

UNIT 3

DI YIDDISHE AMERIKE:
YIDDISH AS A REFLECTION OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH EXPERIENCE

סיפורי מוסיקה
STORIES OF MUSIC



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



Who in your family history immigrated to the United States, when, and from where?

Why did they choose to leave their homeland and come to the U.S.?



TIMELINE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Intro				
YEAR	1695	1700	1730	1733
WORLD EVENTS				
AMERICAN JEWISH EVENTS	First known Jew settles in Charleston, South Carolina	Jewish population of America numbers between 200 and 300 <div>Population Graph</div>	America's first synagogue, Shearith Israel (The Remnant of Israel) is built on Mill Street in Lower Manhattan ↑	Jews settle in Savannah, Georgia
AMERICAN EVENTS				

TIMELINE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

“For happily the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens...”

George Washington, Letter to Moses Seixas, August 17, 1790

the government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection, should demean themselves as good citizens, in giving it on all occasions their effectual support.


It would be inconsistent with the frankness of my character not to avow that I am pleased with your favorable opinion of my Administration, and fervent wishes for my felicity. May the Children of the Stock of Abraham, who dwell in this land, continue to merit and enjoy the goodwill of the other Inhabitants, while every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and figtree, and there shall be none to make him afraid. May the father of all mercies scatter light and not darkness in our paths, and make us all in our several vocations ^{happy} here, and in his own due time and way everlastingly happy.

G. Washington

TIMELINE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Intro				
YEAR	1820	1822	1823	1824
WORLD EVENTS				Beethoven completes the Ninth Symphony ←
AMERICAN JEWISH EVENTS	Jews from the German lands begin to immigrate to America in substantial numbers		The first American Jewish periodical, <i>The Jew</i> , is published in New York	Isaac Leeser, later to become a leader of the traditional wing of American Jewry, arrives in the United States
AMERICAN EVENTS			Monroe Doctrine is publicly declared, announcing that the United States will not tolerate European interference in the Western Hemisphere	



TIMELINE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Intro				
YEAR	1881	1882	1883	1885
WORLD EVENTS	Pogroms (massacres often with government collusion) and anti-Jewish persecution in Russia after assassination of Czar Alexander II and the ascension of his successor, Czar Alexander III	Onset of "First Aliyah" (immigration of Jews to Holy Land) in which approximately 25,000 Jews emigrate from Eastern Europe to the Holy Land (through 1903)		
AMERICAN JEWISH EVENTS	Massive migration of East European (especially Russian) Jews to America begins, impelled by persecution and lack of economic opportunity ↓	First professional Yiddish theater production is staged in New York	A banquet celebrating the first ordination class of the Hebrew Union College features non-kosher (trefa) fare, triggering an uproar, a walk-out by traditional attendees, and a call for a more religiously traditional seminary	Pittsburgh Platform articulates the tenets of American Reform Judaism
AMERICAN EVENTS				The first skyscraper, The Home Insurance Building, is built in Chicago


TIMELINE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Intro				
YEAR	1897	1898	1899	1900
WORLD EVENTS	First Zionist Congress is held in Basel, Switzerland Yiddish Socialist Labor party (the Bund) is founded in Russia		Aspirin is manufactured	Sigmund Freud publishes <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> 1900 Paris Exposition
AMERICAN JEWISH EVENTS	The Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary begins training Orthodox rabbis The Yiddish language <i>Jewish Daily Forward</i> is founded in New York ↓			Workmen's Circle is established in New York to promote mutual aid, Yiddish culture, and labor solidarity among Jewish workers Jewish population estimated at between 938,000 -1.058 million (1.23-1.39 percent of total population)
AMERICAN EVENTS		Spanish-American War		

TIMELINE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Intro				
YEAR	1901	1902	1903	1905
WORLD EVENTS		 <p>Kishinev Massacre</p>	<p>Settlers of the Second Aliyah begin to arrive in Palestine</p> <p>Forty-nine Jews are killed and 92 are severely wounded in the Kishinev pogrom</p>	
AMERICAN JEWISH EVENTS	<p>The Industrial Removal Office is established to help relocate Jewish immigrants from the Lower East Side, New York, to communities across the United States</p>	<p>Agudath ha-Rabbanim, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis, is founded in New York</p>	<p>A bronze tablet containing Emma Lazarus's poem, "The New Colossus" is affixed to the base of the Statue of Liberty</p>	<p>American Jews celebrate the 250th anniversary of receiving the right to settle in New Amsterdam</p>
AMERICAN EVENTS	<p>President William McKinley is assassinated; Vice-President Theodore Roosevelt becomes the U.S. President</p>		<p>U.S. gains control over the Panama Canal</p> <p>Henry Ford founds Ford Motor Company</p> <p>Wright brothers make first sustained airplane flight</p>	

