

UNIT 7

# A MUSICAL LIGHT UNTO THE NATIONS: ERNEST BLOCH & LEONARD BERNSTEIN

סיפורי מוסיקה  
STORIES OF MUSIC



A PROGRAM OF THE LOWELL MILKEN FUND FOR AMERICAN JEWISH MUSIC  
AT THE UCLA HERB ALPERT SCHOOL OF MUSIC

# Particularism vs. Universalism



## ISAIAH 42:6-8

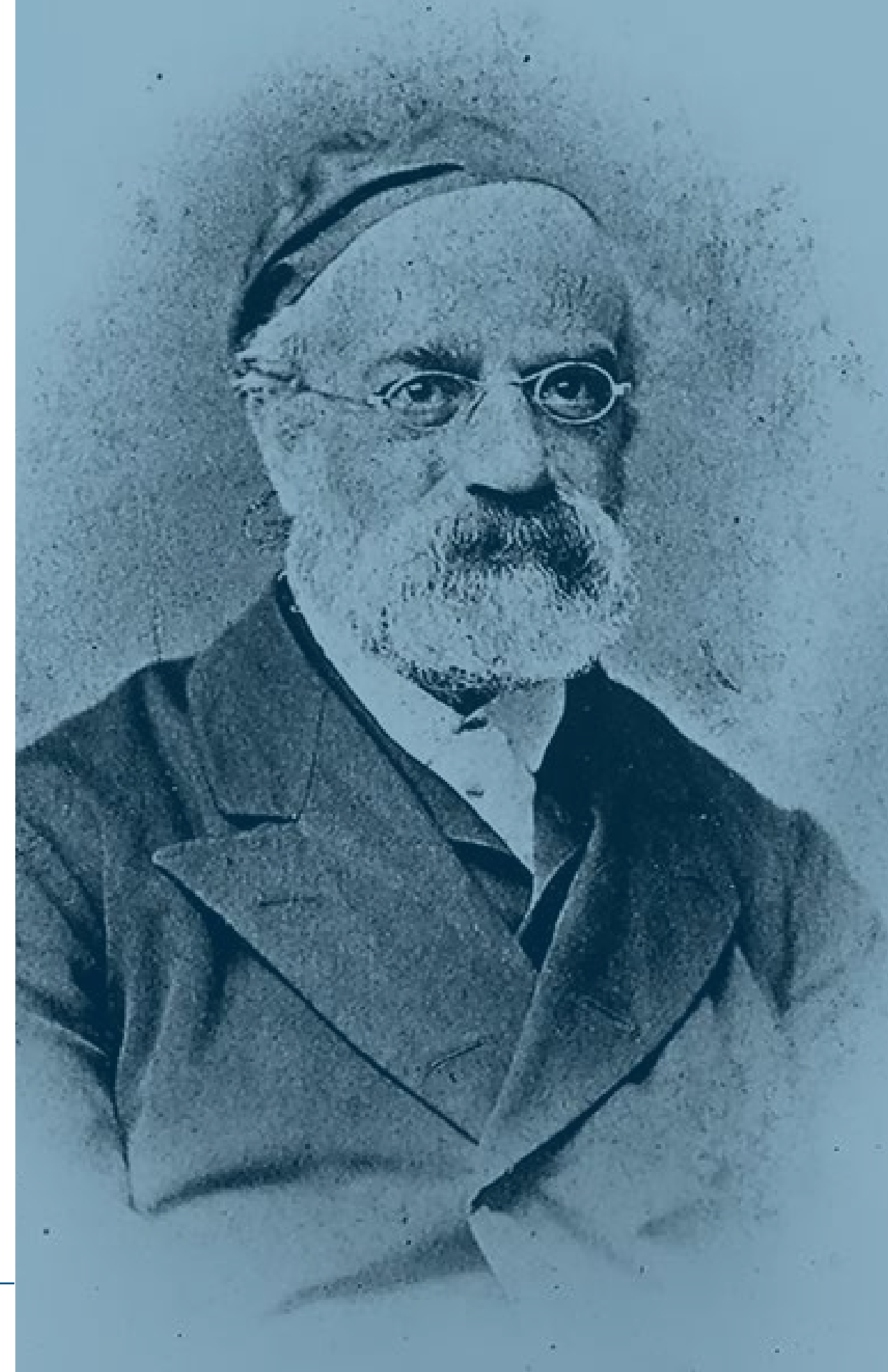
“I the Eternal, in My grace, have summoned you, and I have grasped you by the hand. I created you, and appointed you a covenant people, a light to the nations— Opening eyes deprived of light, rescuing prisoners from confinement, from the dungeon those who sit in darkness. I am the Eternal, that is My name; I will not yield My glory to another...”



