MIDNIGHT SELICHOT SERVICE

RECORDED LIVE IN TEL AVIV’S LEADING SYNAGOGUE

Composed and Sung by Cantor LEIB GLANTZ

With Male Choir Conducted by JOSHUA ZOHAR

FAMOUS RECORDS

FAM-1015
INTRODUCTION AND ASHER

Happy are they that dwell in Thy house, they are ever praising Thee, Selah.
Happy is the people that is in such a case, yea, happy is the people whose God is the Lord.

T’HILA LEDAVID

I will extol Thee, my God, O King; and I will bless Thy name for ever and ever.

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised; and his greatness is unsearchable.

One generation shall laud Thy works to another, and shall declare Thy mighty acts.
The glorious splendour of Thy majesty, and Thy wondrous works will I rehash.

And men shall speak of the might of Thy tremendous acts; and I will tell of Thy greatness.

They shall utter the fame of Thy great goodness, and shall sing of Thy righteousness.
The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.
The Lord is good to all; and His tender mercies are over all His works.

All Thy works shall praise Thee, O Lord; and Thy saints shall bless Thee.

They shall speak of the glory of Thy kingdom, and talk of Thy might:
To make known to the sons of men Thy mighty acts, and the glory of the majesty of His kingdom.

Thy kingdom is a kingdom for all ages, and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.
The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that are bowed down.
The eyes of all wait for Thee, and Thou givest them their food in due season.

Thou openest Thy hand, and satisfiest every living thing with favour.
The Lord is righteous in all His ways, and gracious in all His works.
The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth.

He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him; He will also hear their cry, and will save them.
The Lord preserveth all them that love Him; but all the wicked will He destroy.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; and let all flesh bless His holy name for ever and ever.

But we will bless the Lord from this time forth and for ever. Hallelujah.

KAIDISH

May His great name be magnified and sanctified throughout the world which He hath created according to His will. May He establish His kingdom in your lifetime and in your days; and in the lifetime of the whole house of Israel, speedily and in the near future, and say ye, Amen.

May His great name be blessed for ever and to all eternity.

May His holy name be blessed, hallowed, glorified, exalted, exalted, honored, magnified and praised. He is blessed beyond all blessings and hymns, praises and canticles, which are written in the world; and say ye, Amen.

LE-KHA SHALOMIM AND ATA

Thine are the heavens, Thine also the earth; the world and the fulness thereof, Thou hast founded it.

Thou hast set all the borders of the earth; Thou hast made summer and winter. Thou didst crush the heads of Leviathan, Thou gavest him to be food to the folk inhabiting the wilderness. Thou didst cleave fountain and brook; Thou didst divide up ever-flowing rivers. Thou didst break the sea in pieces by Thy strength; Thou didst shatter the hearts of the sea-enemies in the waves. Thou risest the proud swelling of the sea; when the waves thereof arise, Thou stilltest them.

Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, in the city of our God, His holy mountain. O Lord, the God of Israel, that sittest upon the cherubim, Thou art the God, even Thou alone. A God dreadeth in the great council of the holy ones, and feareth of all them that are round about Him. So shall the heavens praise Thy wondrous, O Lord, Thy faithfulness also the assembly of Thy holy ones.

LE-KHU NE'ER-VENAH

O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving, let us shout for joy unto Him with psalms. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Thy throne; mercy and truth go before Thee. We took sweet counsel together, in the house of God we walked with the throng. The sea is His, and He made it; and His hands formed the dry land.

ASHER BI-YADO

The soul is Thine, and the body is Thine; O Lord, do it for Thy name's sake. We have come, depending upon Thy name; O Lord, do it for the sake of Thy name. Because of the glory of Thy name, for merciful and gracious God is Thy name; for the sake of Thy name, O Lord, forgive our iniquity, for it is great.

EHV NIF'TAH

How can we open our lips to Thee, who dwellest on high?
With knowledge of our sinfulness, direct to Thee our cry?
For we forsook Thy righteous ways, Thy words did we deny,
And chose to follow vanity and on strange gods rely.
Upon the false allurements did we cast a yearning eye,
And stubbornly and blindly we dared Thy law defy.
Indignantly Thou didst decree the dwelling of th' Most High
In ashes and in ruins, desolate shall lie;
And sacrifice and frankincense, which earth to heaven tie,
Have ceased, and Priests and Levites exiled had to fly.

What may seers and prophets come corruption to decay! But with their fiery words of guidance we did not comply.
From that day on our fate has been to suffer and to die
As victims of the tyrants, who Thee as God deny.
A meager remnant of our race, amidst the thorns we lie;
And vainly for Thy soothing help we long with falling eye.

They torture us and slaughter us and smite us hip and thigh;
Yet they who bow to idols dwell in peace and safety—
Why?
Yes, these blasphemers dwell in peace, and taunt us with the cry:
"Ye miserable, broken ones, on whom do you rely!"
O Thou who ever livest, Thy people's light espy;  
O wea humbled in the dust and broken is our sigh.  
With Thy right hand, O save us now; ever and ever;  
For on Thy goodness and abundant mercies we rely.

