

א יידישע פאנטאזיע

A Yiddish Fantasy

For Solo Cello

Talia Berenbaum

2022

Notes from the Composer

A Yiddish Fantasy is a piece about community. It combines secular and liturgical Ashkenazi Jewish music into a piece in four movements, played *atacca*. The first and fourth movements make use of an originally composed "Nigun," or a wordless cantorial song. Nigunim (plural of nigun) are sometimes improvised by a cantor, and sometimes precomposed. The second movement quotes "Ta'amim," or trope in English. Trope are little markings which correspond to a certain musical phrase, usually just a few notes, that tell you how to chant a certain prayer or biblical excerpt. The third movement makes use of a klezmer dance groove called a "bulgar." All of these areas of Jewish music are brought together into one piece to create a piece which draws not just on Jewish music in a vacuum, but the context for them as well. All of the music referenced in this piece serves some sort of communal function, from dance to prayer.

Note: There are four different versions of Mov. 4 in order to accommodate voice type.

For Violoncello

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1. First Nigun

Agitato ♩ = 70

sul tasto *sul pont.*

ff *p* *ff* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *p*

sul tasto *sul pont.* *sul tasto* *sul pont.*

ff *p* *ff* *f* *ff* *p* *f* *p*

sul tasto *ord.*

mp espress.

mf *p cresc.* *mp* *molto* *f*

accel......

pp *mf* *6* *6*

Tempo I

allarg......

sul pont. *sul tasto*

ff *ff* *p* *ff* *3* *5*

sul pont. *sul tasto* *ord.*

ff *mf* *ff* *mf* *3* *5*

Violoncello

3. Bulgar

Grooving $\text{♩} = 75$

tap on body of cello

con sord.

1

R L R L R L R L
f

1. | 2.

5

stomp

1

p *sfz* *p*

10

(con sord.)

pizz.

p

f *p*

15

pizz.

p

f *p*

19

mf

p sub.

f

mf *p sub.* *f*

22

p

f

f *p* *f*

25

(RH take the bow)

L

f *p* *f*

(grace note with fingers)

Prayer-like ♩ = 62

23 **allarg.**..... arco *mf* *ff* *n* *mp* *p*

sing: yai lai yai lai lai yai

29 *mf* *mf*

lai lai yai lai yai lai lai

32 *p cresc.* *mp* *molto* *f*

yai lai lai lai yai lai lai lai

36 **morendo**..... *pp* *p* *pp*

yai lai lai lai mm