

8.669010-11

DAVID SCHIFF: *Gimpel The Fool*

Playing Time:
1:39:01

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Gimpel The Fool

Opera in Two Acts

Music and Libretto by David Schiff (b. 1945)

Gimpel	Richard Zeller
Elka	D'Anna Fortunato
Badkhen	Kevin Walsh
Rabbi	Thomas Glenn
Fegele, Goat, Evil One	Alissa Mercurio Rowe
Yetta, Rabbi's Daughter	Megan Besley
Wolf-Leyb	Vale Rideout
Leibish	Tyler T. Oliphant
Yekhiel	Bryan Hunt
Sura	Judith Schiff

Third Angle Ensemble
(Ron Blessinger, Artistic Director)
Kenneth Kiesler, Conductor

CD 1

1-17 **Act One 52:55**

CD 2

1-14 **Act Two 46:06**

Recorded at Kaul Auditorium, Reed College, Portland,
Oregon, USA, 3rd–4th June 2003

Producer: Adam Stern • Booklet notes: David Schiff
Cover image from Webking / Dreamstime.com
American flag, folk artist, 1880s



AMERICAN OPERA CLASSICS

Gimpel the Fool is a setting of the story by Polish-born American Yiddish writer Isaac Bashevis Singer (1904–1991). In the words of the composer, also of Polish descent, “it turned out to be world full of spirits and demons, as well as a world inseparable from Judaism”. The opera was given its first performance in November 1975 at Hebrew Union College in New York as a version for singers and piano. It was subsequently orchestrated and the full version is heard on this recording.

David Schiff was born in New York City in 1945. He studied composition with Ursula Mamlok at the Manhattan School of Music and with Elliott Carter at the Juilliard School, and is the author of books on the music of Elliott Carter and George Gershwin. Since 1980 Schiff has taught at Reed College, Portland, Oregon.

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