

May 6, 2014

## Now Streaming: Symphonic Master Class

[Episode 7 of American Jewish Music from the Milken Archive with Leonard Nimoy](#): *Symphonic*, opens with the venerable Leonard Nimoy setting the scene for the master class audio tour we are about to embark upon.

"Beginning in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century," Mr. Nimoy says, "symphonic music began to reflect new influences. Composers turned to folk music and ethnic themes and incorporated them in symphonies, tone poems, and overtures. Dvorak turned to Czech sources, Grieg tapped his own Norwegian tradition... and *Jewish* composers started to express their history and tradition through symphonic music as well. By the end of the twentieth century, the repertoire for the symphony orchestra had been enriched by numerous works related

to Jewish traditions and experiences."

What makes symphonic music "Jewish" and where does it come from? This episode features inspired works by Joseph Achron and David Diamond (with Darius Milhaud, Stefan Wolpe coming in part two later this month). Each piece, and indeed the entire genre, is put in context with insightful commentary by Milken Archive Artistic Director Neil W. Levin and Gerard Schwarz (who conducted some of the recordings).

### Go Deeper



Exclusive **video interview** of composer **David Diamond** and Neil Levin discussing the origins and creation of *Alava—Brotherhood*.

### Go Back



Celebrate **Yom Haatzma'ut** (Israel's independence day) with this video of the **Vienna Boys Choir** recording **Max Helfman's Israel Suite**.

### Just Go



Milken Archive contributor Aaron Bensoussan performs on May 19 as part of **Toronto's Jewish Music Week**.

What impact did the St. Petersburg School of Jewish Composers have on the development of Jewish music in Russia, the U.S. and around the world? Do we owe a debt to Czarist Russia in which this school was allowed to flourish, or perhaps to the Bolshevik revolution which prompted prominent members of the school to emigrate and help establish the movement in the U.S. and elsewhere? How have composers' Jewish identities and experiences impacted their art? Listen in to find out.

**This month only, listen to:**

**American Jewish Music from The Milken Archive  
with Leonard Nimoy**

**[Episode 7: Symphonic, Part 1](#)**

