ISRAEL ALTER was born in 1901 in Lemberg, Poland. He was the youngest child of a famous Rabbinic family and already at the age of seven he had the signal privilege of being allowed to conduct synagogue services in his home town.

At the age of nineteen when it became obvious that he had a remarkable voice, his ultra-orthodox parents could not countenance a professional career for him as a singer. He therefore left his native town and made his way to Vienna where he entered the State Academy for Music and Art. He became a pupil of the famous Professor Stefan Pollman (at present in London). Concurrently with his training at the Academy he also studied liturgical music with Yitzchak Tsvi Halpern and Leibish Mueller, the most distinguished Chazanim of their day in Vienna. At the age of twenty he succeeded Josef Basser as Cantor of the “Brünnitzer Tempel-Verein”, Vienna, where he served for three years.

In June 1929 he received a call from the Community in Hannover, Germany, to become its Obercantor and in August of the same year he was invited by the Carl Lindstrom Company to do some recordings for them. The first group of recordings which were released in 1932 were chiefly liturgical and became very popular in Germany and all over Europe. Following upon this success the Lindstrom Company invited Mr. Alter in 1932 to record for them a series of songs, among them two piano works by Liszt arranged for solo, choir and orchestra. These, however, were never released, due to the rise of the Hitler regime when even his liturgical records disappeared from the market.

As a result of the widespread popularity of these recordings he was invited to undertake concert tours all over Europe and the U.S.A. where his initial concerts were held in the Carnegie Hall, and brought forth the highest praise in the Jewish and non-Jewish Press. During that tour he also officiated in the largest orthodox synagogues in the United States.

Since 1936 he has been the Chief Cantor of the United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg, South Africa.

This record has been made possible because some of the original proofs of the songs and the pressings of the liturgical works have been found in a collector’s selection.

### SIDE ONE

**BAND ONE: HASHKIVEINU (B. W. Alter).**

Cause us, O Lord our God, to lie down in peace, and raise us up, O our King, unto life. Spread over us the tabernacle of thy peace; direct us aright through thine own good counsel; save us for thine name’s sake; be thou a shield about us; remove from us every enemy, pestilence, sword, famine and sorrow; remove also the adversary from before us and from behind us. O shelter us beneath the shadow of thy wings; for thou, O God, art our Guardian and our Deliverer; yea, thou, O God, art a gracious and merciful King; and guard our going out and our coming in unto life and unto peace from this time forth and for evermore.

**BAND TWO: R'TSEI, Authorised Prayer Book, Page 117.**

Our God and God of our fathers, accept our rest; sanctify us by thy commandments, and grant our portion in thy Law; satisfy us with thy goodness, gladden us with thy salvation; purify our hearts to serve thee in truth; and in thy love and favour, O Lord our God, let us inherit thy holy Sabbath; and may Israel, who hallow thy name, rest therein. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who hallowest the Sabbath.

**BAND THREE: EIL MOLEI RACHAMIM, Authorised Prayer Book, Page 317c.**

O God, who art full of compassion, who dwellest on high, grant perfect rest beneath the shadow of thy divine presence, in the exalted places among the holy and pure, who shine as the brightness of the firmament, to the souls of our brethren who fell on the battlefield in the World War, and have gone to their eternal rest. We beseech thee, O Lord of compassion, shelter their souls for evermore under the cover of thy wings. The Lord is their portion. May they rest in peace. And let us say, Amen!

### SIDE TWO

**BAND ONE: ARIOSO (Handel).**

Praise be to Thee, O Lord,

Who hast Thy people Israel

Guided through the sea

Like a flock, by Thee protected.

Praise be to Thee, O Lord,

Sheltered by Thy infinite goodness.

**BAND TWO: Azra (Rubenstein).**

Daily went the wondrous lovely,

Sultan’s daughter at the cooling

Hour of evening to the fountain,

Where the waters white were

Plashing.

Daily the hour of evening

Stood the young slave at the fountain

Where the waters white were

Plashing.

Daily grew he pale and paler.

And one evening came the princess

And these sudden words addressed him:

"Thou must tell me what thy name is

And thy country and thy kindred!"

And the slave replied: "My name is

Mahomed, I came from Yemen,

And my race is of those Azras,

Who, whern’er they love, must

perish."

(Translated by E. A. Bowring.)

**BAND THREE: Consolations III (Liszt).**

Did I dream that you have loved me,

Did I dream of joy unsparred,

Did I dream you were the fountain

Of the happiness we shared?

In your eyes I found my gladness

On your lips my soul’s content;

In the dome of waking sadness

Shattered is the dream and spent.

In those hours of deep contentment

Were you always but a dream?

**BAND FOUR: Notturno I (Lovedreams), (Liszt).**

Once again to you I’m singing

Of the joy that once was whole;

But my deepest woe it utter’s,

May it reach your inmost soul.

You alone my heart inhabit,

From you my sorrows flow—

Once again to you I’m singing

Leave me not forsaken so.

Think back on the days you’ve forgotten

When of me your joys were

begotten.
UNIVERSAL RECORDINGS

Presents

From the Repertoire of

CANTOR ISRAEL ALTER

SPEED 33 1/3 R.P.M.
(X.P.E.A. 101)

3 S.A. 102
Side 1

VOICE OF ISRAEL

Band 1. HASHKIVEINU (B. W. Alter);
Band 2. R’TSEI (I. Alter);
Band 3. EIL MOLEI RACHAMIM (I. Alter)

Organ: PAUL MANIA
Conductor: LEO KOPF
Sung in Hebrew

LONG PLAYING

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MADE IN S. AFRICA
PRESENTS
FROM THE REPERTOIRE OF
ISRAEL ALTER

VOICE OF ISRAEL

Band 1. ARIOSO (Handel); Band 2. AZRA (Rubenstein);
Band 3. CONSOLATIONS III (Liszt);
Band 4. NOTTURNO I (Nove Dreams) (Liszt)

With ORCHESTRA and CHOIR
Conductor: LEO KOPF
Sung in German

LONG PLAYING