



PASC199

ERNEST BLOCH

ISRAEL SYMPHONY

SCHELOMO



Israel Symphony

- 1 1st mvt. - *Lent et solennel* (4:46)
- 2 2nd mvt. - *Allegro agitato* (12:54)
- 3 3rd mvt. - *Moderato (Andante grazioso)* (14:17)

Vienna State Opera Orchestra

conducted by Franz Litschauer

Friedl Helsing, Helga Augsten, sopranos

Elfriede Hofstatter, Lore Dorpinghaus, Altos

Leo Heppe, Bass

Recorded in 1952, issued in the US as Vanguard 12" LP: VRS-423

This transfer from UK issue, Nixa VLP.423

- 4 **Schelomo** (*Rhapsodie Hébraïque*) (20:40)

Tibor de Machula, cello

The Residency-Orchestra (The Hague)

conducted by Willem van Otterloo

Recorded 11th October, 1951

This transfer from Philips 10" LP: A00138R

Transfers and XR remastering by Andrew Rose at Pristine Audio, November 2009
Cover artwork based on a photograph of Ernest Bloch

Total duration: 52:37 ©2009 Pristine Audio.

SARL Pristine Audio, Le Bourg, 24610 St. Méard de Gurçon, France - Tel. +33 (0)5 53 82 18 57 - Internet: www.pristineclassical.com



PASC199

BLOCH



ERNEST BLOCH

ISRAEL SYMPHONY, SCHELOMO

Ernest Bloch (July 24, 1880 – July 15, 1959) was a Swiss-born American composer. Bloch was born in Geneva and began playing the violin at age 9. He began composing soon afterwards. He studied music at the conservatory in Brussels, where his teachers included the celebrated Belgian violinist Eugène Ysaÿe. He then travelled around Europe, moving to Germany (where he studied composition from 1900-1901 with Iwan Knorr at the Hoch Conservatory in Frankfurt), on to Paris in 1903 and back to Geneva before settling in the United States of America in 1916, taking American citizenship in 1924. He held several teaching appointments in the U.S., with George Antheil, Frederick Jacobi, Bernard Rogers, and Roger Sessions among his pupils. In December 1920 he was appointed the first Musical Director of the newly formed Cleveland Institute of Music, a post he held until 1925. Following this he was director of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music until 1930.

In 1941 Bloch moved to the small coastal community of Agate Beach, Oregon and lived there the rest of his life. He died in 1959 in Portland, Oregon, of cancer at the age of 78. The Bloch Memorial has been moved from near his house in Agate Beach to a more prominent location at the Newport Performing Arts Center in Newport, Oregon.

Bloch's early works, including his opera *Macbeth* (1910) show the influence of both the Germanic school of Richard Strauss and the impressionism of Claude Debussy. Mature works, including his best-known pieces, often draw on Jewish liturgical and folk music. These works include *Schelomo* (1916) for cello and orchestra, which he dedicated to the cellist Alexandre Barjansky, the *Israel Symphony* (1916), *Baal Shem* for violin and piano (1923, later version for violin and orchestra), the "Jewish Life" suite for cello and piano, and *Avodath Hakodesh* (Sacred Service, 1933) for baritone, choir and orchestra. Other pieces from this period include a violin concerto written for Joseph Szigeti and the rhapsody *America* for chorus and orchestra.

Leopold Stokowski and the Symphony of the Air made the first stereo recording of *America* for Vanguard Records, which included a short speech by Bloch that explained why he wrote the piece; years later, the Seattle Symphony Orchestra recorded the work for Delos.

Pieces written after World War II are a little more varied in style, though Bloch's essentially Romantic idiom remains. Some, such as the *Suite hébraïque* (1950) continue the Jewish theme; others, such as the second *Concerto grosso* (1952), display an interest in neo-classicism (though here too the harmonic language is basically Romantic, even though the form is Baroque); and others, including the late string quartets, include elements of atonality.

NOTES FROM WIKIPEDIA - FURTHER NOTES ONLINE AT WWW.PRISTINECLASSICAL.COM