

May 27, 2015

## Legends and Lessons

This past weekend was a double holiday for Jews in the United States. Most Americans celebrated Memorial Day, a holiday created to honor the brave men and women who served and sacrificed of themselves for our freedom—a narrative that is sometimes lost in the popular American traditions of hot dogs, barbecues and fireworks.

It was also Shavuot, which celebrates the giving of the Torah at Sinai and the spring harvest. If the significance of Shavuot is not forgotten with time it is because, like every Jewish holiday, it has been passed down through stories and legends which connect us to the past and provide lessons that

light the way for the future. Throughout Jewish history, the primary storytellers have been rabbis, who provide context and explain the gaps between the texts of the Torah. But there is more than one way to tell a story—to make it newly accessible and give it new depth, delivering it to a new generation—and that is where art and music come in.

Today, we are excited to bring back our radio series, *American Jewish Music from the Milken Archive with Leonard Nimoy* with Episode 10: Legends. With works like Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco's "Naomi and Ruth" (told on Shavuot), Jan Meyerowitz's "Purim" from Midrash Esther, Joseph Achron's "Golem Suite" and many more, this episode recounts stories and legends of Jewish history and lore as they have been retold by prominent American composers.

In featuring these works, we are mindful of the fact that their existence depends upon the freedom afforded by the selfless sacrifice commemorated on Memorial Day.

Learn, remember and celebrate our stories in:

***American Jewish Music from the Milken Archive  
with Leonard Nimoy***

**Episode 10: Legends**

