I AM A JEW

SINGING

SONGS OF

THE MARTYRED

YIDDISH POETS

OF

SOVIET

RUSSIA

MUSICAL ARRANGEMENTS

AND

PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

BY

ZALMEN MLOTENK
On August 12, 1952, the relentless purge of Soviet Yiddish culture by the Stalin regime came to a climax with the murders of twenty-four of the leading Jewish artists and writers in the infamous Lubianka prison in Moscow. These murders followed five years of persecution against the culture and communal life of Soviet Jews. During that time, all Jewish institutions were dissolved. Hundreds of Jewish intellectuals and writers were arrested and exiled to Siberia where many of them died.

The date of August 12, 1952 has come to symbolize the anti-Semitic policies of the Soviet Union, which have continued through the present.

On this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the murders in Lubianka prison, we present I AM A JEW as a memorial tribute to those martyrs, and as an affirmation of the commitment of the Jewish People to the rehabilitation of Soviet Jewish culture and to the liberation of Soviet Jewry.

Emil Gorovets

Emil Gorovets comes to us from the city of Moscow as a leading artist. A graduate of the Gnessin Conservatory, Mr. Gorovets received immediate recognition as one of the Soviet Union's most important musical stars. His frequent appearances on the stage, in concert halls, on television, radio and recordings which sold in the millions, brought him invitations to appear all over Europe. Critics and audiences alike have cheered his recitals in major cities of East and West Europe, Israel and America.

Mr. Gorovets is an accomplished artist who not only performs the creation of others, but who has himself added to the musical repertory of the world. He sings in a myriad of languages, and is at home with a folk song, a classic, a popular ballad and a dramatic tour de force.

Zalmen Mlotek

Zalmen Mlotek is a young composer, conductor and pianist who has scored 3 Yiddish musical productions, plays and two previous recordings: Yiddish Songs of Work and Struggle and Gut Yomtov Kinder. A graduate of the Leonard Davis Center for Performing Arts at the City University of New York, he has also studied at the Mannes and Manhattan Schools of Music. Currently, he is enrolled in the conducting program at the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Mr. Mlotek has been musical director of WEVD's famed Forward Hour over the past several years, and has also been a director of Camp Hemachek and of the Workmen's Circle Schools, as well as conductor of the Brooklyn Orchestral Ensemble.

The Workmen's Circle

The Workmen's Circle is a national labor fraternal organization founded in 1900 by Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe whose thousands of members are dedicated to the concepts of mutual aid, social justice and the preservation of Jewish life and culture.

The Workmen's Circle Education Department is a leading force in the perpetuation of secular Yiddish culture in America and throughout the world. Its activities include a network of Yiddish schools in the United States and Canada, the publication of Yiddish texts, teaching materials and Yiddish literary and children's periodicals; support of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theatre; national lecture and concert tours; Yiddish music and theatre festivals; program materials for Jewish groups.

The Workmen's Circle has been a consistent and vocal advocate of the rights of Soviet Jews since the late 1940's and has actively participated in a variety of causes related to the struggle for social justice.

The National Conference on Soviet Jewry

In June 1971, in response to a brutal and massive crackdown against Soviet Jewish activists the preceding year, the major American Jewish organizations decided that the plight of Soviet Jewry required a vigorous campaign on their behalf and created the National Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The NCSJ is today the major nationwide agency for American activity on behalf of Soviet Jews. Thirty-nine national member organizations and hundreds of local affiliated councils, federations and committees comprise the NCSJ constituency. The NCSJ reaches nearly every corner of organized Jewish life in the United States and maintains international ties.

The Conference today has the same two missions it had at its founding.

1) To help all Soviet Jews who wish to emigrate leave the Soviet Union for Israel and elsewhere.

2) To help Jews live in the Soviet Union as Jews with all the rights and privileges accorded other religious and ethnic groups in the U.S.R.

Songs and other poems by Soviet Yiddish writers have been collected in The Night of the Murdered Poets, available at and published by the NCSJ.

11 West 42nd Street, New York, N.Y. 10036
(212) 354-1510

© Copyright 1977. All rights reserved. Any recopying of any part of this disc for commercial use will be considered a break of these rights and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

For Complete Catalogue of records, cassettes and 8 track tapes, write GREATER RECORDING CO., INC., 164 Manhattan Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11206
THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY
AND THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE PRESENT:
SONGS OF THE MARTYRED
YIDDISH POETS OF SOVIET RUSSIA
SUNG BY EMIL GOROVETS

STereo
33 1/3 RPM

1. IKH BIN A YID by Itsik Feffer; music: E. Gorovets (2:51)
2. VIGLID by Izy Charik; music: L. Yampolsky (2:51)
3. A FREYLEKHS by Izy Charik; music: M. Polansky (1:52)
4. IN VINTER FARNAKHTN
   by David Hofstein; music: E. Gorovets (4:07)
5. AN ALTER NIGN
6. TAYERE MAYNE, HARTSIKE MAYNE
   by Shmuel Halkin; music: E. Gorovets (2:34)
7. A KHOSN ON A KALE
   by Leyb Kvitko; music: E. Gorovets (2:16)

All Rights Reserved
BSAD A21-5737
© Copyright 1977
THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOVIET JEWRY
AND THE WORKMEN'S CIRCLE PRESENT:

SONGS OF THE MARTYRED
YIDDISH POETS OF SOVIET RUSSIA
SUNG BY EMIL GOROVETS

STEREO
33 1/3 RPM

GRC 350
SIDE 2

1. GIST ZHE ON by Peretz Markish; music: E. Gorovets (2:26)
2. DI MUZE by Peretz Markish; music: Sender (3:05)
3. BYIDISHN VORT by David Hofstein; music: E. Gorovets (2:50)
4. SHTERNDL, SHTERNDL by Moyshe Kulbak; Folk-melody (4:15)
5. LIBINKE, TSARTE UN EYDELE
   by Moyshe Kulbak; music: E. Gorovets (1:58)
6. TIFE GRIBER, ROYTER LEYM
   by Shmul Halkin; music: E. Gorovets (4:52)
7. A YIDISHE KHASENE
   by Itsik Feffer; music: L. Yampolsky (3:00)

All Rights Reserved
BSAD A21-5737
© © Copyright 1977