

Although Ernest Bloch's exploration of the 'Jewish Soul' focused on a cycle of seven works written between 1911 and 1916, he returned to Jewish themes throughout his life. *Baal Shem* explores Eastern European Hasidic traditions in all their expressive intensity in this version for viola and orchestra transcribed by soloist Hong-Mei Xiao. Bloch's 1918 Coolidge Prize-winning *Suite for Viola and Orchestra* remains one of the twentieth century's enduringly important works for the instrument, whilst the *Suite hébraïque*, written in his last decade, absorbs Jewish elements ever more fluently and subtly.

Ernest
BLOCH
(1880-1959)

Baal Shem (Three Pictures of Chassidic Life)
(arr. Hong-Mei Xiao for viola and orchestra) (1923/2005) 14:52

| | | |
|---|---|------|
| 1 | No. 1. Vidui (Contrition) | 3:23 |
| 2 | No. 2. Nigun (Improvisation) | 6:41 |
| 3 | No. 3. Simchas Torah (Rejoicing in the Holy Scriptures) | 4:47 |

Suite for Viola and Orchestra (1919) 33:37

| | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-------|
| 4 | I. Lento – Allegro – Moderato | 13:31 |
| 5 | II. Allegro ironico | 5:40 |
| 6 | III. Lento | 5:26 |
| 7 | IV. Molto vivo | 9:00 |

Suite hébraïque (1951) 12:33

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| 8 | I. Rapsodie | 6:29 |
| 9 | II. Processional: Andante con moto | 2:21 |
| 10 | III. Affirmation: Maestoso | 3:43 |

Hong-Mei Xiao, Viola

Budapest Symphony Orchestra MÁV • Mariusz Smolij

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