TIMELINE OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORY: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Intro				
YEAR	1917	1918	1919	1920
WORLD EVENTS	<p>Russian Revolution brings Vladimir Lenin to power</p> <p>Balfour Declaration declares that the British government favors the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine</p>		<p>Prohibition begins</p> <p>Anarchist Emma Goldman is deported to the Soviet Union</p>	<p>League of Nations is established in Geneva, Switzerland, and the United States does not join</p>
AMERICAN JEWISH EVENTS		<p>American Jewish Congress is founded to help secure Jewish rights in post-War Europe and Palestine</p>		<p>Jewish population: between 3.3-3.6 million (3.12-3.41 percent of total population)</p> <p>Population Graph</p>
AMERICAN EVENTS	<p>United States enters World War I</p>	<p>Worldwide influenza epidemic strikes, killing more than 25 million people over two years</p>		<p>Henry Ford publishes anti-Semitic propaganda in his newspaper, <i>The Dearborn Independent</i></p> <p>Constitutional amendment grants women the right to vote</p>

IRVING BERLIN (ISRAEL BEILIN)

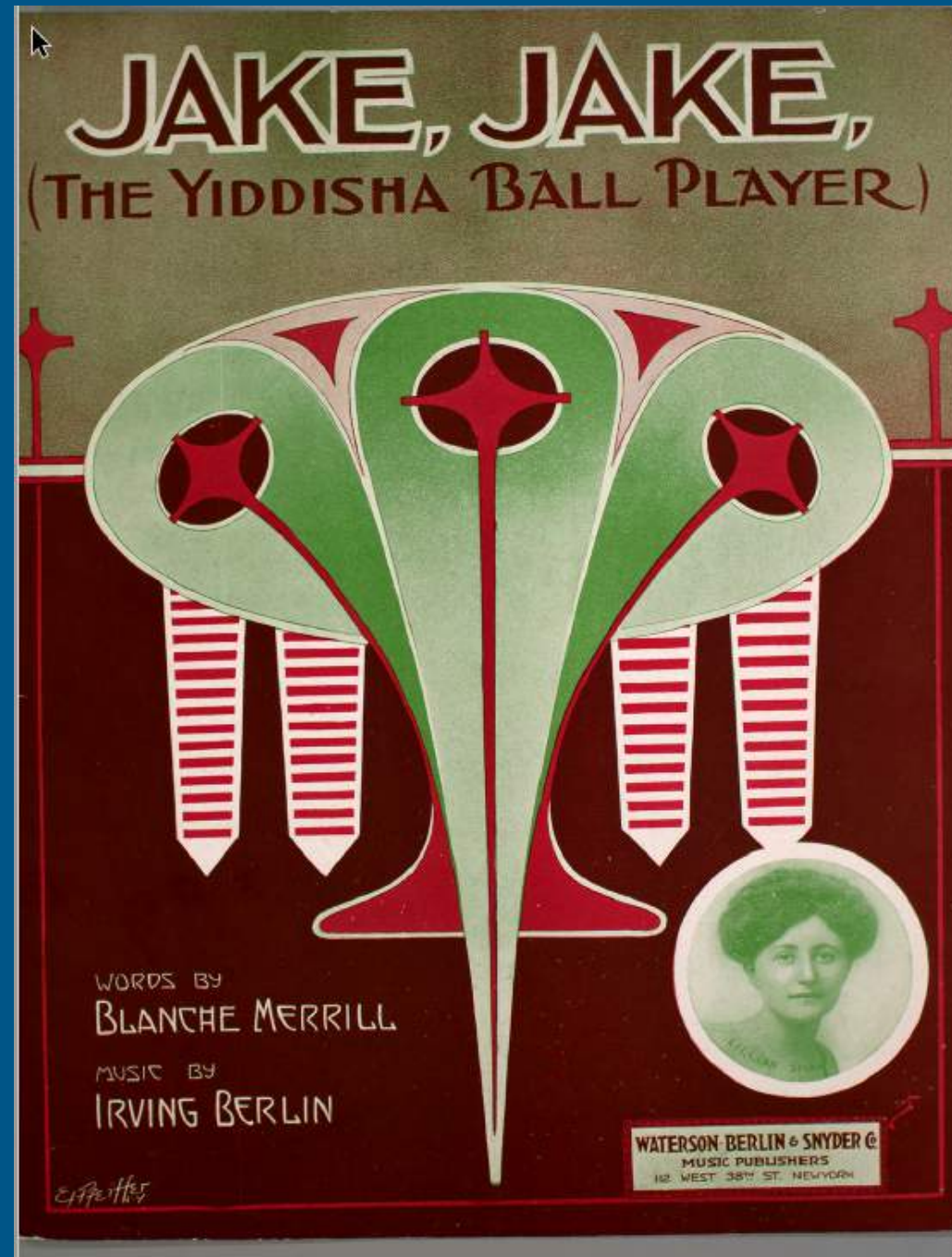
- Born May 23, 1888 in Tolochin, Vitebsk Governorate, Russian Empire (presumed)
- Died September 22, 1989 in New York City
- Immigrated to U.S. in 1893, age 5

