernstein offered a piano preview of his *Jeremiah Symphony*.

Berlinski taught piano privately until Yasser, the acclaimed musicologist who was also a synagogue organist, suggested that he study organ and offered

to teach him. Thus Berlinski, soon to establish an international reputation as a classical organist, began his study of the instrument as late as 1951. He had had a fascination with the organ since his Leipzig student days, but its study was not part of the curriculum and was generally learned within the Church. In New York he eventually became a virtuoso performer and an active member of the American Guild of Organists.

In 1954, Lazare Saminsky, music director at Temple Emanu-El, engaged Berlinski as an additional organist and became his mentor, especially with regard to particular organ techniques for synagogue services and for accompanying a cantor. In 1955 Berlinski gave his first organ recital at Emanu-El, and during his tenure there he continued to compose extensively for various media, including choral and other liturgical works, especially addressing organ music.

Berlinski commenced graduate studies in Jewish music at the Jewish Theological Seminary in the early 1950s, where he delved into serious musicological investigations of ancient Jewish liturgical origins and practices, biblical cantillation, and traditional Jewish prayer modes with Joseph Yasser, Johanna Spector, Solomon Rosowsky, and Max Wohlberg. From these guiding spirits he acquired a solid appreciation for the cantorial traditions and their modal foundations, important inspirations for his future compositions. His primary composition mentor at the seminary was Hugo Weisgall, the esteemed American composer and chairman of the faculty, under whose guidance he completed his master's degree in composition—after abandoning his initial effort at a historical thesis on rabbinical inhibitions vis-à-vis music. He then earned the seminary's first doctoral degree in composition, also with Weisgall, with a dissertation entitled *Kiddush hashem*—a large choral orchestral work that

has never been performed in its entirety. Much of its material, however, was later reworked and used in Berlinski's *Litanies for the Persecuted*, one of his best-known works.

In 1959, after Saminsky death, Arthur Wolfson, the cantor of Emanu-El, also assumed the tasks and responsibilities of music director. Meanwhile, by 1963, Berlinski could not resist the invitation to become music director of the Washington Hebrew Congregation, also one of America's oldest and most prestigious Reform temples, which had already been exposed to high musical standards under Max Helfman's direction for the High Holy Day services. Its leader, Rabbi Gerstenfeld, wanted it to become a center for the finest sacred music in Washington, D.C., on a par with the city's most prominent churches, and he assured Berlinski a virtually free hand. Indeed, Berlinski quickly succeeded in making that synagogue a showcase for Jewish liturgical music creativity, and it became known nationally throughout the Reform movement for its musical sophistication and its adventurous but nonetheless diverse music. Services were even occasionally reviewed by music critics from the general press, and eventually Berlinski was given the highly unusual title Minister of Music. At the same time, he garnered an international reputation as the foremost interpreter, as well as composer, of Jewish organ music, and he began giving organ recitals throughout Europe and America. After his retirement, he founded his own concert chorus, Shir Chadash, which became recognized for its programming of historical and contemporary Jewish music at annual concerts at the Washington National Cathedral and the Kennedy Center. Its annual Hanukka concert was supported by the city and the Kennedy Center, and its concerts of High Holy Day music, given each year between Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, were geared to the non-Jewish general community and well

attended. Both became important annual events on Washington's cultural calendar, but they ceased when Berlinski could no longer prepare and direct them.

Berlinski was a prolific composer. His nonliturgical concert opera, in addition to the three such works presented here, include concerti, song cycles, chamber works, a violin sonata (*Le Violon de Chagall*, after the famous Jewish painter), oratorios and various dramatic works, a dozen organ sinfonias as well as smaller organ pieces, and other symphonic music. But in many ways closest to his heart was his *Avodat Shabbat*, an elaborate setting of the complete Reform Sabbath eve liturgy for tenor cantor solo, large chorus, and full symphony orchestra. Often considered his magnum opus (by others as well as himself), the work was commissioned by Cantor David Puttermann for the annual service of new music at New York's Park Avenue Synagogue in 1958. Its subsequently orchestrated version was premiered in 1963 at Lincoln Center in New York and was recorded for the Milken Archive in Berlin in 2000. His liturgical catalogue also includes numerous individual prayer settings, service excerpts, and organ pieces for the synagogue—many of which have been recorded by the Milken Archive as well.

Berlinski's *Etz hayyim* (Tree of Life), originally *The Beadle of Prague*, which he abandoned and rewrote, was commissioned by Project Judaica to mark the opening of the Smithsonian Institution's *The Precious Legacy*, an exhibition of treasures from the Prague Jewish Museum that toured North America from 1983 to 1986. In 1993, Union Theological Seminary in New York, the nation's leading pan-denominational liberal Protestant Christian institution, commissioned him—along with Robert Helmschrott, the Roman Catholic composer from Munich, and the Protestant Heinz Werner

Zimmermann of Frankfurt—to compose *Bonhoeffer Triptych*. This work was conceived to honor the German Evangelical (Lutheran) pastor and Resistance leader Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was murdered by the Germans in 1945 for his Resistance activities and humanitarian efforts. It has been performed in Germany, America, Israel, and South Africa.

Berlinski's oratorio *Job* was commissioned for the groundbreaking ceremony of the rebuilding of Dresden's main synagogue, in 1988, and was performed by the Dresden State Opera Orchestra and Chamber Chorus. That same year, his *Mazkir n'shamot* (In Remembrance of the Soul), commissioned by the Library of Congress for a concert commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of *Reichskristallnacht*, was premiered at the Library's Coolidge Auditorium. His twelfth organ sinfonia, *Die heiligen Zehn Gebote* (The Sacred Ten Sinaitic Pronouncements [commandments]), for tenor, baritone, two trumpets, narrator, percussion, chorus, celesta, and organ, was first performed in October 2000 at Leipzig's Thomaskirche (St. Thomas Church) as part of an entire concert devoted to Berlinski's music, and was repeated a month later in Munich.