# SAMSON RAPHAEL HIRSCH

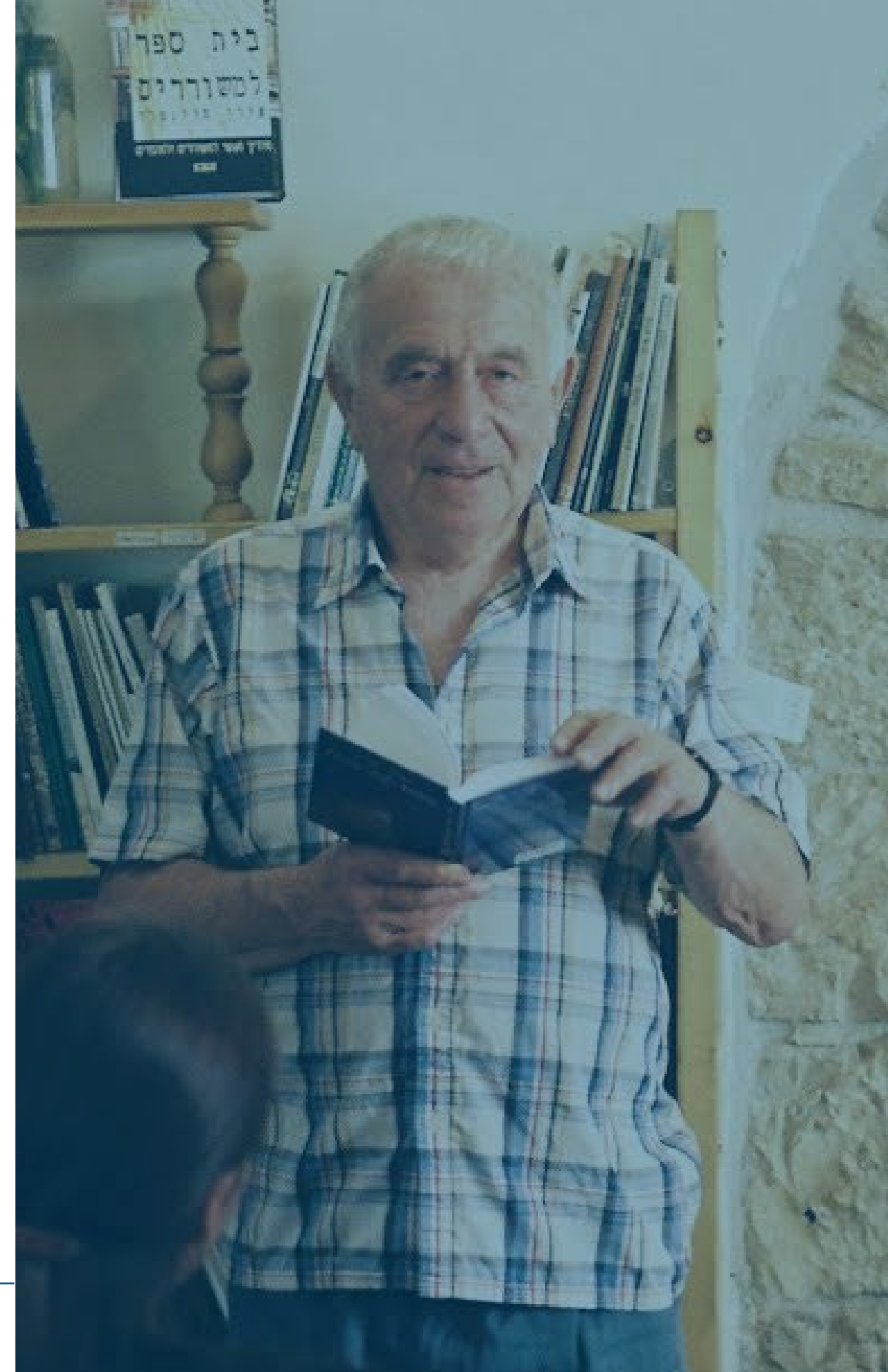
- Born June 20, 1808 in Hamburg, French Empire
- Died 31, 1888 in Frankfurt am Main, German Empire

