CANTORIALS

SUNG BY CANTOR ABRAHAM BRUN

WITH ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT BY A. ELSTEIN

FOLKWAYS RECORDS FR 8924

VOLUME 2

תוז אבר함 ברין

(1) אנה תונינגון
(2) לא נחנה
(3) רצה והחליטנינ
(4) רוח רצון
(5) מגיל רומיא
(6) ידרשה
(7) אנעס וירוה
(8) אָלַךְ נָשָׁה
Cantor Abraham Brun was born in Lodz, Poland. His father Rabbi Yitzchak Mair Wurker and his grandfather Rabbi Zalman Wurker wanted him to become a Rabbi, but the little Avremele wanted only to be a cantor, and started to sing in a choir by a cantor. When he was 17 years he went to Vienna to study music and Voice. He also studied in various Yeshivos and Higher Institutions of Learning. He served as cantor in the largest Synagogues in Europe. During World War II he was in the City of Lodz where he was born.

After having been liberated from the infamous camps of "Auschwitz Matthausen, and Ebenasee" in 1945, Cantor Brun left his homeland where he had served in dignity as a Cantor in "Lodz" before the war and was immediately called upon to serve as "Cantor" for the Great Central Synagogue in Haifa. Cantor Brun received his religious training in various Yeshivos.

Possessed of an unusual Lyric-Dramatic Tenor voice, Cantor Brun received his formal musical and vocal education at the Vienna Conservatory of Music, and has also studied with the renowned Professor Bellini in Naples, Italy. Only because of his firm religious convictions did he turn down the opportunity for an operatic career.

In 1948, he was called upon by Temple Beth El in Long Beach, New York to serve as their "Hazan", with whom he continues to serve to the present day. This marked the beginning of his career in the United States, since then he has appeared on Radio and Television and has concertized in every major city in the United States, as well as several concert tours abroad. The Yeshiva University has also called upon him to lecture to their students on the "art of the cantorate". He was also called upon by the "Jewish Music Forum" to demonstrate his art for an assemblage of the most prominent Cantors composers and music critics, whose hearty response was an indication of his greatness.

In New York Times review of Record Releases for "Folkways Records", the critic writes "Cantor Brun performs the difficult cantillations musicaly and with a good sense of phrasing". In another review, the critic writes "His tone is firm and clear, and he sings with emotional conviction". We are confident that with his amazing background, our great artist will provide an exciting and altogether unusual display of the cantorial and vocal art!
Thou hast favored us with a knowledge of thy Law, and has taught us to perform the statutes of thy will. Thou hast made a distinction, O Lord our God, between holy and profane, between light and darkness, between Israel and other nations, between the seventh day and the six working days. O our Father, our King, grant that the days which are approaching us may begin for us in peace, and that we may be withheld from all sin and cleansed from all iniquity, and cleave to the fear of thee.

May the Holy One, blessed be he, renew it unto us and unto all his people, the house of Israel, for life and peace, for gladness and joy, for salvation and consolation; and let us say, Amen.

Be pleased, O Lord our God, to fortify us by thy commandments, and especially by the commandment of the seventh day, this great and holy Sabbath, since this day is great and holy before thee, that we may rest and repose thereon in love in accordance with the precept of thy will. In thy favour, O Lord our God, grant us such repose that there be no trouble, grief or lamenting on the day of our rest. Let us, O Lord our God, behold the consolation of Zion thy city, and the rebuilding of Jerusalem thy holy city, for thou art the Lord of salvation and of consolation.

And may it be thy will, O Lord our God and God of our fathers, to make us familiar with thy Law, and to make us cleave to thy commandments. O lead us not into the power of sin, or of transgression or iniquity, or of temptation, or of scorn: let not the evil inclination have sway over us: keep us far from a bad man and a bad companion: make us cleave to the good inclination and to good works: subdue our inclination so that it may submit itself unto thee; and let us obtain this day, and every day, grace, favor and mercy in thine eyes, and in the eyes of all who behold us; and bestow lovingkindnesses upon us. Blessed art thou, O Lord, who bestowest lovingkindnesses upon thy people Israel.
And thou didst not give it, O Lord our God, unto the nations of other lands, nor didst thou, O our King, make it the heritage of worshippers of idols, nor do the uncircumcised dwell in its rest; but unto thy people Israel thou didst give it in love, unto the seed of Jacob whom thou didst choose. The people that hallow the seventh day, even all of them shall be satiated and delighted with thy goodness, seeing that thou didst find pleasure in the seventh day, and didst hallow it; thou didst call it the desirable of days, in remembrance of the creation.

I will chant sweet hymns and compose songs: for my soul panteth after thee.
My soul hath longed to be beneath the shadow of thy hand, to know all thy secret mysteries.
Even whilst I speak of thy glory, my heart yearneth for thy love.
Therefore will I speak glorious things of thee, and will honor thy name with songs of love.

O my God, the soul which thou gavest me is pure; thou didst create it, thou didst form it, thou didst breathe it into me; thou preservest it within me; and thou wilt take it from me, but wilt restore it unto me hereafter. So long as the soul is within me, I will give thanks unto thee, O Lord my God and God of my fathers, Sovereign of all works, Lord of all souls! Blessed art thou, O Lord, who restorest souls unto dead bodies.