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 Playing Time  
61:02

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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**

- |    |                                    |      |
|----|------------------------------------|------|
| 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**

Recorded at Studio 22, Hungarian Radio, Budapest, on 17th and 18th September, 2010 (tracks 1-3, 8-10), and on 22nd and 23rd November, 2011 (tracks 4-7)

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