"Irving Berlin has no place in American music—he is American music." (zamir.org)

Jerome Kern, composer



“JAKE, JAKE THE YIDDISHER BALL PLAYER” (1913)

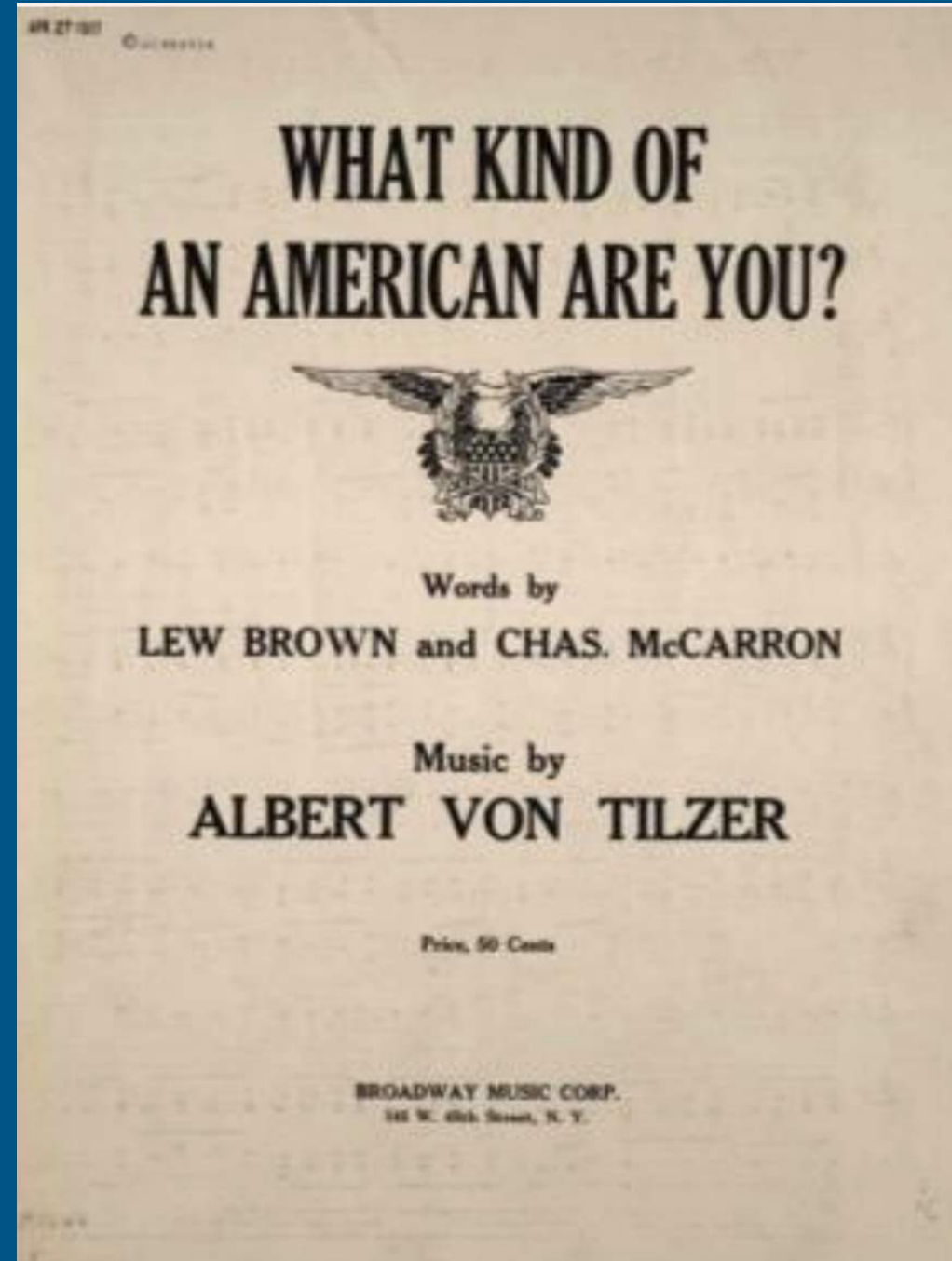


ALBERT VON TILZER

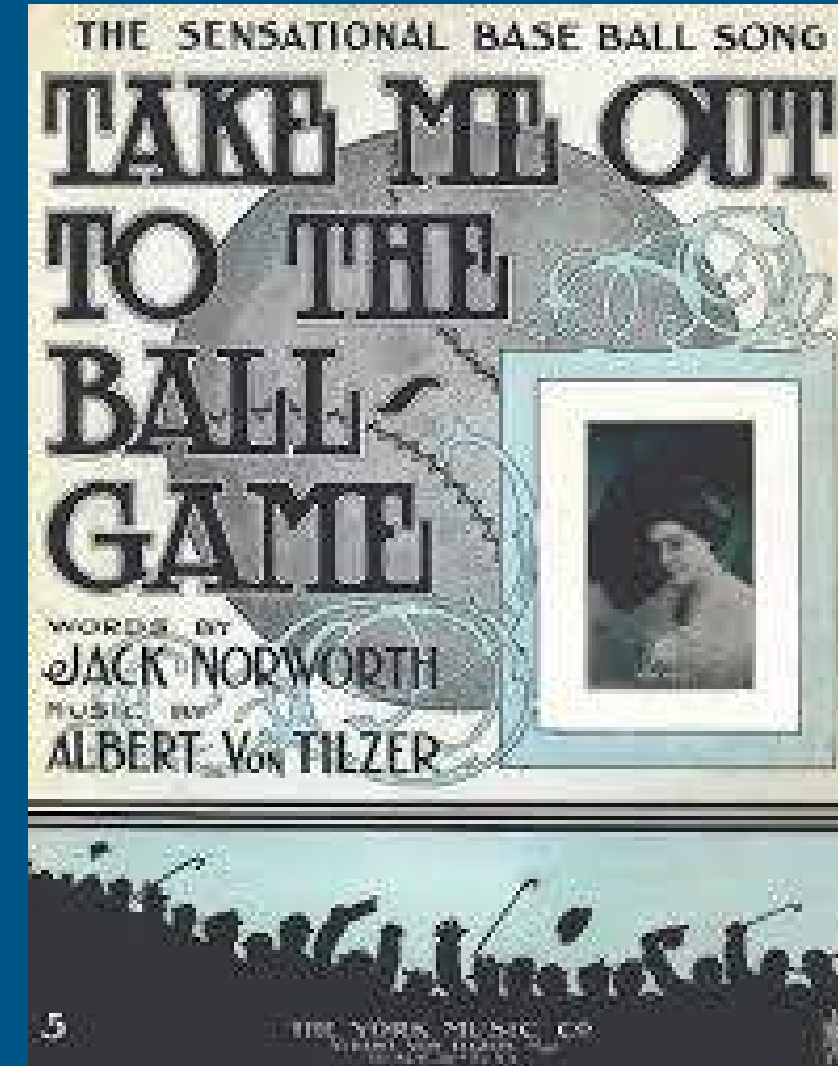
- Born Albert Gumm, March 29, 1878 in Indianapolis, IN
- Died on October 1, 1956 in Los Angeles
- Top Tin Pan Alley tune writer and composer for films in the 1920's and 30's.



“WHAT KIND OF AMERICAN ARE YOU?” (1917)

