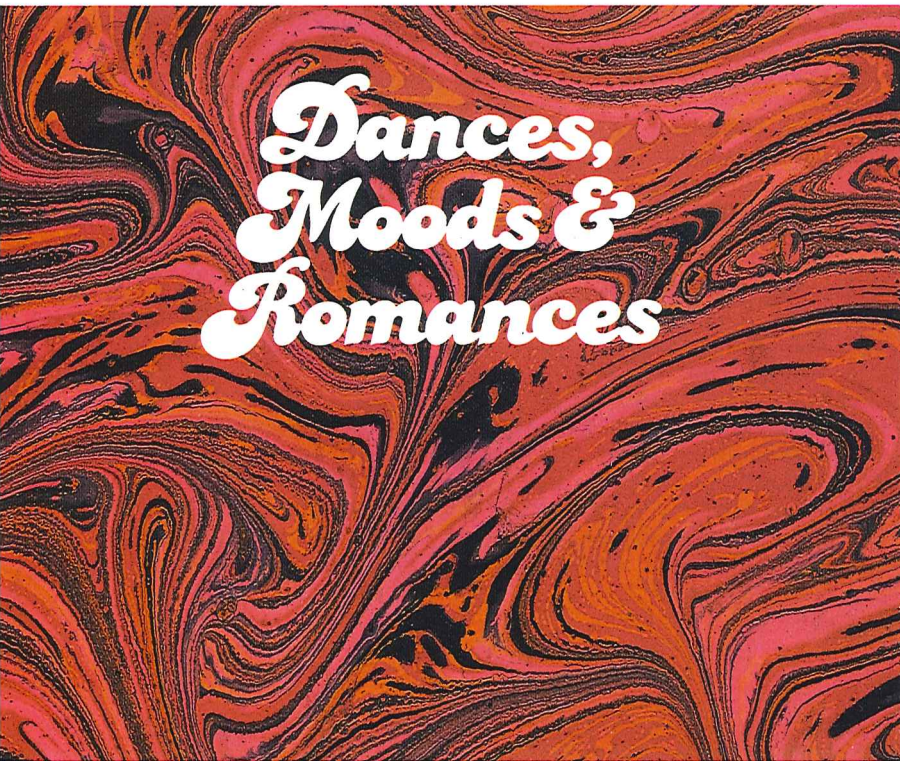




CRYSTAL[®]
RECORDS
CD513

MEIR RIMON, HORN AND MEMBERS OF THE ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA, DAVID AMOS, CONDUCTOR. MUSIC BY ROOTH,
SAINT-SAENS, GLAZUNOV, SINIGAGLIA, KOGAN, HALPERN, ZORMAN, GRAZIANI, AND SCRIBBIN



*Dances,
Moods &
Romances*

Dances, Moods, and Romances

Meir Rimon, Horn

David Amos, Conductor

members of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra



1. **Lev Kogan**, Hassidic Rhapsody (9:53)
2. **Laszlo Rooth**, Variations on a Sephardic-Jewish Romance (3:25)
3. **Eddie Halpern**, The Nigun of Rabbi Ytzhak (5:45)
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Total Time — 68:04




Lev Kogan (born U.S.S.R., 1927) is a prolific composer whose works include four ballets, six musicals, and numerous symphonic works. Nine recordings of his music have been produced. He took up residence in Israel in 1972. *Hassidic Rhapsody for Horn and Strings* is based on the East European "Nigun" melodies. It incorporates minor and major modes, syncopations, and variations, all typical of the Nigun. The second work by Kogan, *Tfila*, is based purely on a melody from a prayer which the composer remembers from his father's synagogue.

Laszlo Rooth was born in Rumania in 1919 and has been living in Israel since 1960. He conducts both classical and popular music in Israel and abroad. Of special interest is his work conducting the Zadikov Choir during the last decade. The choir was founded in Bulgaria and has been active for over 50 years continuing a tradition of Sephardic Jewish culture and music.

