

The Rabbis' Sons

Featuring songs
composed and arranged by
Baruch Chait

הללו

A B&B Production



Cover design: Jean Cunningham



PRODUCED AND
DIRECTED BY
BARUCH CHAIT AND
BARRY SEPTIMUS

The Rabbis' Sons

EMES
Mono E-101
Stereo ES-101

FOLK MUSIC has gained such widespread popularity over the past decade that it has virtually affected the spiritual and political character of our times. Modern man, in his desperate search for such meaning to his precarious existence, seems to have discovered in the melodious language of the folk song a facile means of relieving the anguish of his tormented soul.

For centuries, suffering and misfortune were indigenous to the life of the Jew in Galut. Throughout those trying years, Jewish folk music played a significant role in sustaining the weary heart of its people. Hope and fear, sorrow and gladness were echoed through its plaintive tones.

With the emergence of the State of Israel, folk songs became the natural vehicle of expression for the renaissance spirit of a people bursting with a longing for freedom and national independence. Songs of faith and thanksgiving were mingled with exultant tones of Jewish heroism to produce a colorful array of melodies that we now know as Israeli folk music.

With this album, however, a new creation in Jewish music makes its debut. It offers an harmonious blend of Jewish liturgical texts with traditional melodic warmth, uniquely set to a modern folk beat — by *The Rabbis' Sons*. On this LP recording, eleven songs are presented; nine were composed by Baruch Chait, one by Mark Davidowitz, and the last is a stirring revival of a somewhat forgotten Yiddish folk song.

Two guitars and a bass fiddle provide the fundamental instrumentation for this complement of musical innovations. The penetrating resonance of a steel guitar is skilfully produced by David Nulman, who assisted in the guitar arrangements. Mickey Lane, as master of the bass fiddle, carries the rhythm with striking artistry.

In *Be'tzais Yisroel* the voices ring with the vibrance of a brass ensemble. A symphonic texture is achieved in *V'ani*



"THE RABBIS' SONS" AS THEY APPEARED AT THE "SALUTE TO ISRAEL"—RHEINGOLD MUSIC FESTIVAL—CENTRAL PARK NEW YORK ON JULY 2, 1967

S'filosi by the clever variances of alto and baritone shadings, and the fugue-like tempo of the three-part harmony in *Hal'lu* underscores the modern character of these songs. Despite the sharp variations in the mood of each song, the motif remains substantively the same throughout: Israel's endless yearning for "d'vaykus," to merge with her Maker through ecstatic prayers of exaltation and gratitude.

BARUCH CHAIT, creator of *The Rabbis' Sons*, has adeptly organized a group of rabbinic students, reared in the traditions of Torah life and sensitive to the musical trends of their generation. As rabbis' sons they are fully conscious of the pluralistic culture reflected in their harmonic creations. Baruch Chait is a competent guitarist whose imaginative touch has produced the chords which yielded the beautiful melodies that he composed and arranged for this album.

LABEL SCHARFMAN'S natural vocal talent is the reason for his many successful public appearances and growing popularity. His mellow tenor is dominant in *Rabos Mochshovos* and *Even Moasu*, alternating artfully between melody and harmony. The smooth quality of his voice enhances the tonal character of these songs and enriches their general texture.

ITZY WEINBERGER is a former child prodigy whose voice now rings with rich baritone resonance. Professionally trained, he is as much at home with secular music as he is with religious songs. As a proud descendant of the *Dolliner* rabbinic dynasty, he sings with characteristic chassidic charm and inspiring warmth.

MICHAEL ZHEUTLIN is responsible for the distinctive vocal coloration of this recording. He contributed significantly to the blend of the more complex harmonies through the vibrant expression of his tenor range. As a talented and versatile musician, his performances on the guitar and piano have delighted large audiences.

SIDE ONE

1. **HU ELOKEINU:** Sabbath Prayer 1:52
Jewry's reaffirmation of the absolute Kingship and Fatherhood of G-d, whose Sovereignty will ultimately be proclaimed before the eyes of the world.

הוא אלקינו הוא אבינו הוא מלכנו הוא מושיענו והוא ישמיענו ברחמינו
שנית לעיני כל חי

2. **V'ANI S'FILOSI:** Psalms 69:14 2:45
(comp. Mark Davidowitz)
Israel's very existence is bound up in the hope that her prayers will find favor in the eyes of the Lord and evoke Divine response for her salvation.

ואני תפילתי לך ה' עת רצון אלקים ברב חסדך ענני באמת ישעך

3. **KAVEI:** Psalms 27:14 2:49
Faith in G-d is man's greatest source of strength and courage.

קוה אל ה' חזק ויאמץ לבך וקוה אל ה'

4. **MI HO-ISH:** Psalms 34:13-15 3:39
True happiness and the ideal life belong to those who are the skillful masters of their tongues and the faithful guardians of their lips. This unforgettable melody by Baruch Chait is already a classic in Chassidic musical literature.

מי האיש החפץ חיים אהב ימים לראות טוב נצור לשונך מרע ושפתך מדבר מרמה
סור מרע ועשה טוב בקש שלום ורדפהו

5. **RABOS MACHSHOVOS:** 3:35
Proverbs 19:21, Psalms 33:11
The faith of the Jew is rooted in the conviction that no matter what short-lived thoughts may be contrived in the hearts of men, the long-range plans of G-d will always prevail.

