

Playing
Time
63:19

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NAXOS

JEWISH TONE POEMS

AARON AVSHALOMOV (1894–1964)

Four Biblical Tableaux (1928)

1. Queen Esther's Prayer
2. Rebecca by the Well
3. Ruth and Naomi
4. Processional

03:35
02:08
02:21
04:01

*Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin**
Gerard Schwarz, conductor

SHEILA SILVER (b. 1946)

Shirat Sara (1985)

5. I. Allegro misterioso
6. II. Softly, as in prayer
7. III. Fast and very precise

07:48
05:53
08:51

Seattle Symphony
Gerard Schwarz, conductor

JAN MEYEROWITZ (1915–98)

Symphony Midrash Esther (1954)

8. I. Andante grave assai
9. II. *Haman*: molto agitato e feroce
10. III. *Esther and Ahasuerus*: adagio-cantabilissimo
11. IV. *Purim*: allegro aggressivo, ma festoso

03:37
07:06
08:37
09:06

*Rundfunk-Sinfonieorchester Berlin**
Yoel Levi, conductor

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American Jewish Music

These WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS will appeal to all lovers of orchestral tone poems in the Romantic and modernist traditions. Avshalomov's delightful miniatures shimmer with colors akin to Rimsky-Korsakov and Far Eastern music. Silver's penetrating soul portrait of the biblical matriarch Sarah is richly set for a full string orchestra. Meyerowitz's colossal Symphony *Midrash Esther*—premiered by the New York Philharmonic under Dimitri Mitropoulos, but recorded here for the first time—presents one of the most dramatic Jewish legends: how Queen Esther of Persia saved the Jewish People from a genocidal attack planned by the wicked courtier Haman. The finale, *Purim*, celebrates Esther's triumph.



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