

SIDOR BELARSKY

IN SONGS

by

SOVIET YIDDISH

POETS

and

COMPOSERS

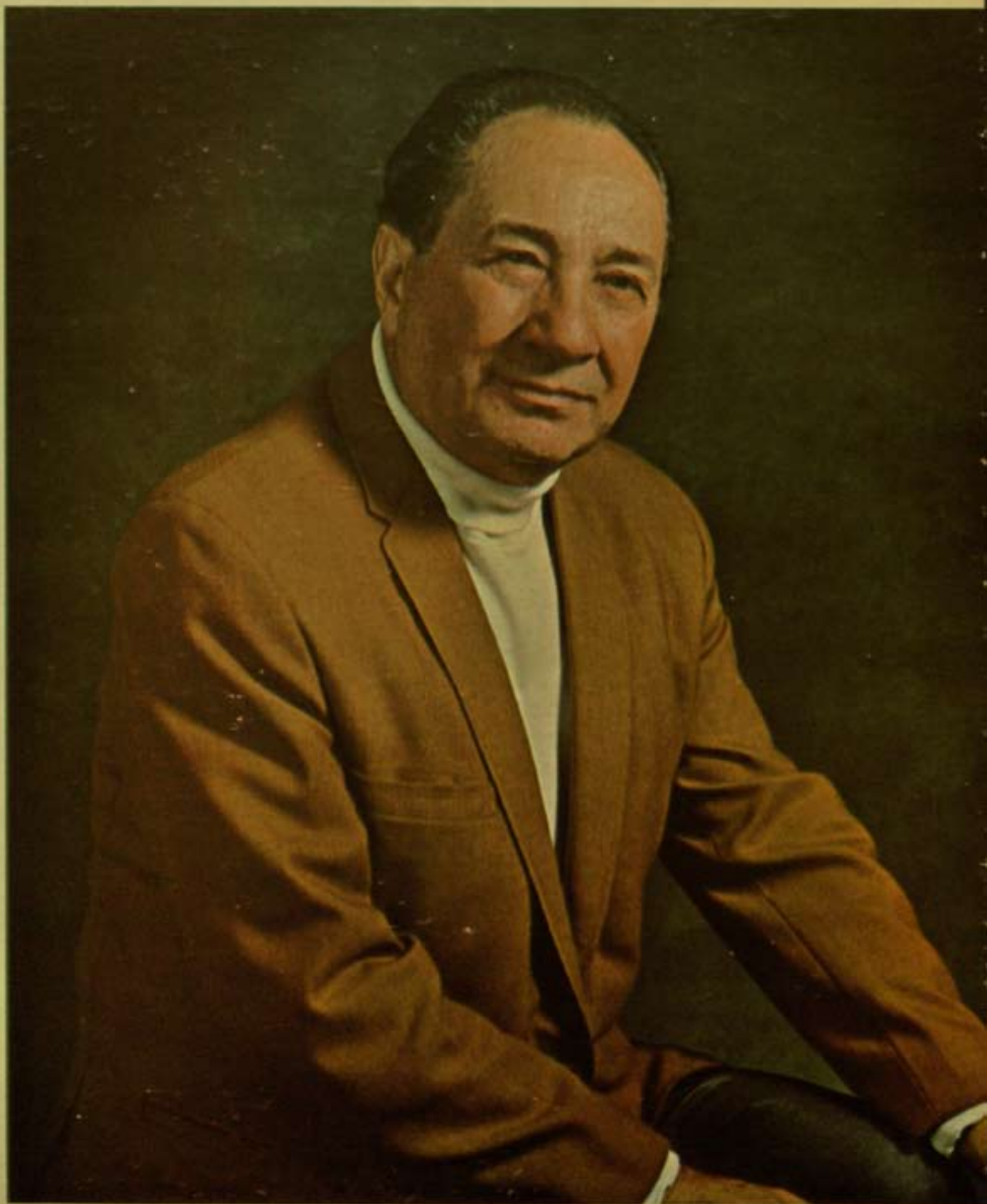
Presented by

Congress For Jewish Culture

אלוועלסלעכער יידישער קולטור-קאנגרעס

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ARTISTIC ENTERPRISES



SIDOR BELARSKY

SONGS BY SOVIET-JEWISH POETS AND COMPOSERS

The congress for Jewish culture takes great pride in presenting the master interpreter of Yiddish songs in an album of compositions by Soviet-Jewish Poets and Composers.

In numerous selections of this album there is an awareness of Jewish traditional feeling as it mirrors Jewish folklore. Still prominent among Russian Jewry, there is a powerful interest in Yiddish folk songs recreated by Composers such as Engle, Achron, Millner and others.

Sidor Belarsky's contribution to Jewish music has been overwhelming through his recordings and personal appearances in the United States and throughout the world. Sidor Belarsky has also revived many forgotten folk songs and popularized many Jewish musical compositions.

