

February 5, 2013

## Forward! Ever Forward!

Imagine what would happen if millions of aliens—industrious, adaptable, and not entirely English-speaking—suddenly landed in the United States and began remaking both themselves, and the country as a whole.

That's essentially what happened during the last two decades of the 19th century and the first two of the 20th, when more than two million Jews left Eastern Europe and came to America in search of a better life. Much extraordinary music resulted from that vast migration, samples of which can be found throughout the Milken Archive of Jewish Music. But nowhere will you hear more of it, or more insightful and illustrative examples, than here

in [\*Volume 12: Legend of Toil and Celebration\*](#). Subtitled "Songs of Solidarity, Social Awareness, and Yiddish Americana" the volume is filled with the musical expressions of the time: some tender, some triumphant, but all of them flowing directly from the immigrant experience.

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### From the Milken Archive and Beyond: More Geist from our Zeit



#### **SHOLOM, ANDREWS SISTERS**

The Surprising Story of *Bay Mir Bisty Sheyn*



#### **STRANGE HAPPENINGS**

The Holyday Calamities of Avremele Melamed.



#### **ITZHAK AND YITZCHAK**

A Cantorial Concert Grows in Brooklyn.

#### **News and multimedia content from around the Jewish Music world.**

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The reaction of these immigrants to the realities presented by the new world was at once universal and unique. The sparks emitted from the mixture of their desires, their new rights and their exposure to—if not leadership of—the tide of socialism rising throughout Eastern Europe ignited in a conflagration that engulfed Jewish and secular America. Bertolt Brecht once said that “art is not a mirror held up to reality but a hammer with which to shape it,” and much of the music in this volume reflects a collective endeavor to do just that.

[Included here](#) are songs, cantatas, and other pieces that reflect the trials of adjustment to the New World, bouts with disillusionment,

optimistic social protest, involvement in the Jewish labor movements, and, at the same time, celebration of new-found freedoms and opportunities and patriotic love of the new country. This volume also illustrates the flowering of secular Yiddish culture in America and its wealth of choral creativity.

Read more about this [historically charged volume](#) and incredible period of American Jewish artistic expression that would resonate around the world, [listen to music samples](#) and watch a [live performance of "The Holyday Calamities of Avremele Melamed"](#) on our website.

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