

Playing
Time
65:17

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ERNST TOCH (1887–1964)

Cantata of the Bitter Herbs

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| 1. Introduction and Psalm 114 | 6:12 |
| 2. Shehecheyanu | 1:34 |
| 3. Children's Dance | 1:52 |
| 4. The Ten Plagues | 1:59 |
| 5. And It Was at Midnight | 2:25 |
| 6. Aria | 4:07 |
| 7. Psalm 126 | 7:17 |
| 8. He Saved My Soul from Death | 1:59 |
| 9. God of Right, God of Might | 8:25 |
| 10. Hymn | 3:43 |

Theodore Bikel, narrator
Carol Meyer, soprano
Elizabeth Shammash, mezzo-soprano
Richard Clement, tenor
Ted Christopher, baritone
Prague Philharmonic Choir
Czech Philharmonic Orchestra
Gerard Schwarz, conductor

11. Jephtha, Rhapsodic Poem (Symphony no. 5) 25:26

Seattle Symphony
Gerard Schwarz, conductor

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American Jewish Music

"Fetters fell, the captive rose. Old is the memory of Israel's escape from Egypt. Told and retold for thousands of years, the story has given strength to the weary, hope to the disheartened." Thus begins Toch's Cantata of the Bitter Herbs, a unique musical-dramatic work begun during the great German-Jewish composer's forced exile to the United States, and premiered in Los Angeles in the midst of World War Two. Toch's retelling of the Passover story is cast as an appeal for universal justice and liberation from oppression. The composer's ultimately triumphant vision is set to luminous late Romantic music and includes a solo quartet that recalls the beauty of the famous trio from Der Rosenkavalier.



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