

July 14, 2015

Fathers and Sons: Lazar Weiner

L'dor vador is a cornerstone of Jewish life, passing on knowledge and traditions, but rarely does it overlap with the family business, and even rarer is that business the business of Jewish culture itself (although perhaps more prominently in the Jewish world than others). This summer, we're celebrating this very specific intersection as we look at fathers and sons who have made an impact on (and who have in turn been impacted by) Jewish life in America through their music. Were it not for America, in fact, our first father-son combination may never have been possible.

Lazar Weiner's family fled pre-revolutionary Russia to escape anti-Semitism—a move that may have spared him from pogroms and the Holocaust that would decimate the Jewish population in Kiev. It wasn't until he was developing as an artist in America, however, that Weiner found a Jewish world and culture that not only suited him, but to which he would make an invaluable contribution as a composer of Yiddish art songs.



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We have recorded dozens of **Weiner's songs, choral pieces, and sacred works**. Many are **now streaming** on Spotify.

[Watch](#)



Weiner staged and conducted the NY premiere of *Milhaud's Service Sacré*, featured in our **exclusive video**.

[Reflect](#)



Yehudi Wyner discusses his father's life and work with Hankus Netsky for the **Yiddish Book Center**.

Weiner's story—which we explore through his music, photographs and oral histories—is the perfect place to begin our father and son feature. His journey of self-discovery is in many ways prototypical of the immigrant Jewish experience of his day (down to changing the spelling of his children's last name to spare them unflattering mispronunciations in the new world). Combined with his pursuit of musical ideals, the impact his body of work has had on subsequent generations is undeniable—starting with his own son, the Pulitzer-Prize-winning composer Yehudi Wyner, at whom we'll take a closer look next week.

Explore Lazar Weiner's life and music in:

[Father and Sons, Part 1: Lazar Weiner](#)

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