THE PRAYERS AND THEIR MEANING

VESE’ERAV ... An introduction to the “Priestly Blessing” which was invoked on the congregations by the Priests (Kohanim).

May our prayers be acceptable to Thee as the offerings our forefathers brought in the holy Temple in Jerusalem. Merciful God, do Thou cause the return of Thy Divine Presence in Zion and the renewal of the sacred service in Jerusalem. O may we soon behold the mercy of Thy return to Zion, there to worship Thee in splendor and in awe as in ancient days. Praised be Thou, O Lord, the One and only God we shall ever serve in awe.

AV HORACHAMIN (A Prayer in Memory of the Martyrs) ... A prayer, invoking God’s judgement against the tyrants who destroyed holy communities of Israel, originating after the massacres suffered during the crusades. It remains a stirring cry for vindication of all martyrs in all ages, who died in sanctification of God’s name.

May our merciful Father whose Presence fills the universe, remember in His great mercy, the faithful, the upright and innocent lives of the holy communities of Israel, who died in sanctification of the divine name. They were faithful and beloved in life, and there was no disunity among them in death. They were swifter than the eagle and more resolute than the lion in doing the will of their Creator. May our God remember them for good, together with all the righteous of this world, and may He vindicate the blood of His faithful shed by tyrants. As it is promised in the Torah of Moses, the man of God (Deuteronomy 32:43): Let His people rejoice among the nations, for He will vindicate the blood of His faithful. He will bring retribution upon His adversaries, and remove the guilt committed against the Land of His people.
LE’KEL BORUCH ... Sings of God’s greatness as Creator of the universe. Light, with which creation began, is singled out as a special token of His creative might. But the hymn also refers to His work as Benefactor of His creatures, for He inspires battle against evil, He sows righteousness and causes deliverance and He creates healing.

Let all chant sweet melodies to God Almighty, praised be He. Let all render hymns of praise to the everlasting King. For He alone performs mighty deeds and ever continues the work of ‘creation. He inspires battle against evil; He sows righteousness, and causes deliverance to sprout forth in ever greater glory; He creates healing for all our hurts. Yea, it is beyond man to praise Him. For He is the Lord of wonders. In His goodness He renews every day the work of creation. As it is written (Psalm 136:7): “Praise ye Him who continues to create heavenly bodies, for His mercy is ever present.” O may a new light shine upon Zion and may we all be privileged soon to behold its splendor. Praised be Thou, O Lord our God, Creator of the heavenly bodies which radiate their bounty upon our world.

MODIM DE’RA’BONON... Summing up the mood of prayer and all the benedictions of the Amidah, we now offer a general expression of our gratitude for the privilege of life and of sustenance and of our hope for the return of our people to Zion.

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VE’HA’AREV NO... God’s greatest gift is the Torah. But of what value is a gift if it is not used, if it is not cherished? We pray that the Torah may be pleasant to us, that we may find delight in studying it and in transmitting it to those who came after us.

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VE’LI’RU’SHO’LA’YIM ... Tender is the feeling of the Jew for Jerusalem, the holy city. We pray for the return to Jerusalem, but the return we seek is more than a physical restoration of the city and the people. It is for the returning of God’s presence to Zion; it is for the renewal of the city as a center of Torah. We hope that Jerusalem will be restored to her ancient glory as in the day of the noble psalmist King David.

Do Thou in Thy mercy return to Thy city, Jerusalem, and do Thou dwell therein as Thou didst promise. Cause Jerusalem to be restored for an enduring life, and establish therein the glory of David. Praised be Thou, O Lord, Restorer of Jerusalem.

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Forsake us not nor take from us, Thy spirit's holy light,
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This was His first LP.
It was first released in 1959.
**ON THIS DISK:**

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Accompaniment on electronic organ by “Maxwell”
Cantor Zvee Aroni — “a radiant tenor voice, extraordinary musical insight and artistic control, combined with unique vocal contour and shading ...” these are some of the exceptional and complimentary praises which have been showered upon Cantor Zvee Aroni throughout his brilliant and successful Cantorial career.

Born in Israel, and inspired early in life by the spiritual warmth and compassion of the Synagogue liturgy, Cantor Aroni dedicated himself to the awesome Hebrew musical traditions. He established his unusual talents of expression and interpretation during his youth when he emerged as the renowned “Wonder Boy Cantor” of Israel, singing in concerts and Synagogues with the foremost Israeli cantors, and visiting cantors, who were wholly captivated by his interpretative style, his brilliantly expressive voice, and his mature technical control.

Since his arrival in America, Cantor Aroni has appeared on the concert stage, has a weekly radio program, and has been a soloist with numerous choral and orchestral groups.

— About the Record: SYNAGOGUE MASTERPIECES is the culmination of many years of intensive effort to select music from the Cantor which represents the depth, vitality, and spiritual realism of the Jewish people. Cantor Aroni chants Synagogue Masterpieces with unusual reverence and devotion.

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MR & RC CREDITS

This record was recorded and produced by Magnetic Recorder and Reproducer Corp., of Philadelphia. Magnetic Recorder is one of America’s pioneers in magnetic tape recording.

The record was produced under the personal direction of Albert L. Borkow, Jr., and the editor for these two sides was Donald F. Wetzel.

The recording equipment used was Ampex Model 350 Recorders with Electro Voice microphones Model 666 used for organ pickups.

On Side “A” the Cantor’s voice was picked up by a Telefunken Microphone, Model No. U47; while on Side “B” the Cantor’s voice was picked up by an Altec Condenser Microphone, Model No. 21D.

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