

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 keyzers oystres*, Op. 4, No. 2, for voice, oboe and piano

3:44

Rachel Calloway, mezzo-soprano [3–5] [12] [15–19]

TT 58:42

Musicians of the Pittsburgh Jewish Music Festival

\* FIRST RECORDINGS

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