"The more the Jew is a Jew, the more universalist will be his views and aspirations, the less aloof will he be from anything that is noble and good, true and upright, in art or science, in culture or education; the more joyfully will he applaud whenever he sees truth and justice and peace and the ennoblement of man prevail and become dominant in human society."



# YEHUDA AMICHAI

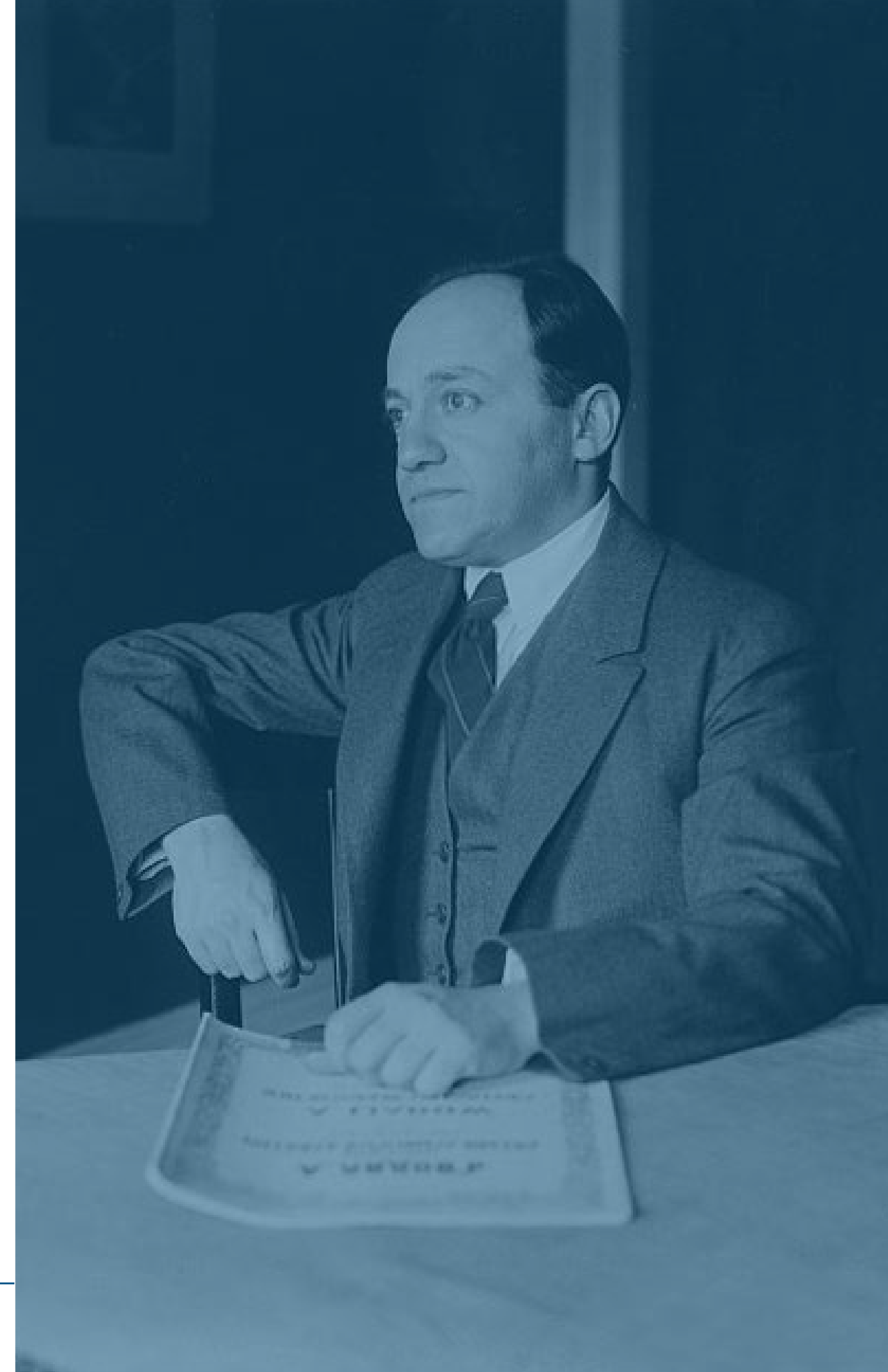
- Born Ludwig Pfeuffer, May 3, 1924 in Wurzburg, Germany
- Died September 22, 2000 in Israel



