LEO FULD — Acc. by Martin Roman, His Orchestra & Choir.

LEO FULD was born in Rotterdam, Holland, in 1914, and educated at the Theological Seminary in Amsterdam, where he learned French, German, English, Greek, Latin and Hebrew, besides his own language—Dutch. At seventeen, he decided to become a singer and toured Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the Scandinavian countries with a pianist and picked up a few more languages. Upon his return to Holland, he quickly became that country's most famous radio singer and at eighteen was the first Dutch artist to be invited to sing for the British Broadcasting Company. He was heard by the famous Jack Hylton, who signed him to a three-year contract with his celebrated band show, billing him as “The Continental Singing Star,” which resulted in engagements in every important theatre in the British Isles and the Continent. In 1936 he was signed by Clifford C. Fischer for the French Casino in New York and later the Paramount Theatre on Broadway.

Having become an International favorite, Fuld started to adapt Yiddish and Hebrew songs to include in his repertoire. At the French Casino his biggest song was SLEEP, MY BABY, SLEEP (Roslin's Mit Mandlen), and the great Al Jolson came back every night at “five to ten” just to catch his performance. In 1938 his temporary visa ran out and he had to return to Europe where he applied for an immigration visa. He caught the last boat back before the Nazis invaded the Lowlands and immediately offered his services to the Free Netherlands Government in Exile. Together with the late Hendrik Willem Van Loon, Fuld started the short wave broadcasts to Holland and the Dutch East Indies. Rumors reached this country of what was happening to the Jewish population of Holland and eventually word came to him that his entire family went the way of six million others — AUSCHWITZ. As a result, he could not face an audience and stopped singing completely. As he always had a talent for writing, he soon became one of the most sought after material writers on Broadway, writing for such comedians as Milton Berle, the Ritz Brothers, Jackie Mason, Jan Murray, and Jerry Lewis and Dean Martin, followed by the “Kraft Music Hall” program. He also produced, directed and wrote a comedy show called “Fun For Your Money” with which he toured the country.

In 1948 he returned to Holland as an American citizen to search for news about his family. Upon his arrival, in gratitude for his wartime broadcasts, thousands of people greeted him and he was offered a contract to sing at the largest theatre in Amsterdam. Not having sung for over five years he was petrified with fear, but was such a success that he was held over for six weeks. Having regained his confidence, he accepted an engagement at the London Casino where he was a tremendous hit. Offers followed from all over the world, and while at the Sa Majesté in Paris with his revue, he visited a little Yiddish night club where he heard a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto sing a song which touched him deeply — WO AHIN SOL ICH GEHN? Fuld was so impressed that he asked the composer for a copy and said “I'll make this a world hit!” He kept his promise. Upon returning to England he wrote English lyrics and recorded it for Decca under the title WHERE CAN I GO? It was also released in America, and as the saying goes, it took him twenty years to become a star over-night. He sang it on the Milton Berle television show and the Frank Sinatra radio show, and it was also recorded by some of America's biggest record stars.

Since 1949 Leo Fuld has made five concert tours of Israel and has appeared all over Israel from “Dan to Barshabah” . He also appeared in Argentina, Chile, Brazil, North Africa, Egypt, Lebanon, was engaged by the Emperor Haile Selassie to sing at the wedding of his granddaughter at the Imperial Palace in Addis Ababa. In France, England, Holland, Belgium and Scandinavia a Leo Fuld appearance usually is advertised as HOUSE FULD. He is the only artist in the world who records in fifteen languages. TIKVA Records is proud to welcome Leo Fuld to its catalogue of famous artists in a special recital of 12 Jewish songs recorded in Europe accompanied by his friend, the famous pianist-arranger-conductor and composer MARTIN ROMAN . . . so here recorded for your enjoyment, songs that depict the influence of the diaspora on Jewish melodies such as . . . Roumanian, German, Dutch, Gypsy and American Jazz . . .

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