

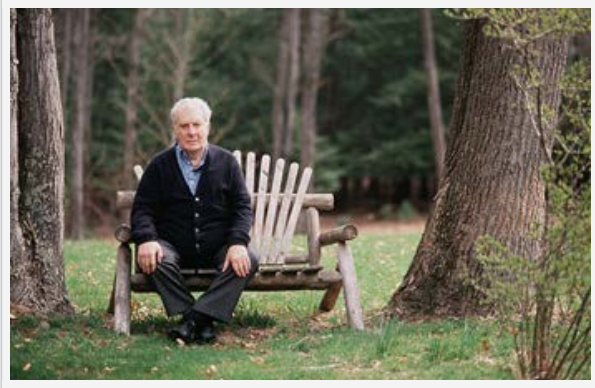
June 10, 2015

Jerusalem via Juilliard

Portents of chaos and destruction, capitals under siege and glimmers of hope in the darkest of times. This could either describe Robert Starer's *Ariel: Visions of Isaiah*, or the state of the world in which he grew up. Starer had to leave his childhood home in Vienna after its annexation by the Third Reich. He made his way to Jerusalem (then under British Mandate) on his own at the age of 14, where he was able to continue studying music. That is, until he joined the Royal Air Force to serve in World War II.

After the war, Starer brought his firsthand knowledge of existential threats of biblical proportions with him when he came to New York's Juilliard School.

That knowledge, along with his eclectic musical background, may well have come to good use when he was commissioned to write *Ariel: Visions of Isaiah*, based on the biblical story of Isaiah's prophecy of the devastation of Jerusalem. This six-movement cantata is one of two works featured in our newest addition to [Volume 17, Odes and Epics: Dramatic Music of Jewish Experience: Digital Album 5](#). The recording features soprano Roberta Peters, baritone Julian Patrick, and the Camerata Singers and Orchestra conducted by Abraham Kaplan—whose own composition is the second featured work on this album.



Get Biblical



Want to hear *Ariel: Visions of Isaiah* and *Glorious* right now? **Stream this album for free on our Spotify channel.**

Get Inspired



When life gives you *tsuris*... make beautiful music! That's just what the **Holocaust Survivor Band** is doing.

Get Kultured



This **international festival of Jewish performing arts** celebrates the global impact of Jewish (K)ulture..

Abraham Kaplan also came to the Juilliard School via Palestine. Born in Tel Aviv, Kaplan witnessed the birth of a new nation before coming to the U.S. with an Israeli chorus to perform at Radio City Music Hall. In New York, Kaplan was also offered and accepted a position at Juilliard. There, he met and worked with many greats including Robert Starer and Leonard Bernstein, who called him a "heaven-sent maestro." Perhaps those more jubilant experiences and hope for a Jewish future in Israel and in America inspired the tone of *Glorious*, a compendium of biblical verses, most from the Book of Psalms. Set to a spritely and highly rhythmic musical accompaniment, the settings bear all the hallmarks of the mid-20th century American sound.

Two great artists, born seven years and several hundred miles apart, united by their Jewish ancestry and fateful trajectory. Two great works of different styles and different origins, united by their biblical inspiration and American actualization.