

Cedille Records
1205 W. Balmoral Ave.
Chicago, IL 60640
(773) 989-2515
www.cedillerecords.org

Press contact: Nat Silverman
Nathan J. Silverman Co. PR
1830 Sherman Ave., Suite 401
Evanston, IL 60201-3774
Phone/Fax: (847) 328-4292
Email: natsilv@aol.com

News

Digital release date: Oct. 7, 2014

CD release date: Oct. 14, 2014

New Budapest Orpheum Society Spotlights Golden Age of Jewish Stage and Film Music on Cedille Records

'As Dreams Fall Apart' Is Ensemble's Newest Album Showcasing Sounds of European Cabaret

The award-winning New Budapest Orpheum Society continues its vibrant, heartfelt, and characterful exploration of European Jewish cabaret music and its influence on the entertainment world with its third and newest album from Cedille Records, *As Dreams Fall Apart: The Golden Age of Jewish Stage and Film Music 1925–1955*.

The two-disc set, priced as a single CD, offers 30 songs, beginning with an instrumental arrangement of a popular Viennese street song, circa 1900, and concluding with three numbers composed by Friedrich Holländer for Hollywood director Billy Wilder's *A Foreign Affair* (1948). The album was released as a digital download October 7 and on CD October 14 (Cedille Records 90000 151).

Jazz genres, tango, and Jewish folk and art music are among the threads from which the songs are woven.

The CD set includes a 40-page booklet with program notes by the ensemble's artistic director, Philip V. Bohlman, a professor of the humanities and music at the University of Chicago. The booklet also provides complete song lyrics in their original languages — German, Yiddish, Viennese dialect, and English — with English translations.

Bohlman articulates one of the project's unifying ideas at the start of his essay: "The history of sound film begins on a musical stage indebted to the long history of Jewish cabaret."

As Dreams Fall Apart draws on work by Abraham Ellstein, Arnold Perlmutter, Emmerich Kálmán, Erich Korngold, Paul Abraham, Hermann Leopoldi, Leo Strauss, Viktor Ullmann, Solomon Shmulowitz, Boris Thomashefsky, Hanns Eisler, Avrom Brudno, and Friedrich Holländer.

Some names will be familiar from the New Budapest Orpheum Society's previous two Cedille albums, *Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano* and *Jewish Cabaret in Exile*. Those making their first appearances here are Perlmutter, Kálmán, Korngold, Abraham, Strauss, Shmulowitz, Brudno, and Korngold.

Songs from Yiddish theater in Europe and the U.S., Yiddish musical films, and mainstream European and Hollywood movies figure in the survey.

Kálmán's "Wir Ladies aus Amerika" (We Ladies From America) comes from his 1928 operetta, *Die Herzogin von Chicago* (The Duchess of Chicago). Abraham's "Kann nicht küssen ohn Liebe" (Without Love There Are No Kisses) from the 1931 film *Die Blume von Hawai'i* (The Flower of Hawaii). Boris Thomashefsky's "Erlekh zayn" (Be Virtuous) appeared in the 1935 Yiddish film *Bar Mitzvah*. Korngold's "Tomorrow" is from the 1943 film *The Constant Nymph*.

Pride of place goes to Leopoldi (1888–1959), the great cabaret musician, depicted in a caricature drawing on the album cover. He's disheveled, sweating profusely, and sitting at a dilapidated piano on a debris-strewn stage beside a three-way sign pointing to New York, Wien (Vienna), and Buchenwald, a German Nazi concentration camp.

Eight of Leopoldi's songs are performed on the recording. Dreams and fantasies pervade these pieces written before, during, and after the Nazi regime. Bohlman calls him "the

consummate dreamer of the Viennese stage,” who “turned to the images of dreaming to project utopia as a means of forestalling and escaping dystopian destruction.”

New Budapest Orpheum Society

The New Budapest Orpheum Society is a touring ensemble-in-residence in the Humanities Division at the University of Chicago. In addition to artistic director Bohlman, members of the New Budapest Orpheum Society are mezzo-soprano Julia Bentley, baritone Stewart Figa, percussionist Danny Howard, violinist Iordanka Kssiova, music director and pianist Ilya Levinson, double-bassist Mark Sonksen, and accordionist Don Stille. Bohlman and the ensemble received the 2011 Noah Greenwood Award from the American Musicological Society for contributions to historical performing practices.

In addition to its Chicago-area concerts, the New Budapest Orpheum Society tours widely, including performances at Symphony Space, Café Sabarsky, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York; the United States Memorial Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C.; and in Germany and Austria.

The ensemble’s first Cedille album, *Dancing on the Edge of a Volcano*, drew praise from *BBC Music Magazine* as a “fascinating and strongly projected collection” of “tantalizing” songs. “And you don’t have to be Jewish to relish their richness,” noted ClassicsToday.com. *Gramophone* said every song on the group’s second Cedille recording, *Jewish Cabaret in Exile*, “tickles, pierces or mesmerizes” and all are “performed with pungent brilliance and poetic suavity.”

The ensemble’s website is <http://music.uchicago.edu/page/new-budapest-orpheum-society>; its Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/newbudapestorpheumsociety> .

Recording Team

When Dreams Fall Apart was produced by James Ginsburg, Cedille Records founder and president, and engineered by Cedille’s Bill Maylone, a two-time Grammy nominee, at sessions

March 10–14, 2014, in Chicago, in the Fay and Daniel Levin Performance Studio at WFMT radio.

Cedille Records

Marking its 25th anniversary this season, Grammy award-winning Cedille Records (pronounced say-DEE) has been dedicated to showcasing the most noteworthy classical artists in and from the Chicago area since its debut in November 1989.

The audiophile-oriented label releases every new album in multiple formats: a physical CD; a 96 kHz, 24-bit, studio-quality FLAC download; and a 320 Kbps MP3 download.

Cedille Records is distributed in the Western Hemisphere by Naxos of America and its distribution partners, by Select Music in the U.K., and by other independent distributors in major international classical music markets.

An independent nonprofit enterprise, Cedille Records is the label of Cedille Chicago, NFP (formerly The Chicago Classical Recording Foundation). For a free catalog and the locations of local retail outlets, contact Cedille Records, 1205 W. Balmoral Ave., Chicago, IL 60640; call (773) 989-2515; e-mail: info@cedillerecords.org. Website: cedillerecords.org.

###

***AS DREAMS FALL APART: THE GOLDEN AGE
OF JEWISH STAGE AND FILM MUSIC 1925–1955
(Cedille Records 90000 151)***

**Songs by Abraham Ellstein, Arnold Perlmutter,
Emmerich Kálmán, Erich Korngold, Paul Abraham,
Hermann Leopoldi, Leo Strauss, Viktor Ullmann,
Solomon Shmulowitz, Boris Thomashefsky, Hanns Eisler,
Avrom Brudno, and Friedrich Holländer**

New Budapest Orpheum Society