'A New Song of the Redeemed'

CANTOR KALMAN STEKEL

Sings – in compositions by Cantor Kalman Stekel
with choir arranged and conducted by Eli Lipsker
A New Song of the Redeemed
Cantor Kalman Stekel
Sings – in compositions by Cantor Kalman Stekel with choir arranged and conducted by Eli Lipsker

CANTOR KALMAN STEKEL

The cantor-composer Reb Kalman Stekel was born in Bukovina, Romania to Reb Binyamin, himself a cantor and shochet, and Rachel Stekel. At a very early age his musical abilities and especially his talents for Hasidic nignim evidenced themselves. As a young boy he assisted his father during the services and also served as a choir boy in the largest synagogue of the city. At age eight he introduced the song Chasid Sider Pessach found on this recording to his grandfather. His elementary school teacher put the music activities of the third grade in the hands of the young talented singer and he conducted the singing sessions.

When he was 11 Cantor Stekel was orphaned and placed in the local ghetto orphanage where he remained from 1942 until 1944. Between 1944 and 1945 home was another orphanage in the city of Bucharest. During this time he served as soloist for the chief Cantor of the Malbim Synagogue, Cantor Moshe Krauss. Only he and his sister survived the Holocaust. In 1945 he emigrated to Israel and entered the Yeshiva Tifereth Israel of Vishnitz. The Rabbis of Vishnitz were quick to recognize the young man's talents and at the age of 16 he was appointed chief intonagen.

In 1950 he entered the Israeli army and after only three months of duty was selected by Rabbi Gore to serve as a chaplain. Cantor Stekel served with the tank core for two years and remained as a chaplain in the reserves for 18 years. He still retains the rank of lieutenant.

In the United States Cantor Stekel served Congregation Moriah of New York City from 1968 until 1973. In addition to his natural musical abilities he has studied voice culture, theoretical music and liturgical recitations with well-known teachers in Israel and the United States.

The following excerpt is taken from Cantor Stekel's introductory notes to the recording of Vishnitzer nignim. These notes show the depth, penetration and logic of Hasidic song. "The very first condition necessary in the singing and composing of Vishnitzer nignim is that the singer, whoever he may be, be rid himself of any ulterior motive. His entire mind and being must be dedicated to one goal only, the awakening of the soul and the melting of the heart. This awakening surrounds the entire being, fosters the improvement of the individual's ethics and turns him to the service of the Almighty. When this is accomplished the individual is worthy of feeling the true and complete Ahavas Yisroel as stated by the Chassidic Masters."

This recording is the first in a series which will portray the wide range of Chassidic music-songs of Dreyfus, liturgical recitatives, dance melodies, marches and waltzes. Hopefully they will appeal to and stir the soul of each individual and bring Simcha, joy, to each household.

ELI LIPSKER

Eli Lipsker has become internationally known as a leading exponent of Chassidic music. His numerous concert appearances have received the highest praise from audiences and critics both here and abroad. He served as the music director for the very popular Pirchei recordings Vol. 1 and 2 as well as two recordings of his own original Chassidic nignim. Eli has brought his love for the Chassidic nignim to the classrooms of many leading Yeshivot and Day schools in the Metropolitan New York area.

Recording Engineer — Warren Staten
Recording and Production Consultant — Velvel Pasternak
Cover Design — Jules Hallant

© Copyright 1974 by Sharvit Records
PRINTED IN U.S.A.
SHIRO CHADOSHO

'A new song of the redeemed'

CANTOR KALMAN STEKEL

33 1/3 R.P.M.  Sharvit 101
Side 1

1. ZAMRU
2. SHIRO CHADOSHO
3. CHASAL SIDUR PESACH
4. MATSMIACH Y'SHUOS
5. BORE OLOM
6. KI LO YITOSH

Music arranged and directed by ELI LIPSKER
SHIRO CHADOSHO

'A new song of the redeemed'

CANTOR KALMAN STEKEL

33 1/3 R.P.M. Sharvit 101

Side 2

1. KI L'CHO TOV L'HODOS
2. UN'GADELCHO
3. V'HII SHEOMDO
4. YOM'RU G'ULE HASHEM
5. MIKDASH MELECH
6. ILON

Music arranged and directed by ELI LIPSKER