

CM 626

Musique Internationale

The Art of
WILLIAM WOLFF



Side One

1. V'Hakohanim

Recalling the worship service of the High Priest on the Day of Atonement

2. Kaddish - High Holiday

Magnified and sanctified be Thy great name

3. V'Al Yedei Avodecho

from the Malchuyot or Kingship verses of the Additional Service for Rosh Hashana

4. Hashkiveinu (Lewandowski, arr. Lionel Semiatin) Cause us to repose in peace from the Sabbath evening service

5. Brich Sh'mei (Rivlin-Shaposhnik, arr. L. Semiatin)

I am the servant of the Holy One Praised be He from the Torah Service

Side Two

6. Bach Cantata number 82

It is Enough

For now with mine eyes I will see salvation

Hebrew text: Ephraim Dror

Growing up in Toronto, William Wolff received his earliest musical experience singing in local synagogue choirs. Yet he did not begin serious musical and vocal studies until the age of twenty while a student at the University of Illinois. As a young man he served as cantor in Sioux City, Iowa, and then was called to Metropolitan New York City, where he served Temple Israel in White Plains.

During this period Mr. Wolff was the recipient of both Rockefeller and Fulbright grants, resulting in his concertising in Israel in 1960 appearing in *La Forza del Destino* with conductor Erich Leinsdorf and the Israel Philharmonic. He has also appeared with the New York City Opera in Stravinsky's *Oedipus Rex*, and with the New Orleans and NBC-TV opera companies.

He has been featured on numerous occasions in the major concert halls of New York City including Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall and Town Hall as soloist with leading ensembles. He has also sung with the Detroit Symphony and Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestras.

The present program of sacred settings, is representative of a wide cross section of vocal literature, ranging from the classic, western aria of Bach to the cantorial recitative. Mr. Wolff's mastery of this broad spectrum is unique and results in a program of unusual

contrasts and variation in mood, mode and style.

Other points of distinction on this recording are the contemporary harmonization and arrangement by Lionel Semiatin of traditional chant, as well as the first release of the "Hebrew Bach", as translated by Ephraim Dror.

It is hoped that the musical and vocal qualities of this artist will become known to a wider audience through the release in this format.

Recording data:

Recorded in Jerusalem, 1960

Max Lampel, organist (1,2,3)

in Geneva, 1969

Maroussia LeMarc Hadour Orloff,
harpsichordist (4,5)

with Ramat Gan Orchestra,

Shalom Ronli-Riklis, conductor (6)

Notes by Barry Serota

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