



NICK STRIMPLE

Pulitzer Winner's Work Performed at BH Concert

By Gillian Young
Courier Staff

On Sunday, March 10th, the Zimriyah Chorale will be performing Pulitzer Prize-winning composer Ernst Toch's "Cantata of the Bitter Herbs" at the K.L. Peters Auditorium at Beverly Hills High School. The cantata will be performed at this concert for the first time in 50 years.

"This piece is significant because it is one of very few pieces about Passover," says Dr. Nick Strimple, founding artistic director of the Zimriyah Chorale. Strimple looks forward to the audience's reaction, because the cantata is not widely known. "I like to give the gift of music to an audience when they're hearing it for the first time. I really get a kick out of that."

Strimple, who also serves as the music director of the Beverly Hills Presbyterian Church, says that there are more similarities than differences in the work he does for the

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Zimriyah Chorale and the Presbyterian Church. He adds, "Actually, I like to use some of the synagogue repertoire at the church, too."

Strimple prepared the chorale, and Dr. Noreen Green will be conducting the performance of the cantata.

Strimple stresses the accessibility of the piece, saying, "Toch's intent was to bring

the audience into the story of Passover. They can leave whistling the tunes."

The performance is part of a concert entitled "Celebrate Freedom" which will also feature other musical selections, and will be narrated by Leonard Nimoy. For information about tickets, call (818) 753-6681.