The composer at a Milken Archive recording session in Berlin, 1999

At the time of his death, Berlinski was working on a large-scale composition based on the High Holy Day liturgy and partly based on reworked sections of his earlier cantata *Days of Awe*. He did not live to complete it. But only a few months before he passed away, his chamber work for baritone, mezzo-soprano, double bass, and piano, *Celan*—inspired by the life and work of the great French-Romanian Jewish poet and Holocaust survivor Paul Celan—was given its premiere at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington. His last completed works are a quintet for clarinet and strings, and *Psalm 130* for solo voice, chorus, and organ, commissioned by the Washington National Cathedral.

Among Berlinski's many other important works are the following: *Litany of Solomon ben Aaron*, a tribute to Jewish martyrdom; *Yizkor*, a memorial service; *Sh'virat hakkelim*, which quotes from Russian synagogue music; *The Death of Rachel*; and a *Psalm of Unity*. Especially notable among his other organ sinfonias are two that are also scored for voices: *David and Goliath* and *The Glass Bead Game*.

Berlinski's music is not confined exclusively to overt Jewish themes. However, he always insisted that the imprint of his Jewish experience was inextricable from anything he wrote: "I don't think I can write a piece of music, no matter what I do and what I will try, that does not have the stamp of my Jewish existence." Indeed, inspiration from Judaic themes, biblical cantillation as well as narratives, liturgy, Jewish history, and the Hebrew language itself all permeate his aggregate output on one level or another. He viewed Judaism not only as religion—though that played a major part for him—but also as a civilization, along the lines of Mordecai Kaplan's ideas. He felt that those extramusical sources helped him focus his musical conceptions.

From his classical training and from his special devotion to the organ, Berlinski always thought naturally in polyphonic terms. He correctly perceived Jewish sacred music as historically—and therefore fundamentally in origin—nonpolyphonic, especially in its early roots of biblical cantillation and psalmody. Finding ways to incorporate these elements within polyphonic frameworks was therefore his self-imposed challenge. He often credited German composer Max Reger with having exerted a profound influence on his own technique, particularly with regard to polyphony. Yet his synagogue works, no matter how bold or progressive the harmonic language or general approach, are all skillfully crafted around nuclei of traditional liturgical melos. And despite his penchant for a kind of post-Bartók chromaticism, the flowing freedom as well as modality of cantorial chant is usually discernible.

For Berlinski, any nontonal music and any polyphony—whether tonal, pantonal, or nontonal—had to derive from a homophonic line, from what he called his "inner voice" that he could sing first. His immersion in the study of Ashkenazi cantorial tradition with Cantor Max Wohlberg at the Jewish Theological Seminary—of sacred tunes emanating from the Middle Ages, modal chants, and even older biblical intonations—impregnated both his own musical thinking and much of the melodic material he invented. "I cannot think of a melody [of mine]," he proclaimed a year before his ninetieth birthday, "that does not, in one way or another, reflect this osmosis and absorption of Jewish material." His embracive artistic and stylistic credos are summed up in the continuation of his ruminations during that interview.

Consonance and dissonance are the two poles of a bipolar system that, together, amount to a musical idiom for me. That is the language.... I consider dissonance, still, as an expression of inner tension. And you can go from dissonance to dissonance and intensify the density of the dissonant writing. But there is no work of mine where a consonance in the solution does not play a very important role.... It is not a question of dissonant or not, or of tonal or nontonal: they are both elements. Tonality and atonality do not, either one, go without the other. Both elements, for me, must work together.

Berlinski's many honors include a MacDowell fellowship (1958), the Peabody Waite Award of the American Academy of Arts and Letters (1984), the Lifetime Achievement Award of the American Guild of Organists (1995), and the Commander's Cross of the Order of Merit from the president of the Federal Republic of Germany (2001).

—Neil W. Levin

Program Notes

FROM THE WORLD OF MY FATHER

From the World of My Father is Berlinski's reconstruction from memory of some of the music he wrote and directed for PIAT, the émigré Yiddish theatrical troupe in Paris between 1933 and 1940, during his sojourn there as a refugee. He was unable to retrieve any of those scores prior to his departure for the United States, and they are presumed to be lost—although there is still the possibility that some may be found in Paris archives. After settling in America, he was able to fashion his recollections of the melodic material into this suite (which he titled before the publication of Irving Howe's well-known book of nearly the same name).

In 1938, while still in Paris, Berlinski learned of the death of his father, who, together with the actors and actresses of the PIAT, had been his last remaining personal links to the world of eastern European Jewish life, language, and lore. As an immigrant from Poland to Germany, his father had been careful to transmit to his children some of the cultural heritage from eastern Europe—even as they acculturated to a very different environment and set of sensibilities in Leipzig. The elder Berlinski also sought to ensure that his children, even though he wanted them to become “modern German Jews,” would still have some familiarity with the Yiddish language, and he had engaged a tutor for that purpose.

Berlinski now determined to write a piece that would evoke the images—dances, laments, celebrations, piety, struggles and joys of daily life, and mysteries—of that world from which his father (and mother) had come in principle and which their

parents and grandparents had known even more intimately. (His parents had actually come from the cosmopolitan and cultured Jewish community in Lódz, in what was Russian Poland, and not from the unwesternized outlying regions of the empire.) It was a world that he knew had declined considerably after the First World War on its path toward dilution, with the inroads of modernity and—in large areas of the former Czarist Empire—as a result of the Soviet regime. Although he could not have known it at the time, it was a world doomed to imminent and complete destruction within the next several years.