# ERNEST BLOCH

- Born July 24, 1880 in Geneva, Switzerland
- Died July 15, 1959 in Portland, Oregon

"I am a Jew, and I aspire to write Jewish music, not for the sake of self-advertisement, but because I am sure that this is the only way in which I can produce music of vitality and significance."





# BAAL SHEM TOV

- Born Israel ben Eliezer, circa 1698, in Okopy Swietej Trojcy, Kingdom of Poland
- Died May 21, 1760 in Miedzyboz, Kingdom of Poland





# ERNEST BLOCH'S BAAL SHEM

Preceded by Theodore  
Bikel's recording of  
*Di Mezinke Oysgegebn*

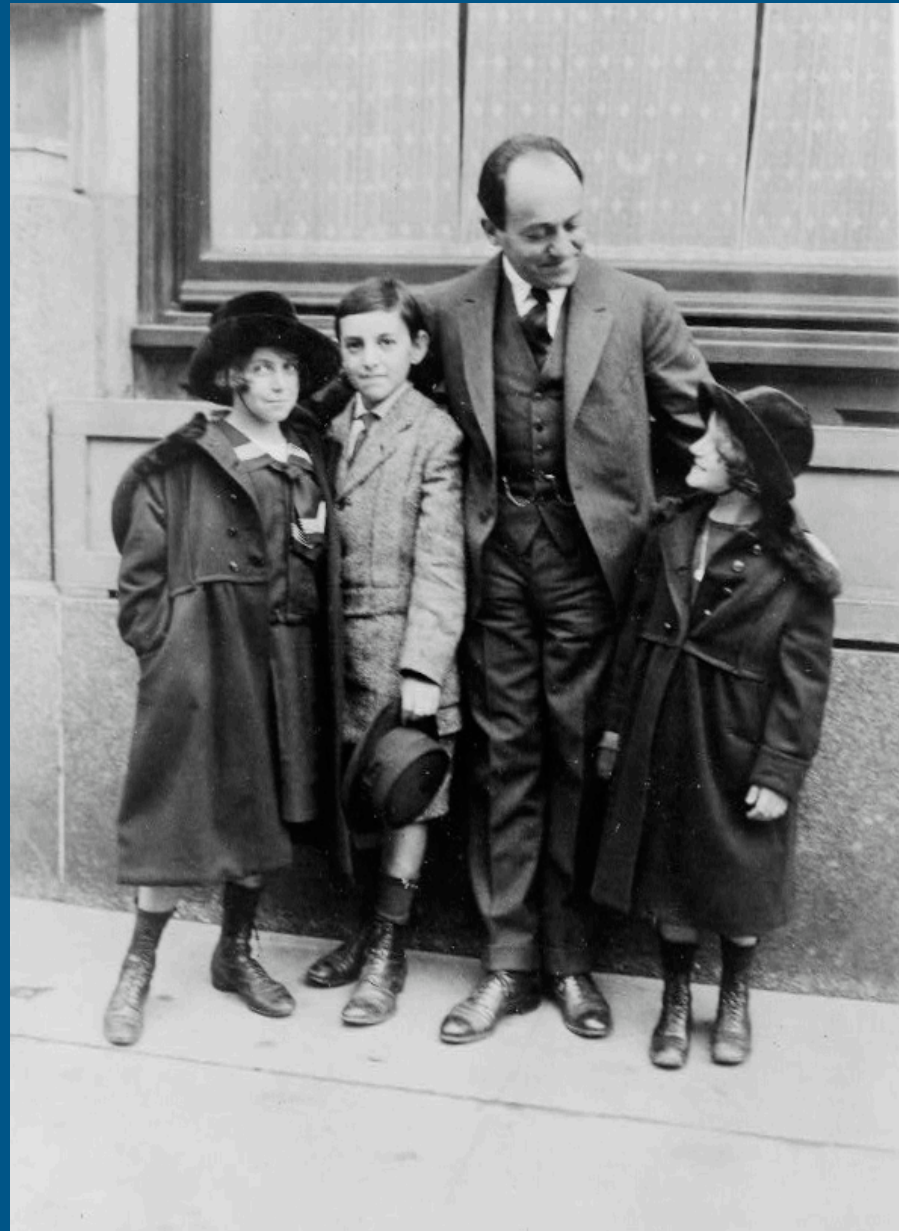
 "Di Mezinke Oysgegebn"

