Anselm Rothschild, American Composer, 1950-1990

There are not many recordings in circulation of the American composer, producer, activist and humanitarian Anselm Rothschild, but that will change with the release of the composer’s many musical theater pieces, written for and performed by youth in the Jewish camp movement of the seventies.

Anselm’s work was motivated by a search for meaning, for authentic relationships and by the conviction that what we do to make the world work really matters to God. He conveyed these beliefs through his music to the young people that participated in his performances, and exhorted them to take action.

Dozens of wonderful songs, sacred music and orchestral works were commissioned, co-produced and sponsored by the American Union of Hebrew Congregations, and performed by the campers while the composer was in residence with the North American Federation of Temple Youth (NFTY).

Especially interesting are the live recordings of dramatic recitatives that trace the history of the labor movement as a key thread in the ideals of American Judaism through a mystical series of events that go throughout a few lifetimes of a boy, David and his mentor and friend Clara, a character modeled after a Clara Lemlich a leader in the shirtwaist labor conflict of 1909.

*The Messengers,* his last musical journey for NFTY, was completed, staged and performed for NFTY’s 50th Anniversary in New Orleans in December of 1989 by Anselm and his incredible team shortly before his passing on in January of 1990.

To further the humanitarian goals that Anselm lived for, his friends have formed a coalition to releasing songs, detailed orchestrations, video and audio recordings that have largely been unknown since the composer’s passing 17 years ago and allocating a percent of revenue to support hunger reduction and emergency nutrition programs, a cause that Anselm passionately supported.

Distribution is by are now available for the first time on CD with accompanying songbooks from Chatterbox Media and online at OySongs.com

**Rothschild Sacred Music List to be organized and completed**

This is My God

A Light in Israel First performed at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Toronto, Canada. 1979.

The Peace Cantata

Justice Justice Shall Ye Pursue

Isaiah First performed at the B'nai B'rith Building, NY.

The Messengers First performed at the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, New Orleans, 1989.

Collected Songs

ARTIST BIOGRAPHY

Anselm grew up in Van Cortlandt Park, a leafy neighborhood in the north Bronx of New York City. As a child he was familiar with the melodies of the Jewish families and children at the "shul" in his building, but was not raised as an observant Jew. Anselm began his classical training as the son and pupil of an accomplished pianist, his mother Miriam, and attended the H.S. of Music and Arts, Julliard, and later, California Institute of Arts, where he earned a Master of Fine Arts.

He was inspired by Leonard Bernstein's musical outreach to children, Young People’s Concerts. Anselm offered his classical-influenced music to the Jewish camp movement and he had a unique way of involving young people to create music with him. In the process, he came closer to his own Jewish roots and became a Bar Mitzvah in his 20's, in an era when later Bar Mitzvahs were uncommon.

Later, as Artist in Residence at Camp Kutz of the National Federation of Temple Youth, Anselm created parts of *This is My God* and first performed it with the camp orchestra and singers.

Anselm was an important person in the EST movement of the 70’s, and brought his dynamic organization skills to the fight against world hunger. Among Anselm’s many successful productions were the 1978-1900 Live Aid Concerts and the first display of the AIDS Quilt, and his last, the composition, recording, and live performance of the musical, The Messengers, with its anthem, *Remember to Remember.*

For information about Musique Boutique, a new model for selling and disseminating music through synagogues and temple gift shops, or for scores, performance or recording rights, and other recordings, contact

 ChatterBox Media

 29 Lafayette Court

 Manhattan Beach CA 90266 Tel: 310 936-1589.

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