From Strength to Strength

Adath Jeshurun Synagogue
ADATH JESHTURUN

Morton Kula

MORTON KULA has been the cantor of Adath Jeshurun Synagogue, Minneapolis, MN since 1975. Born in Poland, he emigrated to the United States at the age of nine, receiving a classical education with emphasis in music and Judaica. He earned his degrees from New York University and the Jewish Theological Seminary. Morton Kula is a fine singer, musician, and conductor, and he has performed at many major institutions and events.

Music is an ancient Jewish art form. It arose together with the Hebrew language which was, in fact, a song. The Jews are not only the "People of the Book," but also the people of music. Somewhere, somehow, our ancestors discovered that music heightened the synagogue experience. Chants for particular ceremonies were carefully chosen, sung, and played by the Levites in the ancient Temple in Jerusalem.

With the destruction of Solomon's Temple in 70 C.E., the traditional Hebrew music was kept alive in exile—handed down from generation to generation, and preserved in synagogues wherever Jews lived. Vocal sacred music continued to flourish and develop.

Because of its diaspora condition, Jewish music drew from the sources of every land where Jews lived, and thereby was affected by these outside influences. Jewish music has evolved over the centuries with different styles, yet has tried to continue the traditional chant through a creative manner. The selections chosen in this recording have been chosen as examples of the intimate living expressions valued in ancient tradition.

SELECTIONS

SIDE 1

1. PSALM 100 - Ario Hyams (1904-1984) (1:50)
   A Psalm of Thanksgiving in honor of Adath's Centennial in a setting by a composer known as the musical Rabbi. The music is influenced by early 20th-century American composers.

   "How Goodly Are Your Tents." A prayer that traditionally opens services, composed by a finely educated synagogue composer and conductor.

3. VISHSHAMURU - Mark Silver (1929-1964) (2:23)
   A psalm from the Sabbath Eve service. The prayer was composed by a composer who had studied traditional melodies in a modern, creative fashion.

4. KADDISH - Max Helfman (1901-1963) (3:12)
   The most important prayer of the High Holiday liturgy—"The Great Shaddai Is Sounded"—to arouse the people to prayer and atonement.

MORTON KULA is the conductor of the Adath Choir, an ensemble associated with the Synagogue music program for 20 years. He is a native Minnesotan, having received his Bachelor's Degree in Choral Literature and Conducting at the University of Minnesota. He has taught music in public schools, conducted church choirs, and served at Adath, and became the choir director in 1974. She is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda, Sigma Alpha Iota, and The American Choral Directors Association.

© 1983
SIDE 1

Psalm 100 (1:50)
Ma Tovu (3:52)
V’Shamru (2:22)
Kaddish (3:12)
Magen Avot (3:21)
Uvashofar Gadol (6:09)

Stereo
33 1/3 RPM
E-1058A
SIDE 2

V’Chulom M’Kablim (4:08)
El Melech Yoshev (3:21)
Adon Olam (2:26)
V’Ye-etyay (3:44)
Shabbat Menucha (2:51)
Halleluya (2:25)
Sim Shalom (3:57)

© 1983

SMR
SOUNDMASTERS RECORDING

Stereo
33 1/3 RPM
E-1058B