 "Simchat Torah"  
movement of the Baal  
Shem symphonic work





# ERNEST BLOCH'S 'FROM JEWISH LIFE'



# LEONARD BERNSTEIN

- Born Louis Bernstein on Aug. 25, 1918 in Lawrence, MA
- Died Oct. 14, 1990 in New York City, NY





# LEVI YITZHAK OF BERDITCHEV

Ca. 1740 - 1810.

Known for *A din torah mit got* (a “court session” with God), also called “The Kaddish of Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev” and “The Berditchever’s Kaddish.”





# LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S KADDISH SYMPHONY



# LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S CHICHESTER PSALMS

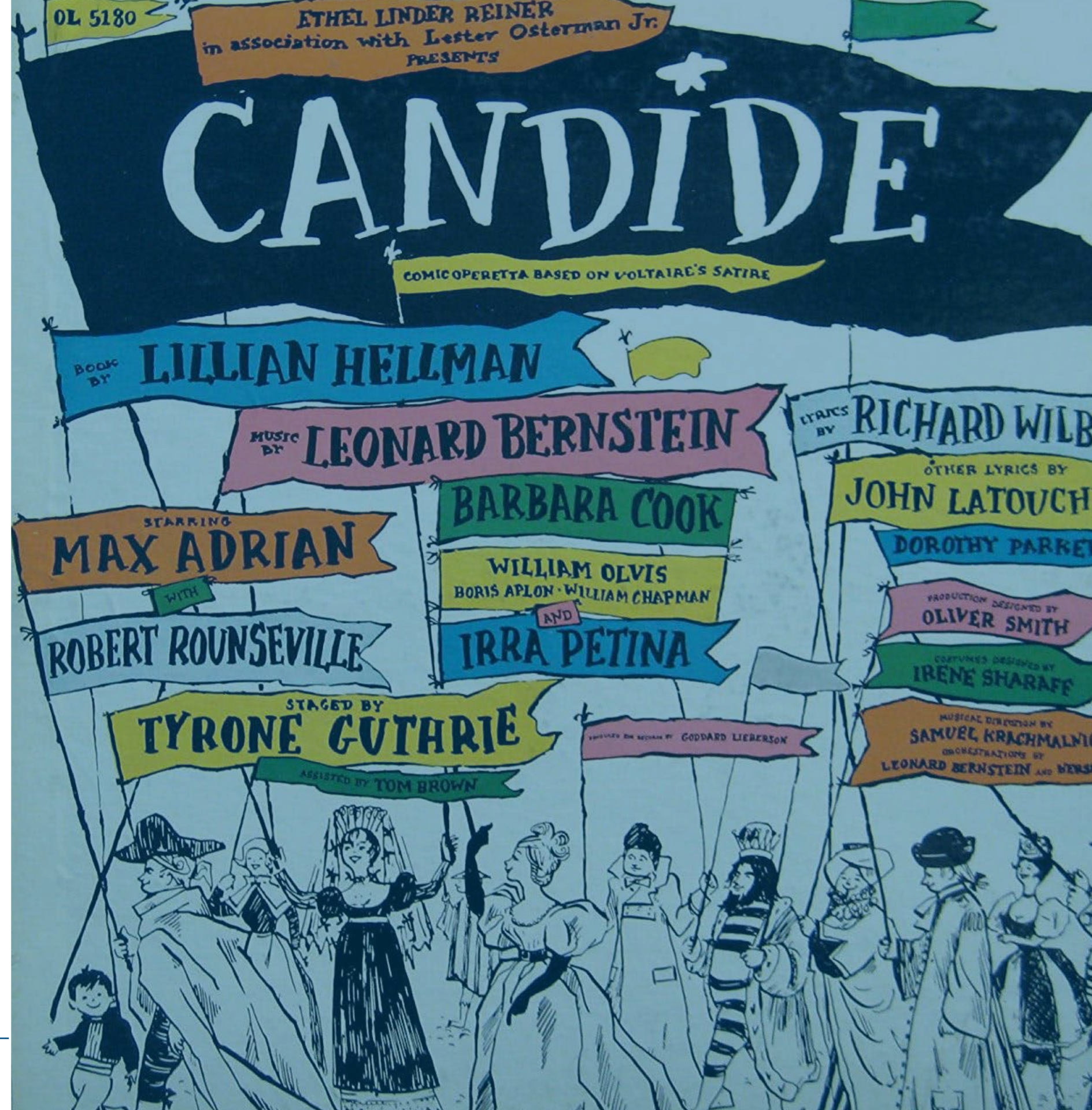
Commissioned for 1965 Southern  
Cathedrals Festival. World premiere,  
Philharmonic Hall, NY July 15, 1965.





# LEONARD BERNSTEIN'S 'I AM EASILY ASSIMILATED' FROM CANDIDE

First opened on Broadway on Dec. 1, 1956





# LEONARD BERNSTEIN

“...like many American Jews, he practiced Judaism lite, but inhabited it as though it were body armor. At the same time he was always tweaking the norms of Jewish conduct as if those boundaries could not contain him. Inside that enclosure he often pushed against the pillars, and at times, like the biblical Samson, part of the structure would come crashing down.”