SIDE ONE

BABI-YAR DRIZ BOYARSKA

Remembered as one of the traumatic episodes in Jewish history when thousands of Jews were massacred in 1941 by the Nazis in Babi-Yar, near Kiev.

A mother standing by the empty cradle of her sons killed by the Nazis, cries out to every mother in the world.

"Help me, help me bear the tragedy of Babi-Yar."

A HOYCHER BOYM DRIZ POLIANSKY

The song, "A Majestic Tree" is an allegory.

The tree symbolizes the Jewish people who are constantly being uprooted from their adopted lands.

The Poet writes:

"Despite the shedding of my blood over half of the world,
Unmercifully torn asunder,
Before fire and sword have I succumbed to,
As all the world shall see,
I will survive and always be
A beautiful tree, a strong tree, a majestic tree."

C'HOB ZINGEN DIR GEVOLT SAKZIER KOMPANYETZ

The poet dreams of singing to his beloved of springtime and beauty, while the world is engaged in battle and the wind brings tidings of bloodshed and death.

"RUMCHI" FOLKSONG ARR. YAMPOLSKY

This song mirrors the atmosphere of a Jewish wedding. The musicians play, the guests dance, and from time to time they request some of their favorite melodies.

VOLT ICH ZAYN A FEYGELE SCHNEUR OKUN PULVER

A Yiddish love song originating from traditional folklore.

A FREYLECHS CHARIK POLONSKY

A traditional Jewish dance. The poet in song depicts the joys of life and work.

"If you sing, sing well, if you dance, dance well."

לידער פון סאָוועטישע ייִדישע דיכטער און קאָמפאָזיטארן

דער ייִדישער קולטור־קאָנגרעס האָט דעם כבוד צו פרעזענטירן דעם מייסטער פון ייִדישן נעזאָנג אין אַן אַלבוּם רעקאָרדירטע. אין וועלכן עס ווערן פאַרנעמטעלע די שאַפונגען פון סאָוועטישע ייִדישע פּאַעטן און קאָמפאָזיטארן.

אין דעם אַפּקלייב לידער ווייזט אונדז דער קינסטלער ווי אזוי אין טייל שאַפונגען קומען נאָך צום אויסדרוק נאַציאָנאַלע ייִדישע געפילן און עס שפּילט זיך אײַך אַפּ דער ייִדישער פּאַלעסטייַנער. אין די קאַמפּאָזיציעס פּילט מען נאָך אײַך דעם איינפלוס פון ייִדישן פּאַלעסטינער.

דער גרויסער אינטערעס אין דעם ייִדישן מוזיקאלישן אידיאָם. וואָס האָט זיך אָנגעהויבן דורך דער טעטיקייט פון י. ענגעל. י. אַחרון. מ. מילנער און אנדערע. האָט געפונען אַן אַפּקלאַנג אין דער מוזיק פון די סאָוועטישע ייִדישע קאָמפּאָזיטארן.

סידאר בעלאַרסקי'ס צושטייער אויפן געביט פון ייִדישער מוזיק אין גײַט אַפּער שאַפן. דורך זײַנע קאַנצערטן אין די פאַראײניקטע שטאַטן און איבער נאָך דער וועלט און דורך זײַנע רעקאָרדירונגען האָט ער פאַפּולער געמאַכט דאָס קינסטליך און פּאַלעסטינער. וואָס אין פאַרשפּרייט איבער דער גאַנצער וועלט.

SIDE TWO

UNZER SHUSTER TEIF SHAYNSKI

Our shoemaker, honest and hard-working has gone to war to protect his country from the Nazi invasion. He is killed in battle. At home, his wife and children and neighbors remember him and the heartfelt songs he sang while at work.

DER BOYM DRIZ YAMPOLSKY

The tree is an allegory.

This is the story of the beauty and strength of the tree which withstands the fury of the storm.

It is here now told in song.

The Poet questions the tree:

"What is your dream?"

"To shield man from the heat of the sun, to live standing, to remain standing, a beautiful tree, a green tree, a strong and proud tree."

IN DI BERG GONTER SHENDERAY

A love song by a modern poet on a folklore theme.

LE'CHAYIM BROMBERG PULVER

Family and friends toast Le'chayim . . .

They feast and dance to life and happiness in a new home.

DOS VIGELE DRIZ POLIANSKY

Dos Vigele (The Cradle)

Decries the holocaust of World War II when innumerable lives of Jewish children were taken by the Nazis.

"Empty, the cradle rocks, Gone, the mothers pride and joy, The cradle rocks . . . empty."

A YIDDISHE CHASENE FEFER YAMPOLSKY

A wedding in a small town has brought relatives and friends from far and near. The bride being asked.

"What have you received from your groom, Meir Ber?"

Diamonds, ear-rings or rubies? Tell us, do declare."

"Happiness and the handsomest man in the township, I declare."