



Abba Hillel Silver Collection Digitization Project
Featuring collections from the Western Reserve Historical Society and
The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives

MS-4787: Abba Hillel Silver Papers, 1902-1989.
Series V: Writings, 1909-1963, undated.

Reel
179

Box
66

Folder
542

The Psalms, 1940.

1- So dear heart - Jew - christian - Found its way - Ritual - Sung under every sky -

Calvin - "perfect anatomy of the human soul."

Every word - Grief - despair - Exaltation - great confidence .

Mirror of Soul of Man - all our riches - care - yearnings .

2/ Anthology of Hebrew poems - 150 - divided into 5 books into
5 Books - a larger collection of smaller collections ~~at~~ groups -
(1) Songs of Ascents (2) Songs of Korah (3) Davidic psalms .

3/ Ascribed ^{73 psalms} attributed to David & "a skillful musician" - Saul .
Possibly - some are of Davidic origin - (57-60) - ancient battles - Edom
Moses - 1.90 - struggle with Phil
Solomon - 2 ps - 26 to various ingers or guilds of priests ^{simple}

Some are clearly from ^{as} late 700 yrs. in the making - reflect nat. history as close, 3c. B.C.

4/ Written for Temple Service - where vocal & instrumental music
accompanied services - elaborate - orchestra - SSPs - to chief musician to chief
Musical annotations - How to be played & by whom - Shofar etc
Percussion, Wind and Stringed instruments - Distinct Musical
development - Drum - of uhals - castanets - tambourine
Flute - mouth-organ - bag-pipe - trumpet
Shofar - Horn
Harp - lyre - lute

5/ Thus reflect communal - national - not only ind. Jew. piety
"I" = ind - also personification = community of Israel
Inspired by national victories - deliverance of Jerusalem from

Sennacherib - (701 B.C)

National catastrophes - 576 - Exile - Return -

Other momentous events.

Fa Festivals - Sabbaths -

6) ~~Types of problems~~ life Themes. The tribulations of earthly life -
+ in mortality
Death - Suffering - Sin - Sorrow - Man's quest for Certainty - Unity.
The Majesty & Nature - God's mysterious compass from His love
The ideal man ; The love & justice of God: His Grace.

7) No rhymes.
Real basis of Hebrew metre is the distich - 2 lines in thought
parallelism -
the device of having the second line reproduce the first not in
identical but in similar terms.

First 4 lines of Ps. 46 + Ps. 55

Only
The line is scanned by the number of accented syllables.

8) Ps. 46 - Grandest song of faith ever written
Ps. 42 - Longing for God Ps. 8 - Majesty of God
Ps. 23 - Shepherd
Ps. 90 - Brevity of life

Songs of Ascent. 120 - 134 (125
Ps. 137) 126

Psalm 121 - (Read)

In distress - Even Eternal Hills offer us safety.

God alone is refuge in Dark hour.

- appropriate to-day.

Saminsky - (Read) (p. 2)

Temple Quartette - G. R. Willard

Psalm 42 - (Read)

Temple destroyed - Also God is dead - "Where is the Lord?"

But he knew - "Living God"

And longs for there - as "hart pants after brook, water"

Should not despair

"The salvation of my Creulman is God"

Gaul (Read)

Charles Cammell, Jr.

Psalm 137 - (Read). In Exile. Vanquished

Despondent - "Hang up their harps"

Torment - entertain the victors - Same now

Hot resentment - Unbroken spirit - Oath

Down the Ages

Barnes - (p. 2.)

Quartette

Psalm 46 - "The grandest song of Faith ever written"

(Read p. 513)

Empires crumble - a New Day will dawn -

Wars will cease

~~Mac Demund (Read)~~

~~Marie Susman's Kraft~~

Psalm 23 - (Read)

Concerning it - (Read p. 552)

noble simplicity - Jordan River - Shepherd -

Scherbert - (Read)

Quartette



Resurrection, Refugees

Psalm 55

(Read). Prayer - Oppression - Free

Mendelssohn (p. 1)

Alma Babl - + Quartette

Psalm 130

(Read). Sin - Anguish - Fear, Punishment

God is a God of Love - Forgiveness -

Thought brings Peace

Evillo - (p. 2) Donald Reinherd

Psalm 150

(Read) Doxology - Joy in God - Happiness - Freedom

Lewandowski - (p. 1)

Quartette -

1/ Mass

2/ the book so dear - Putnam -

Calver - "Perfect anatomy of human soul"

All words

3/ 150 - 5 books - authors - David

Temple - Unusci

4/



Notes on Composers and Compositions
for April 10th.

