



Playing  
Time  
**63:19**

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## JEWISH TONE POEMS

### AARON AVSHALOMOV (1894–1964) *Four Biblical Tableaux* (1928)

1. Queen Esther's Prayer
2. Rebecca by the Well
3. Ruth and Naomi
4. Processional

03:35  
02:08  
02:21  
04:01

*Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin\**  
*Gerard Schwarz, conductor*

### SHEILA SILVER (b. 1946) *Shirat Sara* (1985)

5. I. Allegro misterioso
6. II. Softly, as in prayer
7. III. Fast and very precise

07:48  
05:53  
08:51

*Seattle Symphony*  
*Gerard Schwarz, conductor*

### JAN MEYEROWITZ (1915–98) *Symphony Midrash Esther* (1954)

8. I. Andante grave assai
9. II. *Haman*: molto agitato e feroce
10. III. *Esther and Ahasuerus*: adagio-cantabilissimo
11. IV. *Purim*: allegro aggressivo, ma festoso

03:37  
07:06  
08:37  
09:06

*Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin\**  
*Yoel Levi, conductor*

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These WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS will appeal to all lovers of orchestral tone poems in the Romantic and modernist traditions. Avshalomov's delightful miniatures shimmer with colors akin to Rimsky-Korsakov and Far Eastern music. Silver's penetrating soul portrait of the biblical matriarch Sarah is richly set for a full string orchestra. Meyerowitz's colossal Symphony *Midrash Esther*—premiered by the New York Philharmonic under Dimitri Mitropoulos, but recorded here for the first time—presents one of the most dramatic Jewish legends: how Queen Esther of Persia saved the Jewish People from a genocidal attack planned by the wicked courtier Haman. The finale, *Purim*, celebrates Esther's triumph.



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