Berlinski in front of his former family home
in Leipzig, 1993

Around the same time, Berlinski was introduced by one of his teachers, Daniel-Lesur, to the inventor of the ondes martenot, an early electronic wave

instrument. As it happened, Daniel-Lesur's mother was a virtuoso performer on the instrument, and Berlinski decided to provide a role for her in his new piece. He thus scored the initial incarnation of the music that later became *From the World of My Father*. In Paris it was titled *Hatzot [Chazoth]*, for string quartet and ondes martenot—in which form it received its premiere in 1938 at the Salle Erard in Paris as a theatrical piece. In America he recycled the music as he remembered it into three versions, which, although containing basically the same music, exist as three suites. The one here, Suite no. 1, is scored for orchestra; the others are scored for clarinet solo and chamber orchestra and for cello and chamber orchestra. In addition, he fashioned some of these musical recollections from his Paris days into a sonata for flute and piano, and as a solo organ piece that received considerable attention.

By the time Berlinski scored the present orchestral version, he did so with the Holocaust and its destruction of European Jewry in mind. "The Holocaust did [now] put its imprint on virtually every note of this [American incarnation of the] work," he wrote many years later. "The wedding dances became *mayofes* dances [forced servile Jewish entertainment, often mocking sacred songs with degrading dances for Polish gentry in the 17th and 18th centuries and symbolizing Jewish servility and subjugation—so named after a Sabbath eve table song, *ma yafit*, which for some reason gained special popularity in Poland]. The so-called *freilekh* [a joyous dance for celebrations among eastern European Jewry] became the dance of the dispossessed, and the meditative *niggun* [a spiritual, usually wordless melody among Hassidim] evolved into the eternal Jewish quest in which we, like Job, wrestle with Satan and even with God for the meaning of suffering."

From the World of My Father displays a side of Berlinski's musical persona not generally associated with his work as a whole. Its transparently conservative, conventionally melodic, and nostalgic perspectives may even surprise those familiar only with the later works that brought him his major recognition. It draws liberally on perceived sounds, inflections, modalities, and idioms of the melos associated in popular imagination with prewar eastern European Jewish life among the Yiddish-speaking populace. These are not, of course, musical evocations of life among the minority of middle-class Jews in sophisticated urban environments in east Central and eastern Europe, nor of the urbanized Yiddish-speaking Jewish proletariat in many cities, but of the masses in the smaller and even medium-sized towns and villages throughout vast regions of what had been, prior to the First World War, the Czarist and Hapsburg empires. Large numbers of Jews in those areas still adhered, even by the 1930s, to folkways of the previous century that in much Yiddish literature are presented as a Jewish fantasy world replete with age-old superstitions, but it was also a world of much Jewish learning, mystical cults, and sincere piety.

Overall, the musical depictions in this work are romantic and unabashedly sentimental, yet accomplished with skillful simplicity and never banal. Much of the melodic material derives from tunes that the actors and actresses of the PIAT had sung for Berlinski in Paris, and which he had assimilated into a musical idiom for incidental music for their productions to enhance both tragic and comic theatrical scenes. All four movements exude deeply felt emotion in their straightforward lines and effective counterpoint. "This was the music of my father's generation," Berlinski wrote about the work decades after its completion, "now dedicated

to the actors and actresses of the PIAT—almost all of them victims of the Holocaust. It will remain with me the rest of my life—for every sound in it evokes in me a name, a face, a smile, or a lament. If that is sentimental, so be it!"

SHOFAR SERVICE

Although its most obvious reference point for American Jewry concerns Rosh Hashana (the Jewish New Year), the biblical trumpet/clarion-like wind instrument known as the *shofar*, usually made from a ram's horn, should be defined more generically as a ritual horn of ancient Israel. It was employed on many occasions in Jewish antiquity.



Blowing the shofar at the London recording session

Those included proclamations of the Jubilee Year, military purposes, numerous religious ceremonies not restricted to Rosh Hashana or Yom Kippur, warnings of approaching danger, summoning the people for fast days, announcements of the advent of peace, proclamations of the reign of a new king, and the signaling of many other public events. The shofar may be the oldest surviving wind

instrument used continuously in its original form among the Jewish people. Because of that, it is the only biblically mentioned musical instrument (wind or other) whose identity is known with certainty. In addition to objective historical accounts and other evidence, there are earlier references: Scripture, for example, describes the revelation at Sinai as introduced by the shofar (Exodus 19:16), causing the people to tremble; and there is ample additional biblical testimony to the variety of its uses.

Postexilic and especially modern Jewry's chief acquaintance with the shofar, however, derives from its central ceremonial position in the Rosh Hashana morning service: the rabbinic requirement, which carries the force of Scriptural commandment, that all Jews "listen to the sound of the shofar" on Rosh Hashana, and its prescribed number and types of intonations or "blasts" at specific points in the service. As the single most prominent feature in Rosh Hashana observance, even the instrument's image has become a visual symbol for the Jewish New Year and its seasonal approach.

A shofar can be made from the horn of any legally permitted, i.e., "kosher," animal, except for an ox or a cow—because of the association with the golden calf incident in the Bible. The ram's horn, however, is preferred for Rosh Hashana because of the connection with the biblical story of the binding of Isaac (*akedat yitzhak*) and Abraham's substitution of a ram for the sacrifice—the assigned Torah reading for the first day of Rosh Hashana and the theme of an important part of its liturgy. The shofar blasts are partly a recollection of that patriarchal demonstration of faith and obedience.

