The Stan Hiltz Orchestra

Kosher Style

SIDE ONE
1. SHALOM 1:46
2. MOSCOW MEDLEY 3:57
3. THE KINEA HORA (A. Wiskin) 3:10
4. TUMBALA 2:45
5. HORA MEDLEY 4:45
6. TZU GROB POILKA 2:39

SIDE TWO
1. CHERI BIM 2:32
2. HALLELUYAH (Soloist/Cantor Louis Dante) 2:56
3. SHAREM EL SHEIK 3:20
4. OLD YISHAMA (Soloist/Cantor Louis Dante) 4:20
5. GREENE 3:10
6. UVNE YERUSHALIAM (Soloist/Cantor Louis Dante) 3:20

“The singing of Louis Dante is nothing short of superb. He possesses a lyric tenor voice of an endearing quality. It is reinforced, well sustained and modulated, true to pitch and used with the mastery of a bel canto stylist. The technique and overall control, no tenor under contract to a major U.S. opera company today can duplicate.”

George Jelinek

Photo Courtesy – LEVITT STUDIOS

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We have used The Stan Hiltz Orchestra for all of our occasions, including both of our sons’ Bar Mitzvahs. This album is consistent with the Stan Hiltz style and we find it thoroughly delightful. Superb job, boys.

Marilyn and Mel Lastman.

It affords me much pleasure to commend this record album, which features The Stan Hiltz Orchestra. Through the years I have enjoyed listening to the music of this fine orchestra at countless joyous occasions. I describe this music as possessing the spirit of liveliness.

Rabbi Dr. David Manson
Beth Shalom Synagogue, Toronto.

The Stan Hiltz Orchestra provides great entertainment for people and I consider them one of the best in the business today.

Paul Godfrey
Metro Chairman, City of Toronto.

You are now reading the opening sentence of a rambling essay covering the major portion of this album jacket’s reverse side. But truthfully, even if you were to stop reading now, you would still know most of the facts in this case. You have already seen the front cover. You know that inside are familiar and beloved melodies with origins in Yiddish folk and popular music. They are sung and played with the wonderful exciting sound of spontaneity that distinguishes each performance of this brilliant group with a uniqueness of its own.

So, then, why continue?

Shouldn’t a music album -- any kind of music -- speak, or rather sing, for itself? It should, of course. And this one does. So the reason for this writing has more to do with a normal reaction to a new musical experience.

While losing nothing of their original charm, these selections have undergone a remarkable transformation and taken on an illuminating new dimension. Never before has there been an album of music exactly like this one. Toronto musicians, a distinguished Toronto cantor and jack comments by Toronto personalities -- this is the album of your town, with your kind of music, played with a wonderful rapport in a brilliant showcase of harmony by an orchestra with superb melodic versatility and interpretation.

And it didn’t happen by accident.

It would be altogether accurate to say that this album has been years in preparation -- 13, to be exact -- for this is the orchestra’s Bar Mitzvah year. It was made by people who grew up with this music, who have known it, nurtured it and loved it. Each note, each phrase is a gem of nostalgia surrounded by an overture that is modern and sprightly. The result is music that is older than our ancestors and as new as this morning’s paper -- music that springs from a single nationality and is as universal as the United Nations.

We are blessed in our city -- known as People City -- with exactly that; people of many ethnic backgrounds, each retaining their distinctiveness within the framework of being good Canadians. Each group having available to them radio and TV programming in their native tongue and musical accent.

At an auspicious moment in time, Sam Yuchman of CHIN Radio and rabbinical and cantorial friends of the orchestra offered to produce this album, which fills a great need for the Jewish community and all lovers of folk music. After all, how much “fiddling on the roof” could we take?

The orchestra, in turn, prompted cantor Louis Dante to share his dynamic talent with them. His melodies reflect not only the history of his faith, but the prevailing toneality of every age and every country in which Jewish people found themselves. His voice chronicles the past, makes astute commentaries on the present and expresses irresistible hope for the future.

This magnificently recorded album succeeds in presenting a cavalcade of world-known Jewish music. Melodies that have been hummed and sung in countries on every continent, each timeless in appeal.

With pride, I present this album, a showcase with a sample of the irresistible humor that is the contagious trademark of Stan Hiltz and a selection of superb melodic interpretation. Its genuine warmth is immediately evident, a warmth that has helped this Toronto group to become some of the business’ most popular performers.

If you’re in the mood for this kind of listening, you’ve come to the right place. This record will add zest to your party and spice to your life. A word of caution on this album: Don’t ruin it by playing it over and over for your friends — let them buy their own.

I am pleased and flattered to be able to add my personal comments to these delightful moments of music with my good friends. Besides — they gave me a free album.

The Sages said: The tongue is the pen of the mind, but melody is the pen of the soul. Man, have they got soul.

Rabbi Dr. Harold Lerner
Pride of Israel Synagogue, Toronto, Canada.
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WRC-251

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DON'T PLAY

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