Alfred R. Gaul, born at Norwich England, in 1837, died in 1897.

A composer almost of one form only, cantata or oratorio. Hezekiah, Ruth, Psalm 1. Passion Music, Joan of Arc, The Ten Virgins, Israel in the Wilderness, and his best known work The Holy City, from which is taken

Psalm 42, verses 2 & 3, My soul is athirst for God.

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Franz Schubert, born 1797, died 1928, the greatest genius in the history of music. ~~On his tombstone is truly engraved Music has here entombed a rich treasure, but much fairer hopes!~~ Self-taught, he realized his deficiencies and had arranged for lessons the month before he died; but ~~in spite of this~~ in thirty-one years he managed to pour out a profusion of master pieces such as no other composer has been able to manage, seemingly without effort, and in most cases without correction from the time his pen touched the paper until he finished. ~~Knowing how other composers have had to write and re-write, edit and correct continuously, only inspiration can account for such an output in so short a life.~~ What might have come had he lived to Haydn's ripe age is one of music's great speculations. He excelled in all fields, but his songs are perhaps his most loved works. The one used to-day was originally written for a chorus of womens voices, but was so instantly popular and loved, that it has been arranged for mixed quartette, as we hear it.

Psalm 23, complete, in paraphrase

Louis Lewandowski, born 1823, died in 1924, has been called the Jewish Beethoven, and was a composer of all styles, though his main work in life was as a singing teacher and director of the music in one of Berlin's largest synagog's. There are three famous Hallelujah Choruses, two by Handel and one by Beethoven, and this Psalm 150, or Hallelujah to be sung this afternoon can be said to well hold its place as a fourth of equal merit.

Felix Mendelssohn, born in 1809, died in 1849, the greatest Jewish composer (~~Wagner?~~) was one of those fortunate beings who arrive at once at their goal, for when he was only 16 he composed his first music for Midsummer Nights Dream, which has never been surpassed for its fitness to its use in the play. When only a year older he composed his famous octette, which likewise has never been equaled by any later work for the same combination of instruments, he seemingly having said all that could be gotten out of this number. A master of all forms, his most loved works are his oratorios and choral works, Elijah being his outstanding work in this form. Of his many choral works in shorter forms, we are singing the second half of his Psalm 55 (verses 4-7), the whole work being too long for use on such an occasion. This section 'O for the wings of a dove' has long been a favorite for reasons that even one hearing can reveal.

Lazare Saminsky, born in Russia in 1882, came to this country in 1921, and was appointed director of the music in Temple Emanu-El in New York City, where he still is. He is the foremost Jewish composer and authority on Jewish music living, his book 'Music of the Bible' being one of many works on the folk songs, and ancient music of his people. A composer of chiefly choral works, the number we sing is taken from his Holyday Service, being a setting of Psalm 121. It is not written in any common style of the average choral composer, but it has a style and idiom of its own, both in melody and in his use of the voice to create a distinctive effect.

The following numbers I consider music above the average, and worthy of their use on this program, but the composers are not outstanding figures as composers nor so well known as those I have noted above. It also has been difficult to find any great amount of detail about them, as they are still living in all cases as far as I can find out, and biographers have not yet gotten busy with them.

God is our Refuge (verses 1-10) ~~arranged by Mrs. Kraft~~ is by James G. MacDermid a Chicago organist and composer, chiefly of songs. You know best his 'Whither shall I flee from His presence,' and this as well as the one sung here, has the same happy faculty of finding the melody and handling it to best suit the text and bring out its deepest meaning.

Edward Shippen Barnes, of New York City, is a more versatile composer, writing in many forms though mainly for organ and choir. His 'By the waters of Babylon' is one of his best known works.

Vernon Eville, is an English composer of sacred songs mostly. He has written many good songs that are much used, but I can find nothing about him whatever.

The Temple Women's Association

presents

An Afternoon With The Psalms

Wednesday, April 10, 1940, 2 p. m.

