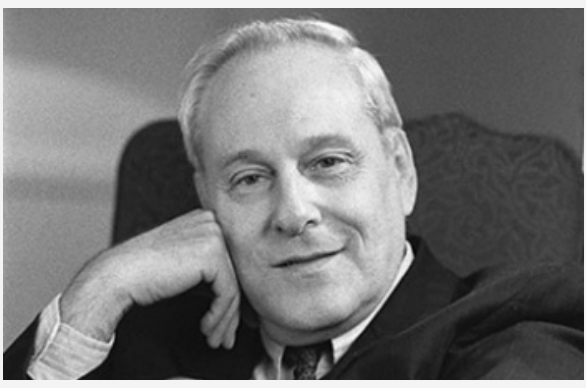


February 3, 2014

## Jack Gottlieb Memorial Concert Announced



The long-awaited Memorial Concert for composer [Jack Gottlieb](#) is taking place on Sunday, Feb. 23, 2014 at Hebrew Union College in New York ([details here](#)). The concert, which occurs in observance of his third *yahrzeit*, will feature colleagues, students, friends and family performing and reflecting on Gottlieb's life and award-winning career.

"Jack Gottlieb's influence on the world of Jewish music in America was both deep and far-reaching," said Milken Archive founder Lowell Milken in reference to Gottlieb's varying roles as composer, author, scholar, and

teacher. "His legacy is important to preserve for future generations."

Gottlieb was among the last of a generation of composers whose careers were shaped by their experiences at the Brandeis-Bardin Institute under the direction of Max Helfman. Like most of his Brandeis-Bardin peers, Gottlieb remained committed to Jewish music throughout his life, and composed a considerable body of music that accommodated Jewish expression without compromising his artistic voice.

As the author of *Funny, it Doesn't Sound Jewish: How Yiddish Songs and Synagogue Melodies Influenced Tin Pan Alley, Broadway, and Hollywood* and *Working with Bernstein*, a memoir of Gottlieb's long professional association with the legendary maestro, Gottlieb's wide range of influence and knowledge, and support for younger scholars and musicians was exemplary.

Said Milken Archive Artistic Director Neil W. Levin:

Jack Gottlieb was one of the truly gifted American composers of his generation. An exemplar of artistic integrity, he was never willing to compromise his principles or his viewpoints. I first became acquainted with Jack at the now long defunct National Jewish Music Council of the Jewish Welfare Board, on which we both served. Hardly a meeting occurred without his vocal advocacy of contemporary composers and new music—and not necessarily his own. When I began my association with the Milken Archive of Jewish Music in the early 1990s it was a given that Jack's music should be provided a long overdue forum; the Editorial Board was unanimous in this assumption. Thus it was our honor to include among our first fifty NAXOS CDs one devoted entirely to works by Jack, though this represents only a tiny part of his opera.

In part because he would not waver from standards to which he was committed, Jack could sometimes come across as possessed of a crusty exterior, an image he actually enjoyed cultivating. But the fact is that, as all who actually knew him would testify, Jack had a warm and compassionate heart as well as a truly loving devotion to Judaism and Jewish culture. And he could be a team player, often helping colleagues with their projects and taking delight in their successes.

Only about a week before he died, Jack wrote a letter to me in which he spoke briefly of his life and his need to see to the repair of the tears in its curtain. It was, of course, touching, but also manifestly Judaic. Jack Gottlieb will continue to be missed. But we must be grateful for the music he has left us as his legacy.

The concert will include choral selections from [Psalms](#), [Set Me As A Seal](#) and others. Many wonderful performers, including the Zamir Chorale and Cantor Robert Abelson, are scheduled to appear.