

Ami Maayani



VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA

Hebrew Requiem

Symphony No.3

1977

51 min

for mezzo-soprano, SATB choir and orchestra

Text: Yitzhak Averbuch Opraz (Hebr)

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-6.4.3.1-timp.perc(4)-2harps-cel-strings

"Maayani's Hebrew Requiem is a masterpiece – monumental, profound and deeply moving. It has a wonderful balance between the instrumental and vocal parts and Yitzhak Orpaz's beautiful poetry shapes the work's spiritual world... The first movement 'To the Memory of My Father and Mother' erupts turbulently and then settles down to a dirge-like slow section which is declamatory in style. Edna Prochnik's voice rose from depth to dramatic heights with complete stability. The second movement 'Farwell: Dead, Dead is the Prophet' is no less absorbing. The choir now moves into focus, giving cries from all directions which remain unanswered. There are dialogues which are cut off. Distress and pain are everywhere. The third movement, the scherzo-'Ode' is wild. In classic A-B-A form its main A section 'Halleluya' uses a basic motif of simple diatonic, three-tone sequence of two major seconds which assume overpowering strength. When the motif returns after the lyrical B section the effect is breathtaking. The fourth movement is a wild dithyrambic hymn in honour of Jerusalem. Maayani has always had a marvelous talent for Orchestration and his Hebrew requiem opens up ever new horizons in his music. The essence of the Middle East is clearly there but the work also encourages a more universal language." (Benjamin Bar-Am, Jerusalem Post, 11 Apr 1990)

World Premiere: 05 Apr 1990

Tel-Aviv, Israel

Edna Prochnik, mezzo-soprano; Opera Choir / Jerusalem Choir / Chamber Choir of Rishon LeZion / Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Le

Conductor: Ami Maayani

VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA 1

Jüdische Lieder - Cycle No.1

Yiddish Songs

1973

22 min 35 sec

Six songs for soprano (or baritone) and orchestra

Text: Levick, Suzkover, Asia Guy & Pappernikov (Yid)

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(4)-2harps-cel-strings

World Premiere: 08 Aug 1973

Jerusalem, Israel

Willi Haparnass, baritone; Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Mendi Rodan

Jüdische Lieder - Cycle No.2

Yiddish Songs

1974

25 min 10 sec

Five songs for mezzo-soprano and orchestra

Text: Asia Guy (Yid)

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-4.4.3.1-timp.perc(4)-2harps-cel-strings

World Premiere: 10 Jun 1992

Jerusalem, Israel

Mira Zakai, alto; Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Ami Maayani

Mizmorim

Songs of Thanksgiving and Praise

1965

15 min 10 sec

for soprano (or tenor) and chamber orchestra

Text: Psalms 131, 121 (Hebr)

1.1.1.bcl.0-0.0.0.0-perc(2)-harp-strings

"... a glowing, shimmering piece with an orchestral style somewhat influenced by Ravel and a sinuous folk-derived vocal line. Some delicate percussive effects add much to its effect." (Alan Rich, New York Herald Tribune, 11 Mar 1965)

"... a dissonant but exotic-sounding work with plenty of advanced effects." (Harold C. Schonberg, New York Times, 11 Mar 1965)

World Premiere: 10 Mar 1965

Philharmonic Hall, New York, NY, USA

Janice Harsanyi, soprano; American Symphony Orchestra

Conductor: Julius Rudel

VOICE(S) AND ORCHESTRA 1

Régalim

Les Fêtes de pèlerinage

1966

28 min 25 sec

for soprano (or tenor) and large orchestra

Text: Psalm 122, Isaiah 55,12 (Hebr)

2.2picc.af.3.corA.2.Ebcl.2bcl.asax.tsax.3.dbn-6.4.4.1-timp.perc(8)-2harps-cel-strings

"The music of Régalim contains all of Maayani's characteristic features – oriental melodic pattern built out of small intervals, heterophony, obstinate melodic and rhythmical repetitions, impressionistic coloring, etc. The composer gives us an almost visual description of the holy pilgrimage to the Temple: the festive Proclamation, the mysterious Prayer and the almost pagan, ecstatic Dance of Spring. In these three sections Maayani carries one away by sheer orchestral force – sweeping rhythm and melodic obstinacy... All this prepares the listener for the beautiful vocal part, a lyrical yet almost emotional interpretation of Psalm 122: the last movement, 'Procession', with its alternating vocal and instrumental parts is probably the most original part..." (Benjamin Bar-Am, Jerusalem Post, 19 Oct 1969)

World Premiere: 13 Oct 1969

Tel-Aviv, Israel

Raquel Adonaylo, soprano; Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Conductor: Zubin Mehta

Symphonie de psaumes

Symphony No.1

1974

52 min

for soprano, baritone, SATB choir, children's choir and orchestra

Text: from Psalms 60, 53, 15, 150, 147, 67, 85 (Hebr)

2.picc.2.corA.2.bcl.2.dbn-6.4.3.1-timp.perc(4)-2harps-cel(=xyl/vib)-strings