Introduction and Historical Comments by

Dr. Abba Hillel Silber



Musical Interpretation by

The Temple Choir

Under the direction of

A. R. Willard, Organist and Choirmaster

Alma Babu, Soprano

Marie Simmelink Kraft, Contralto

Charles Cammock, Jr., Tenor

Donald Dewhirst, Baritone

Psalm 121 *Lazare Saminsky 1882-*
The Temple Quartette

I will lift up mine eyes unto the mountains:

From whence shall my help come?
My help cometh from the Lord,
Who made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved;
He that keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, He that keepeth Israel
Doth neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord is thy keeper;
The Lord is thy shade upon thy right hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day,
Nor the moon by night.

The Lord shall keep thee from all evil;
He shall keep thy soul.
The Lord shall guard thy going out and thy coming in,
From this time forth and for ever.

Psalm 42 *Alfred R. Gaul 1837-1913*
Charles Cammock, Jr.

As the hart panteth after the water brooks,
So panteth my soul after Thee, O God.
My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God:
'When shall I come and appear before God?'
My tears have been my food day and night,
While they say unto me all the day: 'Where is thy God?'
These things I remember, and pour out my soul within me,
How I passed on with the throng, and led them to the house of God,
With the voice of joy and praise, a multitude keeping holyday.
Why art thou cast down, O my soul?
And why moanest thou within me?
Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him
For the salvation of His countenance.

Psalm 137 *Edward S. Barnes 1887-*
The Temple Quartette

By the rivers of Babylon,
There we sat down, yea, we wept,
When we remembered Zion.
Upon the willows in the midst thereof
We hanged up our harps.
For there they that led us captive asked of us words of song,
And our tormentors asked of us mirth:
'Sing us one of the songs of Zion.'
How shall we sing the Lord's song
In a foreign land?
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem,
Let my right hand forget her cunning.
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth
If I remember thee not;
If I set not Jerusalem
Above my chiefest joy.

Psalm 46 *James G. MacDermid*
Marie Simmelink Kraft

God is our refuge and strength,
A very present help in trouble.
Therefore will we not fear, though the earth do change,
And though the mountains be moved into the heart of the seas;
Though the waters thereof roar and foam,
Though the mountains shake at the swelling thereof.

There is a river, the streams whereof make glad the city of God,
The holiest dwelling-place of the Most High.
God is in the midst of her, she shall not be moved;
God shall help her, at the approach of morning.
Nations were in tumult, kingdoms were moved;
He uttered His voice, the earth melted.
The Lord of hosts is with us;
The God of Jacob is our high tower.

Come, behold the works of the Lord,
Who hath made desolations in the earth.
He maketh wars to cease unto the end of the earth;
He breaketh the bow, and cutteth the spear in sunder;
He burneth the chariots in the fire.

Psalm 23 *Franz Schubert 1797-1828*
The Temple Quartette

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul;
He guideth me in straight paths for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil,
For Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou hast anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life;
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Psalm 55 *Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847*
Alma Babb and The Temple Quartette

Give ear, O God, to my prayer;
And hide not Thyself from my supplication.
Attend unto me, and answer me;
I am distraught in my complaint, and will moan;
Because of the voice of the enemy,
Because of the oppression of the wicked;
For they cast mischief upon me,
And in anger they persecute me.
My heart doth writhe within me;
And the terrors of death are fallen upon me.
Fear and trembling come upon me,
And horror hath overwhelmed me.
And I said: 'Oh that I had wings like a dove!'
Then would I fly away, and be at rest.
Lo, then would I wander far off,
I would lodge in the wilderness.

Psalm 130 *Vernon Eville 1878-*
Donald Dewhirst

Out of the depths have I called Thee, O Lord.
Lord, hearken unto my voice;
Let Thine ears be attentive
To the voice of my supplications.

If Thou, Lord, shouldest mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?
For with Thee there is forgiveness,
That Thou mayest be feared.

I wait for the Lord, my soul doth wait,
And in His word do I hope.
My soul waiteth for the Lord,
More than watchmen for the morning;
Yea, more than watchmen for the morning.

O Israel, hope in the Lord.
For with the Lord there is mercy,
And with Him is plenteous redemption.
And He will redeem Israel
From all his iniquities.

Psalm 150 *Louis Lewandowski 1823-1894*
The Temple Quartette

Hallelujah.
Praise God in His sanctuary;
Praise Him in the firmament of His power.
Praise Him for His mighty acts;
Praise Him according to His abundant greatness.
Praise Him with the blast of the horn;
Praise Him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise Him with the timbrel and dance;
Praise Him with stringed instruments and the pipe.
Praise Him with the loud-sounding cymbals;
Praise Him with the clanging cymbals.
Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.
Hallelujah.