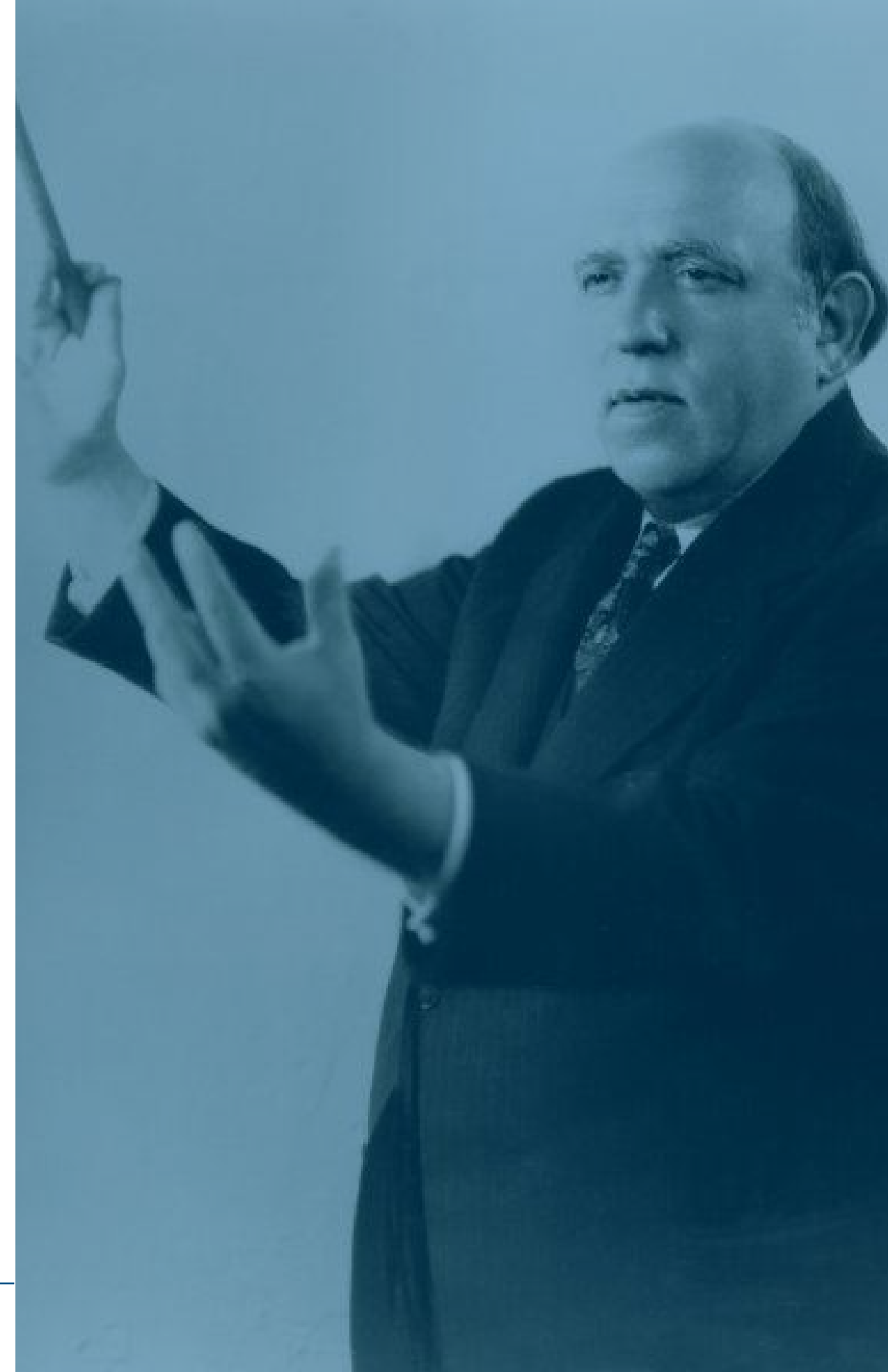


ALBERT VON TILZER: 1878 — 1956

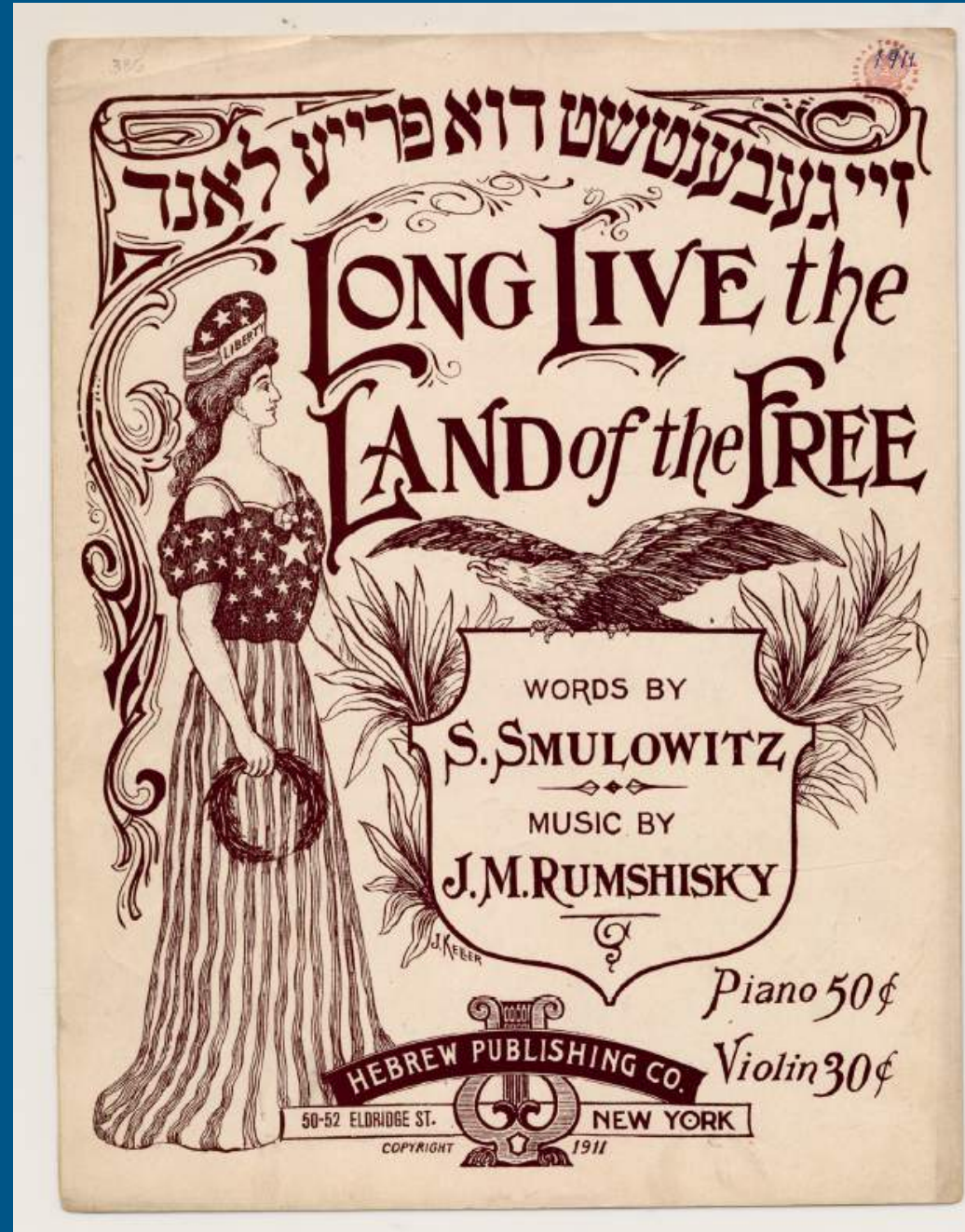


JOSEPH RUMSHINSKY

- Born in 1881 near Vilna, Lithuania
- Died in 1956, in the United States
- Along with Sholom Secunda, Alexander Olshanetsky and Abraham Ellstein, he is considered one of the "big four" composers and conductors of American Yiddish theater.

