

Playing
Time
64:19

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JEWISH OPERAS, VOLUME I

Abraham Ellstein (1907–63) *The Golem* (1962)

1. Act II – Finale 17:23

Lauren Allardyce, soprano
Michael Gallant, tenor
Christopher Meerdink, tenor
Tyler Oliphant, baritone
University of Michigan Symphony Orchestra
Kenneth Kiesler, conductor

Robert Strassburg (1915–2003) *Chelm* (1956)

2. Scene 2 8:46
3. Scene 3 6:47
4. Scene 4 6:32
5. Scene 5 4:09

Karen Longwell, soprano
Carla Wood, mezzo-soprano
Matthew Chellis, tenor
Richard Lalli, baritone
Chamber Opera Ensemble
Paul Hostetter, conductor

David Tamkin (1906–75) *The Dybbuk* (1951)

6. "Lord of the Earth!" (Act I) 5:11
7. Wedding Music 1:37
8. "Under the Earth's Surface" 2:31
9. Prelude to Act II 3:06
10. "Dance of the Beggars" 2:07
11. "The Song of Israel" 6:04

Freda Herseth, soprano
Joseph Evans, tenor
Raphael Frieder, baritone
Slovak Radio Symphony Orchestra
Stephen Gunzenhauser, conductor

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American Jewish Music

Timeless Jewish legends and unforgettable dramatic characters come to life in these opera scenes composed by 20th-century American masters. Ellstein's *The Golem* retells the ancient tale of a clay-made creature, brought to life by kabbalistic spells, who ultimately threatens the very people he was intended to serve. Strassburg's *Chelm*, a series of vignettes from a "village of fools," includes a portrayal of a hapless newlywed couple who conduct a hilarious search for an ideal wedding present. Tamkin's *The Dybbuk* transforms an age-old story of demon possession into a compelling drama wherein the fate of two star-crossed lovers becomes a mystical allegory for the Jewish People and Israel.



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