The shofar sounds on Rosh Hashana also have been described as recalling those at Mount Sinai, with

the hoped-for dual effect of reminding the Jewish people of the obligation undertaken then and of jolting them now, by the shofar's strident sounds, to resolves of self-review and moral rehabilitation. Moses Maimonides (1135–1204), the great medieval Jewish philosopher and commentator, interpreted the shofar sounds on Rosh Hashana as proclaiming, "You who are asleep, awake! Search your deeds and repent. Examine your souls, you who indulge all during the year in trifles. Amend your ways and let each one abandon his evil course and purpose."

The shofar has yet another, but related, symbolism in the service. God's sovereignty forms one of the principal themes of the Rosh Hashana liturgy, and the shofar blasts pertain to that as well: to the annual renewal of the people's acknowledgment and confirmation of that sovereignty—appropriately, on the anniversary of creation. Additional justifications and rationales for the shofar's connection to Rosh Hashana were offered as early as the 10th century by Rav Saadia Gaon: its reminder of prophetic warnings and exhortations; its use as a battle alarm in ancient Judea; its announcement of the "day of judgment," another name for the Jewish New Year and one of its central themes; its inspiration of awe and reverence as well as hope for ultimate redemption and national restoration; and its identification with the concept of *t'hiyat hametim*, revival of the dead.

The Torah itself does not specify the shofar unmistakably as the instrument for the prescribed trumpetlike blasts in the Rosh Hashana ritual (nor does the term *rosh hashana* for "New Year" or its holy convocation actually appear in the Torah; the term appears only once in the Bible, in Ezekiel 40:1, in another connection). However, rabbinic tradition determined this instrument to be the shofar, as implied in Numbers 29:1 ("day of *tru'a*") and

Leviticus 23:24 ("memorial of *t'ru'a*"), the term *t'ru'a* referring to one of the specific motivic trumpetlike articulations.

On Rosh Hashana the sounding or blowing of the shofar begins with short, plaintive call patterns and ends with a triumphant optimistic motif. The basic calls consist of three patterns, mostly outlining the interval of a fifth: (1) the ordinary and short *t'ki'a*, which ends abruptly; (2) the broken or detached *sh'varim*, with its three repeated quasi-staccato motives; and (3) the *t'ru'a*, a succession of rapidly repeated blasts on the same approximated pitch, equal to three *sh'varim* and preceded by a pickup or appoggiatura a fifth below. In the Rosh Hashana ritual these calls are arranged in various combinations: a) *t'ki'a*, *sh'varim*, *t'ru'a*, *t'ki'a*; b) *t'ki'a*, *sh'varim*, *t'ki'a*; c) *t'ki'a*, *t'ru'a*, *t'ki'a*—and in the final rendition of the series, a *t'ki'a g'dola*, the prolonged final *t'ki'a* generally sustained to the physical capacity of the blower.

Although some established practices provide for additional shofar soundings, the basic shofar ritual occurs at two principal places in the standard traditional Rosh Hashana liturgy, in the following order:

1. Within *shaharit* (the morning service), just before the conclusion of the Torah service (biblical readings) and prior to the return of the scrolls to the ark. This initial shofar ceremony, which may be considered a subsection of the larger Rosh Hashana morning service, is known as *t'ki'ot m'yushav*, and many traditional prayerbooks also refer to it in English simply as the "shofar service."

2. In the *mussaf* service (the additional liturgy that proceeds directly from *shaharit* on Sabbaths,

holydays, and each new moon observance) at three consecutive points, where the shofar sounding each time follows a series of biblical citations that addresses one of the several central conceptual-theological themes of Rosh Hashana. Each of these three series of biblical verses is surrounded by a prologue and a postludal prayer, concluding with a related, thematically specific *b'rakha* (plural, *b'rakhot*)—the generic term for an anaphoric prayer formula commencing with the phrase *barukh ata adonai* (You are worshipped, Lord) and proclaiming to God that He is to be worshipped for a particular attribute or for having provided a particular commandment. (Notwithstanding its common but misleading translation as "blessing," or, only a bit less inaccurate, as "benediction," the term *b'rakha* has no acceptable English equivalent.) A shofar sounding proceeds after the pronouncement of each of those three *b'rakhot*. The liturgical subdivisions formed by these three sets of biblical verses and their corresponding *b'rakhot* and shofar soundings are known respectively as *malkhayot* ([verses of] divine sovereignty), *zikhronot* ([verses of] historical remembrance), and *shofarot* ([verses pertaining to] trumpetlike or shofar sounds in connection with their heralding divine revelation and fulfillment of the divine promise for messianic ultimate redemption and liberation). Each of these three related shofar soundings within the *mussaf* service therefore relates to one of those themes.

There are variations among particular traditions, but the text of the initial *t'ki'ot m'yushav* ceremony has become more or less crystallized over the centuries. It consists of two *b'rakhot* immediately preceding the series of shofar calls and blasts. The first *b'rakha* here reinforces the rabbinic requirement to "hear the voice of the shofar." The second one is a more

general expression of worship of God for having permitted the people to live to witness and partake of a joyous occasion (*she'he'heyaru, v'ki'y'manu, v'hig'i'anu* ...). (Neither *b'rakha* is repeated in the second, *mussaf* shofar ritual.) This initial shofar ceremony is also surrounded by recitations of Psalm verses: introductory verses from Psalm 47; Psalm 118:5 (*min hametzar* ...—"Out of the depths I called upon the Lord ..."); six additional selected verses; and, at the conclusion of the ceremony, following the *t'ki'a g'dola* shofar blast, a selection of verses that varies among rites but always includes Psalm 89:16 ("Happy is the people that knows the sound of the shofar [trumpet blast] ...")