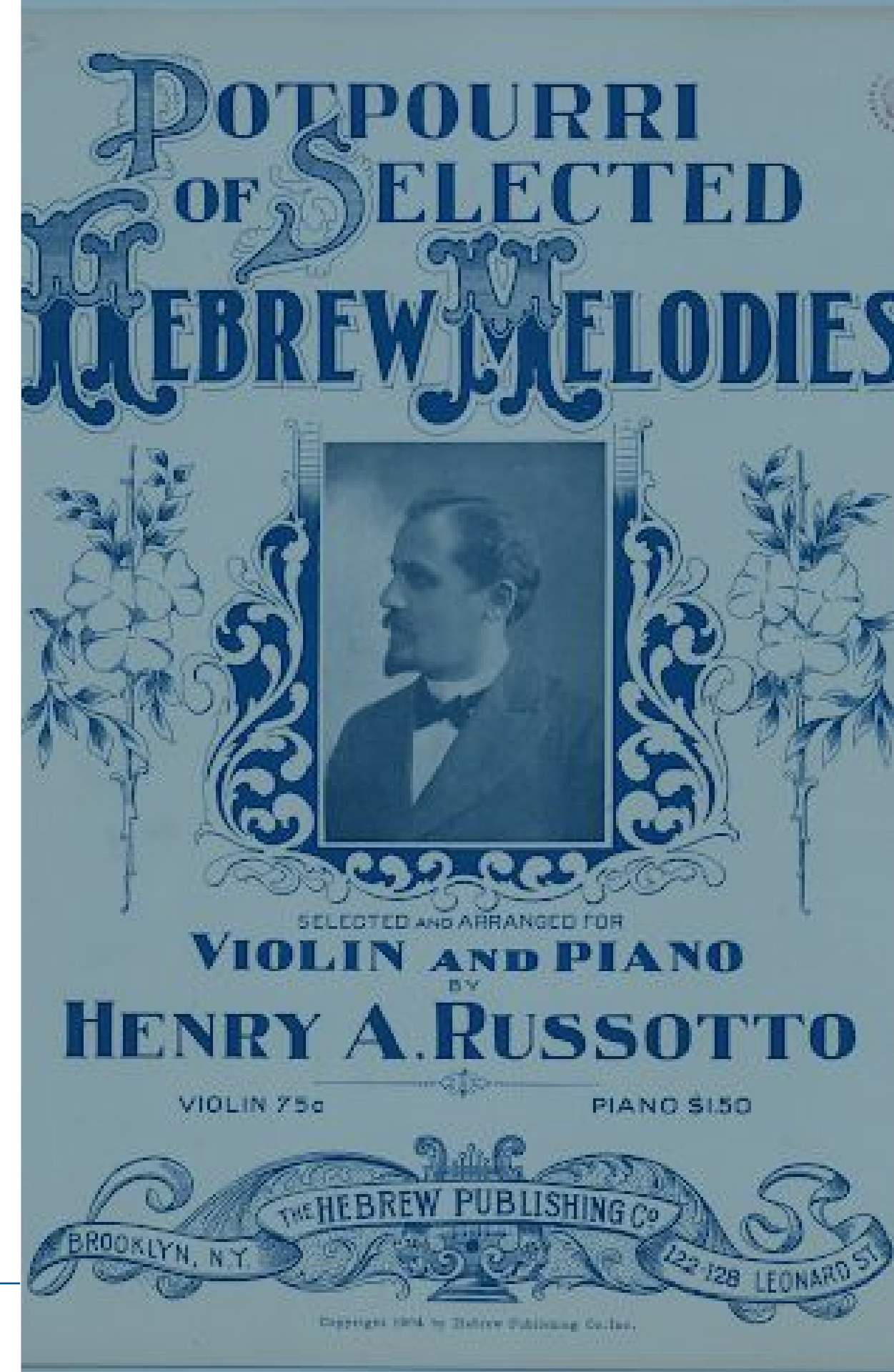


“LONG LIVE THE LAND OF THE FREE” (1911)



HENRY RUSSOTTO

- Born in 1869, Belarus, as Chaim Niswitszki