This close association is largely responsible for Rooth's approach to the heritage of this musical tradition. The *Variations on a Sephardic-Jewish Romance "Paxaro de Hermosura"* is a good example of this style.

Quiet Monday, written for Meir Rimon, and first performed in 1980 in Israel by Meir Rimon and Laszlo Rooth, with the Radio Recording Orchestra, was also performed at the First European Horn Symposium in Trossingen, West Germany, and in California with Conductor David Amos.

Eddie Halpern was born in Poland in 1921 and is deeply involved in his native land's Jewish music. His work *The Nigun of Rabbi Ytzhak* is based on a traditional motif (often sung by the composer's father) to which variations and free invention have been added. Halpern is a senior producer of musical programs of the Israel Broadcasting Authority and has won three prizes for



compositions which have been played by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Holon Chamber Orchestra.

Moshe Zorman (bn. 1952) is one of Israel's most active musicians. Pursuing intense studies of piano (with Mindru Katz), composition (with Leon Schidlovsky and Tzvi Avni) and trombone, Moshe Zorman graduated with distinction from the Rubin Academy of the Tel-Aviv University. He became very well known in Israel for his work in radio and television productions, popular music recordings, ballets, and theatre music.

Trained mainly as a "serious" composer, he tries to combine contemporary trends in avant-garde, jazz, and popular music. This trend is explicitly expressed in *Moods* for horn and chamber orchestra, written especially for Meir Rimon, in which saxophone, celeste, and electric guitar are added to the conventional classical orchestra sound.

The composer says of his work *Memories of an Old Yemenite Tune*, "My first meeting with the very special tradition of Yemenite women struck me as a fascinating experience. There I stood, amazed by the dramatic singing of a dancer recalling her mother's old tunes. The flexible lines, the sparkling rhythms...all these remained long afterwards in my mind. This piece is based on two of these melodies."

Alexander Glazunov (1865-1936): The work of this outstanding Russian classical composer is distinguished by its pronounced originality while, at the same time, it is characterized by a close link with the classical traditions of 19th Century Russian music. An overwhelming feature of Glazunov's compositions is the breadth and depth of its content: Russian and Slavonic themes, and the East in the generalized form typical of the Russian classics. Glazunov was a man of many facets: not only a memorable composer, he was also renowned as a prominent musician and public figure, orchestra conductor, and pedagogue. Although not published until quite recently, his *Serenade No. 2* was completed on August 16, 1884, at Levashovo. *Serenade* was primarily written for horn solo with string orchestra

accompaniment, which is evidenced by his use of the plural in designating instruments in the score. It is this version we hear on this recording.

Camille Saint-Saëns (1835-1921): *Romance in F* of Op. 36 is one of several works written by Saint-Saëns for combinations of wind instruments or for solo winds with accompaniments. The manuscripts give the alternative of "violoncello and small orchestra", but it is in this version for horn that it is most often performed. The prevailing mood throughout is one of tranquility and consonance, within the framework of a ternary form.

Alexander Scriabin (1872-1915) wrote only one composition for horn and piano. The *Romance* was arranged for horn and strings by Israel Philharmonic member Zeev Steinberg. In his later years, Scriabin became a true innovator of harmony; he made a clean break from the thick, lush harmonies of Nineteenth Century Romanticism, and some of his music approached the threshold of polytonality and even atonality. His unique harmonic concepts including the idea of building chords in fourths, rather than thirds, earned him the so-called authorship of the "mystic chord" of six notes, which was prevalent in many of his late compositions. Curiously, Scriabin never wrote any chamber music, songs, or choral works. His output was almost entirely for the piano or for full orchestra.

Leone Sinigaglia was born in Turin, Italy, in 1868 and died there in 1944. He was a pupil of the Turin Conservatory, later studying in Vienna with Mandyczewski (1894-1900), and in Prague and Vysoka with Dvorak (1900-1901). His early works were influenced by Brahms and Dvorak, with whom he was in close contact at the time. After his return home, Sinigaglia found inspiration in the music of his native Piedmont. His *Danze peimontesi* was performed at Turin in 1903 under the direction of Toscanini. Perhaps the best known of his production is the *Vecchie canzoni popolari del Piemonte*, six volumes of songs for voice

and piano.