For the standard classical Reform service of Berlinski's day, the *Union Prayerbook*—which basically eliminated the *mussaf* (and most of its distinct liturgy) as a separate additional service or section—incorporated an abbreviated and modified combination of those two principal traditional shofar rituals (*shaharit* and *mussaf* occurrences), combining some of the two liturgical functions as well. The two *b'rakhot* of the *t'ki'ot m'yushav* are retained (though not included in Berlinski's setting); but the Psalm verses, partly out of theological considerations, are unrelated to those of the traditional *t'ki'ot m'yushav* and contain only short references to some of the biblical citations preceding the shofar soundings in the traditional *mussaf*—and in the *Union Prayerbook* they appear only in English. The shofar calls themselves are also reduced—from the original thirty, in the *t'ki'ot m'yushav* alone, to ten, providing the intended flavor without being bound by legal prescriptions. This is the version upon which Berlinski built his composition.

Like most of his liturgical music, Berlinski's *Shofar Service* was created for the Reform format.

Therefore, in his score he also followed the somewhat misleading labels in the *Union Prayerbook* that designate its three abbreviated sets of shofar calls as *malkhuyot*, *zikhronot*, and *shofarot*, after those liturgical sections in the traditional Rosh Hashana *mussaf* liturgy. Yet in format and substance those *mussaf* elements are really not self-contained parts of the *Union Prayerbook*'s distillation. True, the added English readings for the rabbi or other officiant (and some for responsorial English reading with the congregation), incorporated into the *Union Prayerbook* text for this single abridged shofar ceremony, do make some deliberately vague references to concepts or themes derived from those three parts of the traditional Rosh Hashana *mussaf*. But these words are extracted and represented in more universal terms, eliminating their core particularistic allusions to Jewish nationhood, to any special relationship between God and the Jewish people as the beneficiary of the covenants, or, especially, to the role of the shofar in heralding redemption in messianic nationalistic terms of a return to Zion or restoration of national sovereignty. Therefore, the superimposed *malkhuyot*, *zikhronot*, and *shofarot* labels notwithstanding, neither the shofar element of the service in the *Union Prayerbook* nor Berlinski's composition is substantively related to those *mussaf* liturgies.

Traditionally, each shofar call is announced or "prompted" by a spoken voice only roughly approximating two or three pitches—almost akin to a *sprechstimme*, but not formally "sung"; and this is more often than not done by a lay reader. (The original purpose of these "prompts" for each shofar call was simply to preclude mistakes.) Berlinski's entire piece is, however, a highly stylized artistic setting of the shofar service. He therefore followed the more common Reform practice (especially of

that time) on calling for a trained voice (usually the cantor in most Reform synagogues then) to sing those announcements (*t'ki'a*, etc.) as solo passages in a sustained, westernized metrical framework over an organ pedal. In most Reform congregations of that period, traditional-sounding layman's calls would have come across as unprofessional and undignified. Nor would that have fitted into so sophisticated a musical conception as Berlinski's composition.

On the other hand, Berlinski deliberately designed his piece in order to reintroduce the authentic shofar to many Reform congregations for whom it may have been a new experience; and he specifically employed the traditional shofar calls, even if he recast them within his more classical stylization. That in itself could have been seen as a bit adventurous in 1964, although the trend in recent years among Reform congregations has been to return to some of the traditional elements of the shofar ceremony. At one time, however, many (but by no means all) Reform congregations had long since dispensed with the actual shofar. They perceived it as primitive sounding, raucous, informal, antiquated, and therefore inherently inappropriate to their religious aesthetics; notwithstanding its historical role in the synagogue, it would have been viewed as out of character in a modern, dignified American worship service. In this they were following in the footsteps of some of the early extreme Reform German services dating to the early 19th century. Long before Berlinski's composition, many American Reform congregations simply substituted a modern trumpet. Others had a trumpet mouthpiece built into a real or simulated ram's horn, amounting essentially to a bugle or valveless trumpet in shofar camouflage, while still others relied altogether on the organ's trumpet stop. Berlinski's work stands as a groundbreaking innovation in its skillful

juxtaposition of old and contemporary elements—the shofar and modern instruments, Hebrew and English, age-old musical motives and original composition. It gives one the feeling of soaring to imaginary heights, with the two trumpets vying for primacy and then resolving peacefully with the choir. Moreover, apart from its obvious artistic value, it did find substantial acceptance in Reform Rosh Hashana services during the 1960s and 1970s, especially among those congregations with sophisticated music programs and the necessary resources. And despite a return to more basic tradition in some Reform congregations since then, the piece is still heard as part of the Rosh Hashana repertoire in many synagogues at the beginning of the 21st century.

The articulation patterns for the sounding of the shofar are derived historically (viz., in the Talmud) from those specified in the Torah for the *hatzotzrot*. *Hatzotzrot* refers there to a different, specifically *metallic* trumpetlike instrument, which was sounded in antiquity on various occasions—including holy days, when they were sounded in pairs. Some organologists consider the *hatzotzra* (sing. for *hatzotzrot*) a forerunner of the modern brass trumpet.

Berlinski's juxtaposition of two modern trumpets against an authentic shofar was both ingenious and creatively reflective of antiquity. The Mishna refers to sounds of the shofar being augmented by "two *hatzotzot*" in the Temple on Rosh Hashana. The derivation of that practice has been ascribed to the coronation ritual of Israelite kings. In the Rosh Hashana Temple ritual, it thus related to one of that holy day's central themes: God's kingship. In the context of sociopolitical history, it has also been proposed that the combination of instruments represented a compromise in what was a centuries-old struggle between the priestly and popular classes,

on the grounds that the earliest shofar uses were a function mostly of the populace and its folkways, whereas the *hatzotzrot* were used almost exclusively by the priests as an aristocratic displacement of the popular instrument.

