



## 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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# 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

Playing  
 Time:

1:39:01

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