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Jewish Symphony Celebrates Freedom

The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony (LAJS) uses the Passover story of the Jewish exodus from Egypt as a backdrop for its second concert of the season. The concert entitled, "Celebrate Freedom," uses this familiar story to celebrate the universal desire of all people for freedom. The program, on March 10, at the K.L. Peters Auditorium at Beverly Hills High School features Ernst Toch's "Cantata of the Bitter Herbs" and the U.S. Premiere of Israeli composer Raymond Goldstein's "Pesach Cantata."

Toch was a prolific composer of orchestral and operatic music in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s. Escaping the Nazi regime, Toch came to Hollywood where he was thrice nominated for Academy Awards and won a Pulitzer Prize for his "Third Symphony." His poignant and beautiful "Cantata of the Bitter Herbs," will be performed at this concert for the first time in half a century as the LAJS joins with vocal soloists Julieanne Klein, Michael Sokol, Peter Halpern, and Phyllis Fleschler and special guest artist - actor, director, producer, writer and poet Leonard Nimoy, as the Narrator.

Joining the orchestra is the Valley Beth Shalom Congregational Choir, under the direction of Dr. Noreen Green and the L.A. Zimriyah Chorale, a 40-voice mixed choir, under the direction of Dr. Nick Strimple. The Chorale is considered to be one of the most outstanding Jewish choirs in the country. They have been asked to perform around the world and recently joined an international choral



Leonard Nimoy will narrate Ernst Toch's "Cantata of the Bitter Herbs" performed by the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, at their concert entitled "Celebrate Freedom" on March 10, at Beverly Hills High School.

ensemble in central Europe to perform Leonard Bernstein's "Kaddish."

Also featured on the concert will be the American Premiere of Israeli composer Raymond Goldstein's, "Pesach Cantata." Goldstein holds the esteemed post of arranger/composer at Jerusalem's Great Synagogue where he is considered one of the most prolific composers of cantorial music and has over 500 works to his credit. The "Pesach Cantata" is an engaging work incorporating traditional Passover seder music that he will personally perform on piano along with vocal soloists Cantor Ya'akov Motzen from Canada and Cantor Cohn Schachat from Israel.

For tickets call (818)753-6681 or visit www.lajewishsymphony.com