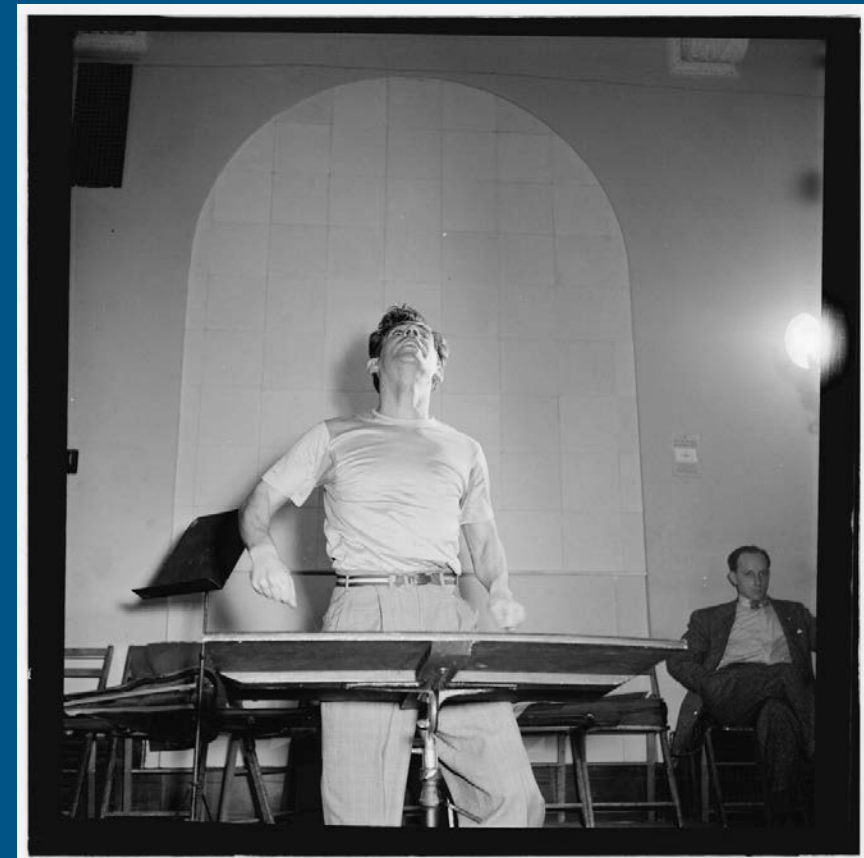
**Jack Gottlieb (2010)**

Composer and Bernstein scholar;  
author of 'Working with Bernstein'





# LEONARD BERNSTEIN TALKS TO FLAVIO CHAMIS





# ERNEST BLOCH

## 'AVODAT HAKODESH'

### (SACRED SERVICE)

An introduction



**AVODATH HAKODESH**  
(Sacred Service)  
**CHORUS PARTS**

ERNEST BLOCH

*English text by David Stevens*

**Part I**

Meditation  
Moderato

OPRANO 12 4 1 ② Mah Tov 4

ALTO 12 4 1 4

TENOR 12 4 1 4

BASS *Accomp.* 12 4 1 CANTOR 4

se - cho Yis - ro -  
dwell-ings, Is - ra -

*mp* ③ *p* (*poco rit.* - *a tempo*)

Mah to - vu o - ho - le - cho Ya - a - kov, mish-ke-no - se - cho Yis-  
How good - ly are thy tents, - Ya - a - kov, good-ly thy dwell-ings, Is -