The Mishnaic reference to that mixed instrumental ensemble, however, describes not the ordinary shofar used for nonreligious purposes, but one "overlaid with gold" for Rosh Hashana (and silver for public fast days). After the destruction of the Second Temple, in 70 C.E., the *hatzotzrot* were no longer part of the Rosh Hashana ritual, which thereafter included only the shofar.

Berlinski thus drew upon two related historical aspects of the ancient Temple Rosh Hashana ritual: the precedent of the shofar in conjunction with metallic trumpetlike instruments, and, poetically, the specially adorned shofar. As he characterized his approach, "I wrote a piece for a shofar overlaid with—that is, surrounded by—brass!"

THE BURNING BUSH

In 1956 Berlinski was commissioned by Dr. Robert S. Baker, the distinguished organist at New York's Temple Emanu-El, to write a work expressly for its Casavant organ, which was under major renovation at the time.

Baker had taught organ since 1945 (and later became dean) at the School of Sacred Music at the Union Theological Seminary in New York. He supervised the rebuilding of Temple Emanu-El's organ, and it was he who proposed the expensive addition of two ranks of horizontal heralding trumpet stops. In the face of some resistance there, he enlisted Berlinski's aid in convincing the congregation's board concerning

the wisdom of this addition. Berlinski himself needed no persuasion to endorse Baker's proposal. He connected that sound in his musical imagination with the trumpetlike instruments mentioned in the Bible, and he believed the new organ stops could constitute a modern approximation. He explained to the board members that such timbres were altogether necessary to the sound of a specifically "Jewish organ"—viz., one intended for a Jewish service—and that it was not sufficient to rely for "trumpet sounds" upon the shofar-type stop that the organ already had.



The composer at the organ

In light of their success in prevailing over the board's (and initially the rabbi's) reservations, Baker thought it appropriate to inaugurate the rebuilt instrument with a piece that would exploit the new stops and would illustrate the new organ's potential for power and drama. The result was Berlinski's *The Burning Bush*, a rhapsodic virtuoso work that sparked the birth of his large corpus of concert organ works.

The biblical incident on which this work is based, and from which Berlinski drew his inspiration, concerns the episode in Exodus 3 wherein God appoints Moses—over his initial diffidence and fear of inadequacy—to lead the Israelites out of Egyptian

bondage and to the land that will be their own as a nation. In that account, the angel, or messenger, of God appears to Moses as a voice emanating from a bush engulfed in flames, which nonetheless remains unburnt, unscorched, and intact: "the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed" (v. 2). When Moses later asks in whose name he should represent himself to the people when he tells them of his appointed mission, i.e., by what name God should be identified, God replies that He should be called *eh'yé asher eh'yé*—"I will be what [who] I will be" (more frequently translated in English language Bibles as "I am that I am"), although the philological basis and theological construction of the words remain matters of ongoing speculation and deliberation among scholars and translators.

At the time of the commission, Berlinski was studying for his doctorate in sacred music at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. His first thought was to write a programmatic piece based on the biblical story of Samson, which could use the new organ's increased potential for dramatic power to depict the scene in which Samson causes the columns to collapse merely by leaning on them. But chancing one day as he exited the seminary to observe the well-known stone image of the burning bush, together with the quotation from Exodus, on the façade of its tower above the entrance, he determined instantly to address that theme instead for his organ piece.

Berlinski could think of no melodic material or theme that would suggest the episode or those words from Exodus, but on rereading the passage in preparation for his composition, he was struck by the rhythm of the phrase *eh'yé asher eh'yé*, and in place of a melodic theme, he constructed a reflective rhythmic cell from those words. Together with that cell, he used a

twelve-tone technique—which in part is derived from the cell—in the beginning of the piece. The row is abandoned at various points, but the rhythmic cell is always left to permeate the work in terms of variable units of differing numbers of pitches, reaching as many as the full twelve—all freely combined. That cell and its permutations thus serve two functions: a musical symbolism of the mysterious defining words for God's name, and a structurally unifying device.

The Burning Bush had a thrilling effect when Robert Baker premiered it at Temple Emanu-El in 1956 on the instrument that Berlinski praised as "now ideally suited for the rendition of Jewish music." Baker then played it in London at the 1957 International Congress of Organists. Its enthusiastic reception there almost immediately established Berlinski's reputation throughout Great Britain, Europe, and America as one of the most gifted contemporary composers for the organ. In his review in *The American Organist*, critic Gilman Chase referred to the work as "an excellent piece ... a bold contemporary effort that should be studied and played by every organist worth his salt."

SYMPHONIC VISIONS FOR ORCHESTRA

Symphonic Visions for Orchestra (1949) is an elaborately scored semi-programmatic tone poem inspired by individual biblical images, passages, and sentiments. Berlinski's original conception was a three-movement work, into which he eventually interpolated a fourth movement (which became the third movement in the published score). But even after the premiere in that form, some thirty years after its completion, he revealed in an interview that the piece worked equally well when confined to its originally planned three movements—and that is how it has been recorded here.

The opening movement—or sinfonia, as Berlinski also referred to each movement as an independent unit—carries an accompanying quotation in the score from Psalm 94:5–7. “They crush Your people, O Lord, and afflict Your heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger, and murder the fatherless. And they say, ‘The Lord will not see me.’” Pounding raw energy and angst is interrupted briefly by a delicate woodwind and strings passage, followed by resumption of the orchestral fury.

