

July 17, 2013

## Welcoming Reflections with Prayers, Jewels and Gems

It's only mid-July, and the High Holidays are just weeks away. Sure, every year seems to fly by faster and faster, feeling shorter and shorter. This year, though, it's actually true—the Jewish holidays fall at their earliest point on the Gregorian calendar since 1899. The holidays contain the millenia-old traditions of the Jewish people. The Milken Archive of Jewish Music isn't that old but we have some traditions of our own, built upon the intention of enriching your holidays, however you celebrate them.

The first is our **free streaming**

**broadcast of "A Season of Forgiveness,"** available now through Yom Kippur. First broadcast on NPR affiliates in 2004, the program features our groundbreaking recording of a complete Orthodox S'lihot service (according to Ashkenazi tradition) with insights and commentary by Neil W. Levin and Rabbi Ishmar Schorsch. In Sephardi tradition, S'lihot recital begins on the second day of Elul. In the Ashkenazi rite, the formal First S'lihot service takes place at midnight on the Saturday prior to Rosh Hashana. It functions as an inauguration of the penitential season—a prelude to the coming Days of Awe that focus on repentance and renewal, culminating in the Yom Kippur observances.

The second tradition is our collaboration with Craig Taubman's Jewels of Elul. Now in its ninth year, subscribers to Craig 'n Co's newsletter will receive a reflection (or "Jewel") from a prominent community leader, rabbi, politician or celebrity every day of Elul. This year's chosen theme is "The Art of Welcoming." Indeed, we welcome this opportunity to complement the daily Jewels essays with themed weekly **"Musical Gems from the Milken Archive"**—**free downloads** from the Archive's treasure trove of recorded music. As a subscriber to this newsletter, you don't have to do anything except check your email each Friday morning of Elul (August 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th) for your link to that week's Gem giveaway. For daily inspirations, be sure to sign up for the **Jewels of Elul newsletter** on their site.



---

Do you have any suggestions or requests? **Let us know what you think!** And for more frequent updates, please join the conversation **on facebook**, follow **@MilkenArchive** on twitter and subscribe to **our YouTube channel**.

Never miss an Archive Newsletter! Just enter your email **here**.