רבות מחשבות בלב איש ועצת ה' היא תקום. עצת ה' לעולם תעמד
מחשבות לבו לדור ודור

6. **BETZEIS YISROEL:** Psalm 114 3:34
King David recounts the triumphant exodus from Egypt

when all the forces of nature joined miraculously in heralding Israel's freedom.

בצאת ישראל ממצרים,
בית יעקב מעם לועז;
היתה יהודה לקדשו,
ישראל ממשלותיו;
הים ראה ויננס,
הירדן יסוב לאחור;
ההרים רקדו כאילים,
נבעות כבני צאן;
מה לך הים כי תנוס,
הירדן תסוב לאחור;
ההרים תרקדו כאילים,
נבעות כבני צאן;
מלפני אדון חולי ארץ,
מלפני אלוה-יעקב;
ההפכי הצור אנס מים,
חלמיש למעיני מים;

SIDE TWO

1. **HAL'LU:** Psalm 117 3:06
A call to the nations of the world to lift their voices in praise of the Almighty for the wonders He has shown in protecting His people Israel.

הללו את ה' כל גוים. שבחוהו כל האומים. כי גבר עלינו חסדו ואמת ה'
לעולם הללויה

2. **EVEN MOASU:** Psalms 118: 22, 23 2:45
Although the nations have rejected Israel, she will yet become the cornerstone of all civilization through the marvels of Divine intervention.

אבן מאסו הבונים היתה לראש פינה. מאת ה' היתה זאת היא נפלאות בעינינו

3. **KADSHEINU:** Sabbath Prayer 3:24
The Divine Commandments of the Torah offer spiritual enrichment, and ennobling self-fulfillment to all who live by them.

קדשנו במצותך ותן חלקנו בתורתך. שבענו מטובך ושמחנו בישועתך.
וטרה לבנו לעבדך באמת

4. **HOYSO LI:** Psalms: 42:4 3:31
Israel pours forth the anguish of her heart over the endless tears that have become more of a daily regimen for her than her food.

היתה לי דמעתי לחם יומם ולילה באמור אלי כל היום איה אלקיך

5. **A SUKKELE:** Yiddish Folk Song 4:47
A profoundly touching folksong of nostalgic reminiscences into Israel's precarious history in the frail but persistent shadow of the *Succah*.

א סוכה'לע א קליינע
פון ברעטעלעך נעמינע
האב איך מיר א סוכה'לע נעמאכט.
צוגעדעקט דעם דאך
מיט א ביסעלע סכך,
זיך איך מיר אין סוכה'לע
באנאכט.
א ווינט א קאלטן
בלאזט דורך די שפאלטן,
און די ליכטעלעך
זיי לעשן זיך פיל;
עס איז מיר א חידוש
ווי איך מאך מיר קידוש
און די ליכטעלעך זיי ברענען גאנץ שטיל.
צום ערשטן געריכט
מיט א בלאקסן געזיכט
ברענגט מיר מיין טעכטערל אריין,
זי שטעלט זיך אָוועק
און זאגט מיט שרעק:
טאטעטע, די סוכה פאלט באַלד איין.
— זיי נישט קיין נאָר,
האָב ניט קיין צער,
זאָל דיר די סוכה ניט טאָן באַנג;
עס איז שוין נאָר
באַלד צוויי טויוונט יאָר
און די סוכה'לע זי שטייט נאָך גאַנץ לאַנג.

The Rabbis' Sons (l. to r. on front)—Baruch, Label, Itzy and Michael.

This album was recorded at the Regent Sound Studios, New York on May 31 and June 16, 1967.

Liner Coordinator—LARRY WACHSMAN

Recording Engineer—ROBERT LIFTIN

Mono and Stereo Mastering—CLAUDE RIE

Album and Production Coordinator—CHAIM TITTEBAUM

Cover Design—JEAN CUNNINGHAM

Technical Assistance—ZAVE SHERUN

Special Thanks To: Barry Septimus (Electric Organ), Stanley Miller (flute), Yehuda Isaacs (drums), Eli Teitelbaum (bongos), Joe Wachsmann family, Yisroel Lamm and Zave Sherun Associates.

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EMES RECORD COMPANY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

EMES

RECORDS

THE RABBIS' SONS

Arranged by
BARUCH CHAIT

E-101
SIDE 1

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM
MONO

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 1. HU ELOKEINU | 1:52 |
| 2. V'ANI S'FILOSI | 2:45 |
| 3. KAVEI | 2:49 |
| 4. MI HO-ISH | 3:39 |
| 5. RABOS MACHSHOVOS | 3:35 |
| 6. BE'TZEIS YISROEL | 3:34 |

Total Time: 18:10

2375 Cornaga Ave.
Far Rockaway, N. Y.

EMES

RECORDS

THE RABBIS' SONS

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E-101
SIDE 2

33 $\frac{1}{3}$ RPM
MONO

- | | |
|------------------------|------|
| 1. HAL'LU | 3:06 |
| 2. EVEN MOASU | 2:45 |
| 3. KADSHEINU | 3:24 |
| 4. HOYSO LI | 3:31 |
| 5. A SUKKELE (Yiddish) | 4:47 |

Total Time: 17:33

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