The corresponding epigraph of the second sinfonia is taken from Jeremiah (4:23): “I beheld the earth, and lo, it was waste and void; and the heavens and they had no light.” The thin, stark orchestration, opening with double reeds over pulsating strings, provides an appropriate feeling of mystery and wonderment. The solo English horn passages and the extended oboe cadenzas, which all but force one to recall the famous English horn solo in Wagner’s *Tristan und Isolde*, add to the sense of foreboding. The final movement is a mood depiction of a verse from Song of Songs (2:11): “For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing is come...” The optimism and delicate euphoria—whether metaphoric in terms of Israel vis-à-vis God, as proposed by some commentators, or literal (in terms of human romantic love)—is introduced by a statement of resolute but gentle pathos in muted strings. This soon progresses to pastoral imagery in flute passages that turn almost into a tender love song. Imaginative instrumental colorations and combinations are explored throughout the movement as it builds to broad, thick textures that become layered sheets of sonic emotional intensity. The piece concludes with a return to its earlier tender strains.

The biblical quotations are intended as mood indicators, and the movements are scored to evoke both the emotions of those quotations and their applicable historical or narrative contexts. Critics have observed the influence of Mahler in the work’s orchestral power and harmonic richness, at the same time intuiting an admittedly amorphous “Hebraic character.” In that connection, comparisons have also been drawn to Ernest Bloch’s biblical evocations. There is, however, no reliance on specific traditionally Jewish musical material, perceived or actual; the melodic constructions are entirely original.

Berlinski has reflected upon this work and its biblical derivations:

The Bible has again become an island of safety, which, while it often remains deserted and unused, offers a constant source of shelter. Despair is supplanted by hope and a vision of peace. The Bible gives us more than answers: it gives us visions. And the acceptance of those visions is an act of faith, beyond logical explanation.

To recreate such visions and transmit them through the medium of sound is the goal of many artists. Very few achieve it. But setting the goal is in itself an act of faith. Without this, the composer of *Symphonic Visions* would find no good purpose in his creative efforts.

—Neil W. Levin

SHOFAR SERVICE

English text from the *Union Prayerbook*

I. MALKHUYYOT

t'ki'a. sh'varim. t'rū'a. t'ki'a.

The Lord reigneth, He is clothed with majesty.
The Lord is girded with strength. Thy throne is
established of old. Thou art from everlasting to
everlasting.

II. ZIKHRONOT

t'ki'a. sh'varim. t'ki'a.

For the mountains shall depart and the hills be
removed, but My kindness shall not depart from
thee, neither shall My covenant of peace be
removed, saith the Lord that hath compassion
upon thee.

III. SHOFAROT

t'kiya. t'rū'a. t'ki'a g'dola.

All ye dwellers on earth, when the shofar is
sounded, hark ye, and when the trumpet is
blown, come and worship the Lord. Come ye!
And worship the Lord at the holy mountain. The
Lord of Hosts shall be a shield unto thee.



Baritone **TED CHRISTOPHER** studied at the Curtis Institute and The Juilliard School. He was first introduced to Jewish music as a chorister and soloist in the professional male chorus Schola Hebraica, with whom he sang and toured the United States and England. Since then he has

appeared with many American and Canadian opera companies, and his concert engagements have taken him to Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., and Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco.



The English organist **CHRISTOPHER BOWERS-BROADBENT** began his musical education as a chorister at King's College, Cambridge, and went on to study organ and composition in London at the Royal Academy of Music, where he became professor of organ (1973–92) and a fellow. An important exponent of contemporary music, he has commissioned new additions to the organ repertoire and has given first performances of works by Arvo Pärt, Gavin Bryars, Henryk Górecki, Philip Glass, Stephen Montague, Robert Simpson, and Priaulx Rainier. Bowers-Broadbent, who is

organist and choirmaster of Gray's Inn Chapel Choir in London, has made numerous recordings, including the works of Pärt, with which he has an especially close connection, as well as music by James MacMillan, Messiaen, Elgar, and Howells. Since 1973 he has also been organist of the West London Synagogue, Upper Berkeley Street, only the fourth person to hold that position since the historic synagogue, home to Great Britain's first Reform congregation, opened in 1870. He has appeared in concert throughout the world, most recently in the United States, Germany, Estonia, and Italy, as well as at a Prom concert in England. He continues to compose works of all genres, including *A Ship Bound for Tarshish*, an orchestral piece based on the Book of Jonah.



BARBARA HARBACH, harpsichordist, organist, composer, and teacher, studied at Penn State and Yale universities; the Musikhochschule of Frankfurt, Germany; and the Eastman School of Music (D.M.A.). She has appeared in recitals throughout North America, Korea, Japan, Denmark, Germany, and Siberia. She has edited and published 18th-century keyboard music, is editor of *Women of Note Quarterly*, and has directed three Women in Music symposia at the State University of New York at Buffalo. Since 2000, she has been a visiting professor at the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point.



For more than seventy-five years the **BBC SINGERS**, Britain's only full-time professional chamber choir, has commissioned, premiered, and recorded new works by many of the 20th century's leading composers and has worked with some of its most distinguished conductors. Soon after the company's organization, in 1924, the BBC recognized the need for a permanent choir. The ensemble's pioneering daily live broadcasts of religious services, with much of the music delivered only minutes before broadcast time, helped develop its acclaimed musicianship and sight-reading skill. World renowned for technical virtuosity, versatility, and tonal beauty, the BBC Singers broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio 3 and BBC Television and has a busy schedule of concert performances in the British Isles and abroad. Though the chorus's repertoire includes many liturgical and religiously inspired masterpieces and it has participated in festivals of Jewish music in London, the Milken Archive/World of American Jewish Music project has introduced the BBC Singers to an entirely new repertoire of Judaic works, both liturgical and secular.