- Died in 1928 in New York
- Immigrated to U.S. in 1891, age 20

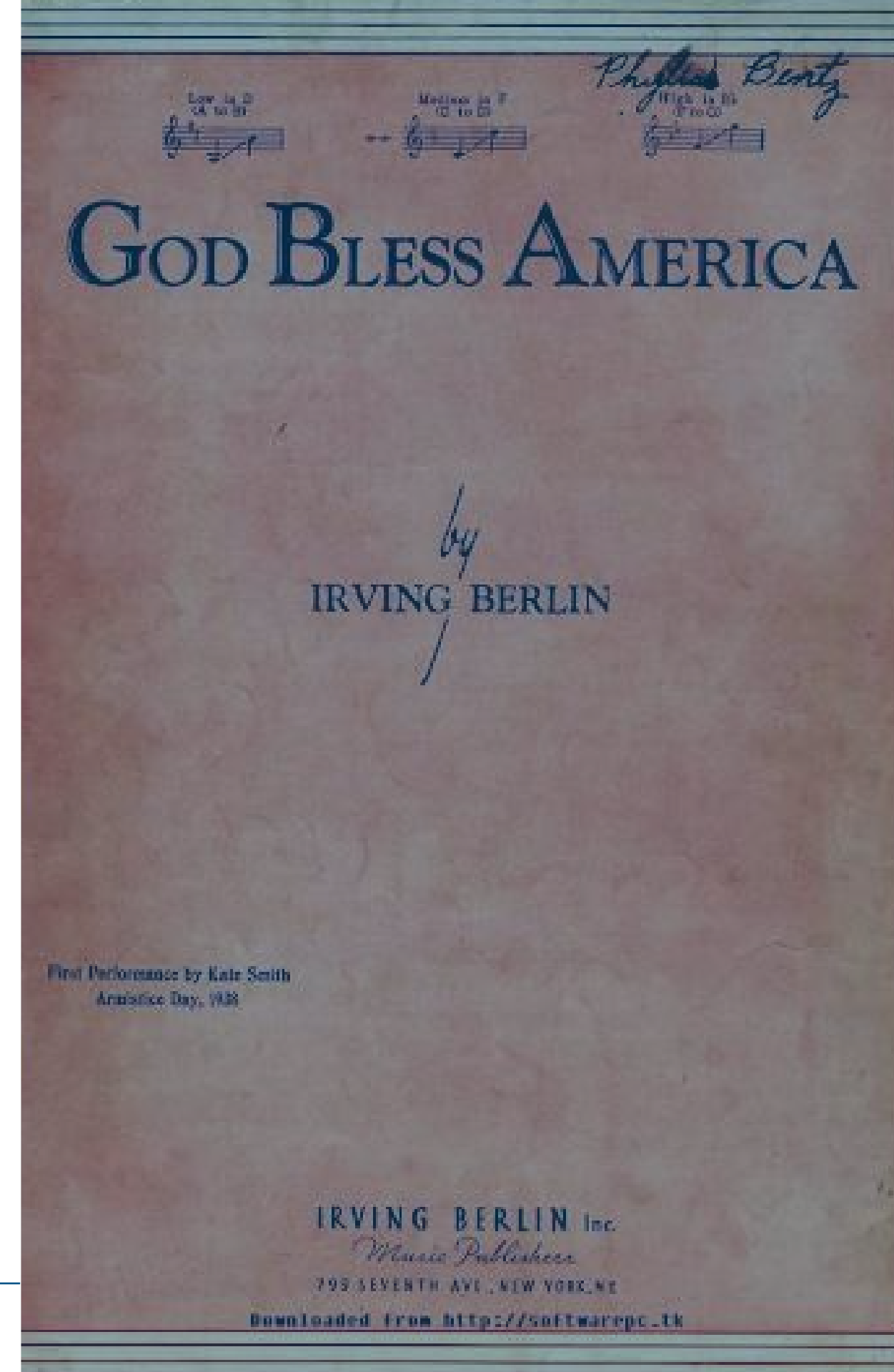


“MAYN AMERIKE”



