

A precocious violin talent, Bloch left home at the age of seventeen to study with the illustrious Belgian violinist and composer, Eugène Ysaÿe, who recognised his pupil's extraordinary creative potential and persuaded him to pursue composition. Bloch's *Violin Concerto*, an underrated rarity, is one of his most important works of the 1930s. Although Bloch attributed the major themes in the Concerto to American Indian songs heard on a visit to New Mexico, he also described the work as portraying 'the complex, glowing, agitated soul that I feel vibrating through the Bible'. The *Suite hébraïque*, which draws on traditional melodies to evoke a sense of nostalgia, and the exotic tryptic *Baal Shem* (*Three Pictures of Chassidic Life*), are indelibly associated with Bloch's 'Jewish works'.

Ernest
BLOCH
(1880-1959)

Violin Concerto

Violin Concerto (1938)	38:21	5 II. Nigun (Improvisation)	6:27
1 I. Allegro deciso	20:09	6 III. Simchat Torah (Rejoicing)	4:53
2 II. Andante	6:11	Suite Hébraïque for Violin Solo	
3 III. Deciso	12:00	and Orchestra (1952)	13:06
Baal Shem (Three Pictures of		7 I. Rapsodie	6:40
Chassidic Life) for Violin Solo		8 II. Processional:	
and Orchestra (1923)	14:34	Andante con moto	2:30
4 I. Vidui (Contrition)	3:15	9 III. Affirmation: Maestoso	3:56

Zina Schiff, Violin
Royal National Scottish Orchestra • José Serebrier

In memory of H.B. Markin

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