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MUSIC REVIEW

Jewish Symphony inspires audience at Getty Center

The Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, under the capable direction of Noreen Green, played a concert of music inspired by Yiddish culture to a capacity auditorium at the beautiful Getty Center on Oct. 21.

The first half featured four compositions created by Leon Stein, Srul Glick, Simon Sargon and Michael Isaacson and Christopher Hardin. Both Stein and Sargon took deserved bows following their compositions. Glick sent apologies for his inability to be present.

The second half included 11 pieces from "Jewish Folk Poetry" by Dimitri Shostakovich, sung beautifully by sopranos Rickie Gole and Ariella Vaccarino and tenor Evan Kent. The melodies were hauntingly familiar to the primarily over-50 crowd. Sounds of our parents putting us to sleep were most recognizable in certain passages of the shorter pieces.

The "Reb Mendele Suite" for violin and orchestra featured Mark Kashper, who played with the fervor, sensitivity and timing this lively piece required.

Green, a former student of mine at U.S. Grant High School, is well on her exciting way toward being recognized as a fine interpreter of Jewish music and an even finer conductor. She is a most personable talent who reminds me of Leonard Bernstein in the way she talked to the audience and described each selection she was about to present.

There will be other concerts by this most accomplished orchestra in 1999.

—Joseph N. Feinstein