EL ESREH APAYIN

As patient and merciful God Thou art  
known; the way of repentance to man hast Thou shown.  
Thy pledge of reward for the father's good deed bestow now upon  
Thy beloved one's seed. In love turn upon us the light of  
Thy face, for Thou art the source of all mercy and grace.  
With prayer Thy wrath to forestall we make bold, as Thou  
didst reveal unto Moses of old. Thy wrath turn away from  
Thy children once more, as the Torah relates of their fathers  
of yore. In the shadow of Thy wings for shelter we look, as  
Thou hast recorded in Thy sacred book.

TAPAZAR  
Our sins and transgressions remove from Thy sight, as when Thou didst stand  
upon Mount Sina's height. Give ear to our cry, of our prayer  
take heed; for thus in the scroll of Thy Torah we read:

BEVER-ZA-ME MENEHAR

At the close of the Sabbath our voices we raise;  
Give ear to us, Thou who dwellest in praise.  
To hear our song and our prayer.

ZORKALIM

Circling, God, like one in travail, they remain  
Helpless before Thee. Pray, do not refrain  
In mercy to wipe away sin's shameful stain.  
And hear our song and our prayer.

YOTZER ATA

Justice and love from beginning of time  
Indeed didst make, that the sinner might climb  
Lightly from sin's degradation and grieve.  
O hear our song and our prayer.

MABOM

Merciful One, if our vices prove more  
Vinous than virtues, O close not the door  
Of mercy, but add from Thy heavenly store,  
And hear our song and our prayer.

PINE NA

Pray, turn away from the sins of Thy flock:  
Pray, let the trials of Abraham's stock.  
Quickly give ear to their cry, O our Rock,

RETTE ZHATAM  
And hear our song and our prayer.

RECEIVE THEIR PRAISE AS SUBSTITUTE FOR  
Sacrifice offered in temple of yore.  
I breathe them Thy wondrous ways to explore,  
And hear our song and our prayer.

HIMASE LNAHU

Be Thou found by us when we seek Thee, a  
It is written: "But from there we will seek the Lord thy God,  
and thou shall find Him, if thou search after Him with all  
thy heart and with all thy soul." Bring us to Thy holy mount  
and make us joyful in Thy house of prayer, as it is written:

"Even then will I bring to My holy mountain, and make  
them joyful in My house of prayer; their burnt-offerings and  
their sacrifices shall be acceptable upon Mine altar; for My  
house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

SHEMA KOLENU

SHI'A KOLENU  
Hear our voice, O Lord our God, spare us  
and have compassion upon us, and accept our prayers with  
mercy and favor.

RASHIYONU

Turn Thou us unto Thee, O Lord, and we shall be turned;  
renew our days as of old.

AL TASHIL-HA-NI MIL PANHEKA

CAST US not away from Thy presence; and take not Thy holy  
spirit from us.

AL TASHIL-HA-NI LE-ET ZHINA

CAST us not off in the time of old age; when our strength  
faileth, forsoak us not.

MAKE-SESE RACHAMIM

MAKE-SESE RACHAMIM  
Angels of mercy, bring our plea for mercy  
before Him who is the source of all mercy. Ye in  
charge of prayer, submit our prayer: to Him who hearkeneth  
unto lamentation. Ye in charge of tears, bring our tears  
before the King who is appeased by tears. Intercede for us, and  
multiply supplication and petition before the King, the high and  
extalted God. Mention before Him, recount in His presence, the devotion  
to Torah and to good deeds of those who sleep in the dust. May  
He remember their love, and preserve their posterity, lest the  
remnant of Jacob perish; for the flock of the faithful shepherd  
have become a reproach, Israel, the outstanding people, a  
proverb and a byword. Hasten and answer us, O God of our  
salvation, and deliver us from all seven accursed, and save by  
Thine abundant mercy, Thy righteous remnant and Thy people.
"SELICHOT" services generally begin on the Saturday night before ROSH HASHANAH, at midnight. These prayers are a preparation for the HIGH HOLIDAYS. They are a plea for forgiveness. The services begin with "ASHIREI" - "HAPPY ARE THEY THAT DWELL IN THY HOUSE" - and continue with PSALM 135. Then follow poems and prayers from medieval literature, the Golden Age of Hebrew religious poetry. These poems were created by some of the most famous poets and commentators of that period, among them Rav Saadya Gaon, Rashi, Rashba, Ebn Ezra, Ibn Gabriol and others.

Musically, the "SELICHOT" services contain many of the melodies and themes ("NUSCHAOT") used during the Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services, and thus serve as an introduction to the High Holidays, textually, musically and spiritually.

This service was actually recorded during the night of "SELICHOT" in "TIFERETH ZVI SYNAGOGUE IN TEL AVIV, ISRAEL.

The voices of the worshippers are heard as they participate actively in every prayer.

Certain technical imperfections are due to the fact that the recording was not made under controlled conditions in a studio, but in an overcrowded synagogue with thousands of people thronging the street outside.

Biographical Sketch

CANTOR LEIB GLANTZ has devoted years to the study of the authentic, traditional melodic patterns of the "SELICHOT" services. These compositions are the fruit of knowledge and inspired creativity.

"Cantor Glantz' marvelous lyric tenor voice is magnificently reproduced in these records. They are not only a splendid addition to the Jewish Musical Library, but also a great achievement for Cantorial art." Thru these records the oldest of the Jewish arts, the primitive "Nusach," clothed in modern form, is eternally preserved.

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