

June 4, 2013

Set Phasers to Concerto

Radio Series Episode 2: Concertos, Now Streaming

Jewish Music: then and now. These are the episodes of the “American Jewish Music from the Milken Archive with Leonard Nimoy” radio series. Its 13-part mission: to explore Jewish Music in the New World, to seek out new meaning and new connections to the past and future, to boldly go where no podcast has gone before. Guided by our trusted host Leonard Nimoy, with help from Neil W. Levin and Gerard Schwarz, [we continue our journey this month](#) by exploring instrumental concert music on Jewish themes.



Before the Starship Enterprise could launch into space, it had to be built here on Earth; its crew a representation of many of Earth’s civilizations. Similarly, these Jewish concerti of the new world were built upon the Jewish traditions and culture of the old countries of Europe, Asia and the Middle East. For Joseph Achron, composer of [Violin Concerto no. 1](#), it began in pre-revolutionary St. Petersburg, Russia (Mr. Chekhov would be proud). For *Self-Portrait with Gebirtig*, Canadian composer Joel Hoffman built on the songs of [Mordechai Gebirtig](#), a Polish Jew whose poems and songs captured the essence of Jewish life in Eastern Europe even as it was being erased. For U.S.-born Paul Schoenfield, it began in the U.S. but took him back to Israel where he wrote his [Concerto for Viola and Orchestra](#) in the late 1990s

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



VIOLIN CONCERTO NO. 1

Documentary featuring violinist Elmar Oliviera.



PROVERB OF SOLOMON

Leo Kraft talks necessity and his invention.



91-YEAR-OLD YIDDISH ROCK STAR

Arkady Gendler keeps Yiddishkeit alive and singing.

News and multimedia content from around the Jewish Music world.

If you have something fun and note-worthy to share with our readers, [send us an email](#).

The rich music of these three works featured in [part one of this episode, now streaming](#), is made all the richer by the analysis and history relayed by Gerard Schwarz and Neil W. Levin, putting the works and the composers behind them in context. Part two—available in two weeks—will feature Sholom Secunda’s *Fantasy in C minor for Violin and Orchestra: Nuskhaut* and Jacob Weinberg’s *Piano Concerto no. 2 in C major*, as well as additional commentary by Neil, Gerard and Milken Archive founder [Lowell Milken](#).

Please share this with your friends who love Jewish culture, history and, of course, music. As with episode one (enjoyed by nearly 500 people), [episode two of this award-winning series](#), originally produced for broadcast is only available for one month. For additional information and future episodes, visit [our streaming schedule](#).

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