

SIDOR BELARSKY

sings

SELECT YIDDISH SONGS

a new collection
never previously recorded



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סידאר בעלארסקי
זינגט
געקליבענע יידישע לידער

SIDE ONE

- 1—ZING SHTIL—Younin-Secunda
- 2—DER MAGID—Arr. Newman
- 3—HASSIDIC—Bugatch
- 4—DOSFREILECHE SHNAIDERL—Arr. Heifetz
- 5—VOS VET BLAIBN—Belarsky
- 6—HOB ICH MIR A MANTL—Folk Song—Arr. Newman

SIDE TWO

- 1—ACHRIS HAYOMIM—Tabachnick-Alter
- 2—DER REBBE—Hassidic—arr. Binder
- 3—ZOL ZEIN SHTIL—Younin-Fershko—arr. Heifetz
- 4—DER BAAL SHEM—Adapted Prof. Kosover—arr. Heifetz
- 5—SHABES FAR NACHT—Yoachimovitch-Belarsky
- 6—NIT KEIN ROZHINKES, NIT KEIN MANDLEN—Shpigel-Baigelman
- 7—OIF DI FELDER FUN BESARABIA—Manger (Folk Melody)—arr. Belarsky

Once heard, Sidor Belarsky will be remembered. He is a voice afire with an almost apostolic fervor. His burning need—to return to the people, a sense of the magnificence of their own cultural heritage. While moving us through laughter and tears, he imparts a fresh sense of the reality and truth of our legends. He has been described as "The world's foremost exponent and interpreter of Jewish music," a statement, the truth of which we cannot dispute, when we hear the art with which Belarsky sings the songs he has selected for this record. In nearly every phrase of vocal art Sidor Belarsky has won repeated acclaim, formerly a leading basso of the Leningrad State Opera, he has sung recitals from coast to coast, and as soloist with numerous symphony orchestras under the direction of such eminent conductors as Arturo Toscanini, Fitz Bush, Arthur Rodzinski... has had an overwhelming success. In concert, he has sung throughout United States, Europe, The Middle East, Canada, South America, South Africa and Australia.

The songs on this select program mainly represent two great periods of Yiddish folk music. One is the "Hassidic" movement of the 18th century, a revolt against medieval ritual formalism in its mystical dancing joy and visionary, an almost personal attachment to God. The other songs are of Eastern Europe in the late 19th and early 20th century, with the struggle against pogroms and for a social awakening that would permanently demolish the ghettos, expressing this cry for humanity, not only in social themes, but in love songs and lullabies. ZING SHTIL—Poetically written of the nign,

the child inherits and must find in his lifetime. DER MAGID—Folkloristic song of three men. One compared to borscht, one to meat, one to bread. Each one having higher status than the other—yet, each one making his contribution during his life. HASSIDIC—Potpourri of Hassidic melodies. DOS FREILECHE SHNAIDERL—Laments of the nign he has heard, which has enchanted him, as he is busily engaged in tailoring... to the extent of forgetting his hunger. VOS VET BLAIBN—Philosophical song of planting in one's youth and some day reaping the harvest. HOB ICH MIR A MANTL—Amusing song of an overcoat, having been shortened so many times, finally becomes a pocket. ACHRIS HAYOMIM—Biblical theme of the prophet... the day will come, when there will be an end to War—Swords will turn to plows... and all people will live in peace! DER REBBE—Pioneers on their journey to Palestine in the year 1931, sang this Hassidic melody of the Rebbe's ability to go fishing in the wilderness and of his wife's culinary art. ZOL ZEIN SHTIL—Six days of weariness is gone, the Sabbath day has come! Let it be blessed. THE BAAL SHEM—The inspirational leader of the Hassidic movement, wherever he has been, is praised. SHABES FAR NACHT—The atmosphere of Sholosh S'udot. Hoping and praying that redemption will come soon. NIT KAIN ROZHINKES, NIT KAIN MANDLEN—A lullaby written during World War II in the ghetto. Sleep child, father will come, he has not gone to market. Where have they taken him? God, return him to us! OIF DI FELDER FUN BESARABIA—Nostalgic recollections of long ago days, spent in Bessarabia, land of wine and tears.