

Unofficially considered 'the father of Jewish music', Joel Engel (1868–1927) paved the way for a nationalist movement that used Yiddish and Hebrew folksongs as the basis of a serious art-form. Well before Kodály and Bartók in Hungary, Engel went out to the *shtetls* of eastern Europe, writing down the villagers' songs and then composing music inspired by his excursions. This first-ever album of his music reveals the melodic immediacy of these songs and instrumental pieces, capturing the soul of a people and a centuries-old vanished culture.



TOCC 0343

JOEL ENGEL Chamber Music and Folksongs

I. KAPLAN (18??–19??)

- 1 *Air (Jewish Melody)* for violin, harp and harmonium (1912)* 2:59

JOEL ENGEL

- 2 *Adagio Misterioso, Op. 22*, for violin, cello, harp and harmonium* 4:57
 3 *Three Yiddish Songs* for voice, oboe and piano, arr. Cantor Louis Danto 7:44
 6 *The Dybbuk: Suite, Op. 35*, for clarinet, strings and percussion 23:24
 12 *Hen hu hivtiach li* for voice, violin and piano (1923)* 2:50
 13 *2 Violinstücke, Op. 20* 7:01
 15 *Fifty Children's Songs* for voice and piano (1923): Nos. 9, 8 and 1 3:48
 18 *11 Children's Songs (Yaldei Sadeh), Op. 36*: No. 10, Zumerfeygele* 1:42

ALEXANDER ZHITOMIRSKY (1881–1937)

- 19 *Az ikh volt gehat dem keysers oystres, Op. 4, No. 2*, for voice, oboe and piano 3:44

Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano 3–5 12 15–19 Musicians of the Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival

TT 58:42

* FIRST RECORDINGS

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