*mp* *p*

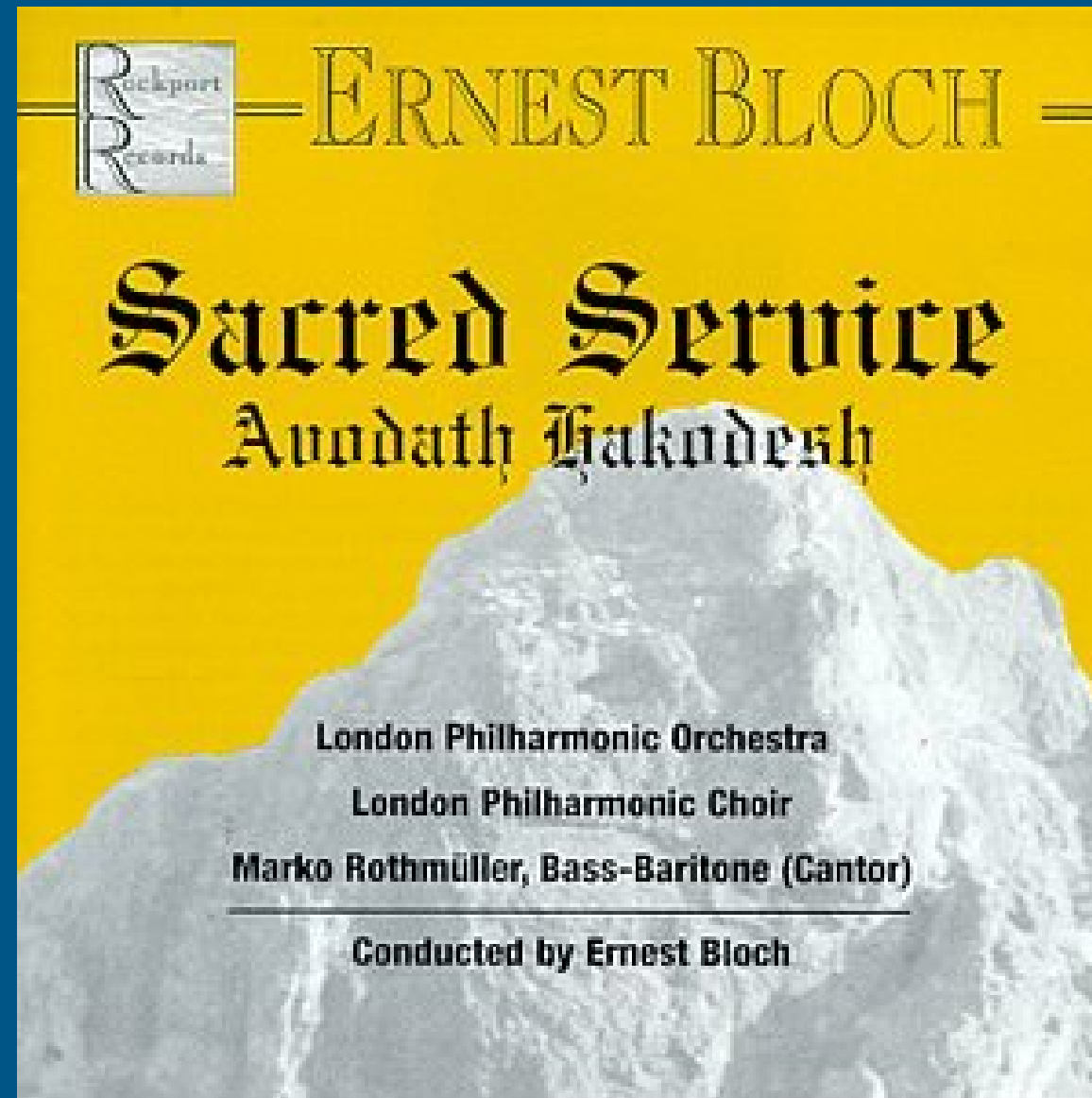
Mah to - vu o - ho - le - cho Ya - a - kov, mish-ke-no - se - cho Yis-  
How good - ly are thy tents, - Ya - a - kov, good-ly thy dwell-ings, Is -

*mp* *p*

Mah to - vu o - ho - le - cho Ya - a - kov, mish-ke-no - se - cho Yis-  
How good - ly are thy tents, - Ya - a - kov, good-ly thy dwell-ings, Is -



# BLOCH'S ORIGINAL 'AVODAT HAKODESH'



BERNSTEIN'S PERFORMANCE  
OF BLOCH'S 'AVODAT HAKODESH'



# SUZANNE BLOCH

- Born 1907 in Geneva, Switzerland
- Died Jan 29, 2002 in New York City, NY





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## Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music

For centuries, Jews have come to America from all parts of the globe, bringing with them the musical and cultural heritages of their countries of birth. Then things changed.

How has the American experience shaped Jewish life and culture in America? Understanding the evolving nature of Jewish Music helps shed light (and sound) on that question.

Learn more at: <https://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/resources/lowell-milken-fund-for-american-jewish-music/>



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The American Experience

With more than 600 works by 200 composers, the Milken Archive of Jewish Music is one of the largest collections of music and historical materials devoted to exploring the American Jewish experience.

Learn more at: [www.milkenarchive.org](http://www.milkenarchive.org)



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