“GOD BLESS AMERICA”

- Berlin originally wrote the song in 1918 while serving in the U.S. Army at Camp Upton in Yaphank, NY.
- Revised, reissued on Armistice Day, 1938




“WATCH (VATCH) YOUR STEP”



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WATCH YOUR STEP

Words by SAM LOWENWORTH Music by JOSEPH RUMSHINSKY

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JOSEPH RUMSHINSKY

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CANTOR SARAH MYERSON



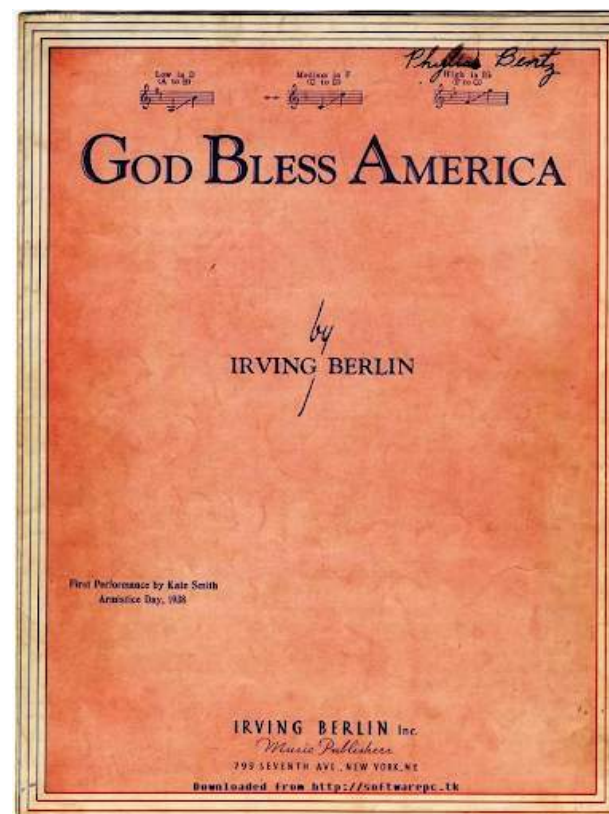
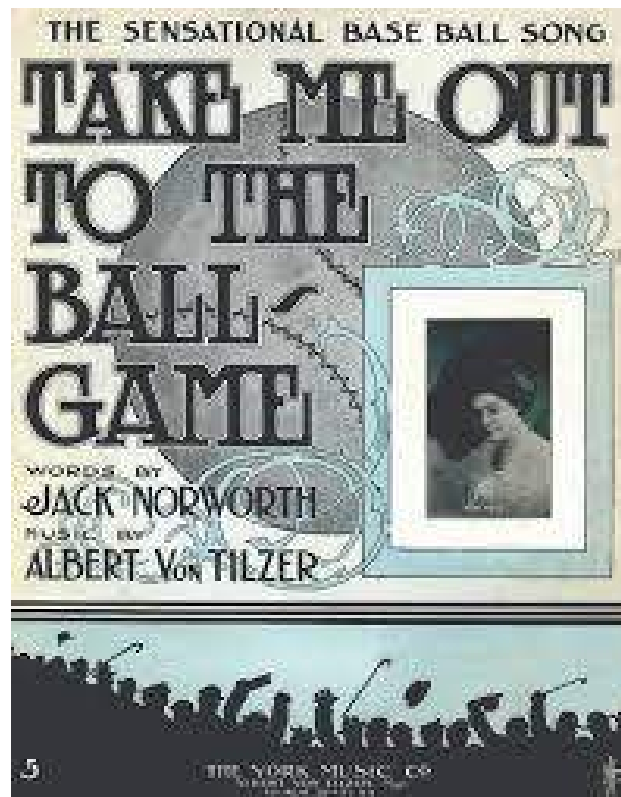
- א פרוי א חזן ,
- 'A Cantor, A Woman'
- Studied Yiddish language at the Uriel Weinreich Program at YIVO in New York, the Beit Ben Yehuda Winter Intensive Program in Jerusalem and the Naomi Praver Kadar International Summer Program in Tel Aviv.
- Actively working to bridge the worlds of Jewish religion and Yiddish culture.



MANDY PATINKIN



- “Take Me Out to the Ballgame”
- “God Bless America”



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UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

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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Cantor Hinda Labovitz, Ohr Kodesh



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