CANTOR DAVID WERDYGER

Cantor David Werdyger was born in Czernowitz, Poland, the son of a prominent Chasidic family. Known both for their adherence to the Gerer Chasidic dynasty and for their musical talent and devotion, the Werdyger family had a strong influence in the musical world of Chasidic Judaism. Among the leading cantors of Czernowitz were Cantor Kaufman (the brother-in-law of the famous cantor Yosef Blumenfeld), Cantor Goldberg, and Cantor David Dimin. He later studied voice in Poland, Italy, Austria, and Paris and achieved recognition as an outstanding "heder tiner." During World War II, he was among the millions of others herded into various concentration camps. At one point, just as he was about to be taken with a group of 280 of his fellow inmates to be shot, he was saved from the firing squad by a group of Jewish men. This created a moving rendition of the "Kfin Molch Katanim," which moved a hard-bitten S.S. officer to let him off with a whip and send him back to the camp. Right after the liberation, Cantor Werdyger led the High Holy Days for 3,000 American Jewish soldiers stationed near Linz, Austria. Soon thereafter, he came to America and won acclaim for his cantorial talents, serving several leading congregations in that capacity. At present he is with the Congregation Talmud Torah of Flatbush, 1305-25 Corning Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. 11220.

Cantor Werdyger is both a singer and composer. He has created many cantorial renditions as well as Chasidic melodies.

YAAKOV GOLDSTEIN

Yakov Goldstein is one of the outstanding contemporary composers of liturgical music and is currently musical director of one of the leading Jewish Centers. He has contributed greatly to the dissemination and understanding of all forms of Jewish music, including Chasidic music. In this recording, Mr. Goldstein has utilized his great talents to create orchestral and choral arrangements which emphasize the burning zeal inherent in all authentic Chasidic music.

THE CREATION OF THE SKULANER NIGUMIM

For over 2,000 years since the destruction of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, the children of Israel have been dispersed. Their identity did not die as a result of this, for the religious and cultural life of the Jew was maintained in the various countries that became his home. Under these circumstances, the Jewish people maintained their distinct identity through the medium of their music. This is what occurred in Romania. The Traditional Romanian Jewish folk music was absorbed by the Jewish population that became a distinct Jewish creation with obvious identification characteristics which portrayed the soul of Jewish life. In the town of Skulany, Romania, an important contribution was made to Jewish music. The most outstanding of those behind this creative achievement was RABBI ELIEZER ZISYA PORTUGAL, known as the SKULANER RAVV. Rabbi Portugal was born in Skulany, Romania, and is descended from a long line of great rabbis which go all the way back to the great Rashi (in blessed memory) in the 12th century. This holy Rabbi devoted his entire life to the poor and unfortunate in Romania. He became known for his particular attentions to orphanages and children of broken homes. His good deeds were known to people in his prayers and actions. He collected money to help poor couples arrange their marriages in order to perpetuate the Jewish life. During the war he spent many years in prison and was subjected to daily torture. During this time, he composed numerous chasidic nigumim. These nigumim portrayed his deep faith in the one above and the Holy Torah. The "Gates of Righteousness" were always before his eyes, his home was the magnificent synagogue, and his heart was with his fellow Jews. This album is dedicated to the memory of the Skulany Rebbe, Rabbi Eliezer Zisya Portugal, who died in 1977.

This is the 14th Long Play Record of Cantor Werdyger, which is recorded Chasidic and cantorial music. It has been supervised by Rabbi Israel Werdyger, the son of Cantor Werdyger.

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PLEASE DO NOT FLAT THIS RECORD ON THE SABBATH
CANTOR DAVID WERDYGGER SINGS
SKULANER CHASSIDIC NIGUNIM

Composed by the Skulaner Rabbi Shlita
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Acc. by Chassidic Choir & Orchestra

LPW-304
SIDE 1

1. NAFSHEINU
2. B’YOM HASHABOS
3. Z’CHOR
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5. SHIRU LOI
6. OIDCHU
7. LA’YEHUDIM

Supervised by Rabbi Israel Werdyger

HIGH FIDELITY
CANTOR DAVID WERDYGER SINGS
SKULANER CHASSIDIC NIGNIM

Composed by the Skulaner Rebbe Shlita
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Acc. by Chassidic Choir & Orchestra

LPW-304
SIDE 2

8. V'NISGOV
9. V'NAFSHI
10. V'YISMCHU
11. HU'OISEI GEDOLOS
12. ZEH HAYOM
13. NICHSEFU
14. KI LECHO

Supervised by Rabbi Israel Werdyger

33 1/3 RPM
LONG PLAY

HIGH FIDELITY