

A joint-venture with the Milken Archive

Naxos to publish 'American Jewish Music'

Klaus Heymann:

«A really important, unique repertoire»

Naxos, whose recording project of American Classics is highly successful and put a wide variety of composers nearly unknown in Europe in the window, has now embarked on another massive publishing effort: the 'Milken Archive of American Jewish Music'.

In his announcement, Lowell Milken, chairman of 'Milken Family Foundation', underlined «the quality and tremendous diversity of music written for or inspired by the American Jewish experience». He announced recordings of «sacred and secular compositions, from art music for the concert hall to liturgical music for the synagogue to more popular idioms...» So far, more than 600 works have been recorded, about 500 never before released commercially, producing 80 hours of music.

The project covers an immense range of music dating from 1654, the year the first Jewish settlers arrived in America, to the present day. In addition to documenting the Jewish cultural experience in America, the archive also seeks to express the relevance of the Jewish experience to all faiths and races as well as its importance to the musical world. Lesser-known works by Jewish composers as well as pieces by secular composers who were influenced by Jewish writings and musical works are included. The first release encompasses the first recording of Kurt Well's "The Eter-

nal Road", performances on the Yiddish stage, previously neglected works by Leonard Bernstein,

Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Darius Milhaud's beautiful "Service sacré" and three top works by Joseph Achron.

All proceeds from sales of the recordings will be directed back into the Milken Archive's nonprofit programs. The Milken Archive's nonprofit programs. The Milken Family Foundation was established by brothers Lowell and Michael Milken in 1982 with the mission to discover and advance inventive, effective ways of helping people help themselves and those around them lead productive and satisfying lives. The Foundation advances this mission primarily through its work in education and medical research. The Milken Archive of American Jewish Music began in 1990.

As Naxos CEO Klaus Heymann told Pizzicato, «The entire project was funded by the Milken Foundation and it was Paul Schwendener who selected the repertoire and the artists. I

was delighted to incorporate the project into our American classics series because there was a great deal of really important, unique repertoire that greatly strengthened our own series».

For more information, visit the website for the Milken Archive of American Jewish Music at www.milkenarchive.org, or e-mail info@naxosusa.com.