AVNER ITAI has been Israel's foremost choral conductor for more than four decades, a status paralleled in his long tenure at the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University, where he heads the department of choral activities. Born on the kibbutz Kfar Giladi in Upper Galilee, he was deeply influenced as a child by its rich musical activity, which retained a continuity with the choral traditions brought by earlier settlers from Europe and further developed on the ideological and cultural soil of Jewish Palestine and Israel. Itai began his professional life playing the oboe, but the American conductor Robert Shaw inspired him to focus his activities on choral music and conducting. Returning to his kibbutz at twenty-five, Itai became conductor of the United Kibbutz Choir (Kibbutz Ham'yuchad). He founded the Camaran Singers (the first semiprofessional Israeli choir) and was conductor of the Ihud Choir for more than thirty years, touring to great acclaim throughout the world. His Collegium Tel-Aviv, established more recently, made its debut at the Musica Sacra festival in Nazareth. He is particularly dedicated to his "Songs for Peace" concerts, which tour Europe and feature sacred works of three religions as well as an Arabic choir from Israel.



The **BARCELONA SYMPHONY / NATIONAL ORCHESTRA OF CATALONIA** (Orquestra Simfònica de Barcelona i Nacional de Catalunya) was founded in 1944 as the Municipal Orchestra of Barcelona, and under the leadership of the Catalan composer-conductor Eduard Toldrà it became an integral part of the city's cultural life. Since that time, the orchestra, which aspires to promote classical music—and the works of Spanish and Catalan composers in particular—has presented an annual cycle of concerts with many internationally renowned soloists.



Founded in 1903 by violinist-conductor Harry West, the **SEATTLE SYMPHONY** is the oldest and largest cultural institution in the Pacific Northwest. Recognized for its bold and innovative

programming, it is also one of the world's most recorded orchestras, with more than eighty discs and ten Grammy nominations to its credit. In addition to its regular concerts, the Seattle Symphony presents a broad spectrum of other series, including Basically Baroque, Light Classics, Seattle Pops, Discover Music!, Tiny Tots, Distinguished Artists, and Music of Our Time. Gerard Schwarz, music director since 1985, has brought the orchestra to new international acclaim. It now makes its home in Benaroya Hall, which was inaugurated in 1998 and has been praised for its architectural and acoustical beauty.



GERARD SCHWARZ was born in Weehawken, New Jersey, in 1947. He began piano lessons at the age of five and trumpet at eight, and he attended the National Music Camp in Interlochen, Michigan, and New York's High School of Performing Arts (now La Guardia High School of Music & Art and Performing Arts). He first heard Leonard Bernstein conduct the New York Philharmonic at Carnegie Hall in 1959, and the experience had a profound effect on him. From 1962 to 1968 he continued his trumpet studies with William Vacchiano, longtime principal trumpet of the New York Philharmonic, and he played in the American Brass Quintet (1965–73),

with which he toured internationally. Completing his training as virtuoso trumpeter at The Juilliard School, he received his bachelor's degree in 1972 (and later his master's degree), and at the age of twenty-five he joined the New York Philharmonic, succeeding Vacchiano as co-principal trumpet and frequently playing under Bernstein's baton in the early 1970s. Within a few years, Schwarz found himself increasingly attracted to conducting, and in 1977 he resigned from the Philharmonic to pursue a full-time podium career. In 1977 he co-founded the New York Chamber Symphony (originally the "Y" Chamber Symphony), serving as its music director for twenty-five seasons. From 1978 to 1985 he was music director of the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra; in 1981 he established the "Music Today" Contemporary Music series in New York; and in 1982 he became director of Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival. In 1985 he was appointed music director of the Seattle Symphony, and in 2001 he also became music director of the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. Schwarz's many honors include the Ditson Conductors Award from Columbia University and honorary doctorates from numerous colleges and universities. In 2000 he was made an honorary fellow of John Moores University in Liverpool, and in 2002 he received the ASCAP award for his outstanding contribution to American contemporary music. Schwarz is a founding member of Music of Remembrance, an organization dedicated to remembering Holocaust victim musicians. In 2004 he was nominated by President Bush to serve on the National Council on the Arts, the advisory body of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Credits

Herman Berlinski (1910–2001)

From The World of My Father, Suite no. 1 (1941, rev. 1995)

Publisher: Herman Berlinski Facsimile Edition

Recording: Benaroya Hall, Seattle, May 1999

Recording Producer: Adam Stern

Recording Engineer: Al Swanson

Recording Project Manager: Paul Schwendener

Shofar Service (1964)

Publisher: Mercury Music (Theodore Presser)

Recording: St. Paul's Church, Knightsbridge, London, November 1999

Recording Producer: BBC/Simon Weir

Recording Engineer: Campbell Hughes

Recording Project Managers: Paul Schwendener/Neil Levin

The Burning Bush (1956)

Publisher: H. W. Gray, London (Theodore Presser)

Recording: Calvary Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, February 1993

Organ: The Calvary Grand Organ, 5-manual 205-rank Möller pipe organ

Recording Producer: Michael Isaacson

Recording Engineer: Jim Deal, MasterSound Inc.

Recording Project Manager: Michael Isaacson

Symphonic Visions for Orchestra (1949)

Publisher: Herman Berlinski Facsimile Edition

Recording: Centre Cultural de Sant Cugat, Barcelona, January 2000

Recording Producer: Simon Weir

Recording Engineer: Bertram Kornacher

Recording Project Manager: Paul Schwendener

Credits

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