Romanza was composed in 1889 for either horn and piano, or horn and string quartet (or string orchestra, according to the title of the music). The work was presumably written while Sinigaglia was still a student in Turin.

This compact disc concludes with *Variations on a Theme by Haydn* (from the Surprise Symphony). The variations cover many styles and moods, which sound very familiar to today's listener of classical, light, and popular music. Nevertheless, the composition demonstrates well the talent and versatility of its creator. **Ytzhak Graziani** was born in

Bulgaria in 1924 and has been an active musician ever since his youth. By the time he had arrived in Israel in 1948 he had already gained extensive experience and had received many accolades as a conductor, arranger, and composer of light music. He preceded Laszlo Rooth as a conductor of the Zadikov Choir. For many years he has been conducting the Israel Army Bands and Orchestra, as well as making many guest appearances with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and the Israel Broadcasting Authority. "Ziko", as he is affectionately known, is the most popular conductor of the Israeli festivals of popular and light music.

David Amos has made it his specialty as an orchestra conductor to perform music of composers in need of more public awareness. Amos has commissioned new works, as well as conducted many world-premiere performances for live concerts and record releases. He began his music studies on piano in Mexico City. After receiving his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from San Diego State University, he taught high school music for seven years, followed by one year of Doctoral

studies at Indiana University, where he also served as Associate Conductor of the Indiana Chamber Youth Orchestra. His recordings with the Philharmonia Orchestra, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and with members of the Israel Philharmonic have been acclaimed throughout the world. He has hosted and produced a contemporary music series on radio for four years, and is in demand as a guest conductor, lecturer, and adjudicator in music competitions.



The music on this compact disc includes a wide range of emotions, from joyous Israeli dances to somber moods and feelings of Israel to the sheer beauty of the Romances of Saint-Saens, Sinigaglia, and Scriabin. All but one of the recordings were originally contained on parts of three LPs: Crystal S506, S507, and S510. The *Romanza* of Sinigaglia was not previously released. Recordings all took place at the Fredrick R. Mann Auditorium in Tel-Aviv, home of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, in the period 1980 to 1984. Dolby-A noise reduction was used. Tonmeister was Pedro Carin.

Recording Engineers were Pedro Carin, Yaakov Aviram, and Rafi Leibovitz.

The music on this recording, with the exception of the *Romanza* by Sinigaglia (published by Ricordi) is published and/or available from the Israel Brass Woodwind Publications, P.O. Box 2811, Holon, 58128, Israel.



This compact disc was made possible by a grant from the International Musicians' Recording Fund, 1016 Outer Road, San Diego, California 92154

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Folder Design: Ed Mitchell.

Meir Rimon has been principal horn with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra since 1970. He is a member of the Israel Woodwind Quintet and is a lecturer at the Tel-Aviv University and the Jerusalem Academy of Music. A frequent participant at major music festivals, he has performed solo and ensemble with other renowned artists at the festivals at Bonn, Marlboro, Puerto Rico, and Lockenhaus. As a soloist he has performed on numerous occasions with the Israel Philharmonic and other orchestras under conductors Barenboim, Bernstein, Mehta, Paray, De Priest, Dorati, and Abbado. He has given master classes at the International Horn Society Workshops, the 1980 First European Horn Symposium in Trossingen, West Germany, the Second British Horn Festival in 1982, the 1983 One Hundred Years of Wiener Waldhorn Verein in Vienna, and other workshops and universities in the United States, Canada, Poland, Hungary, Spain, Costa



David Amos

Meir Rimon

Rica, Mexico, and Australia. Active in performing and promoting the music of modern composers in Israel and abroad, he conducts regularly in the United States, Europe, and Australia. Since 1986 he has conducted the Israel Symphony Band which he founded. He served as a faculty member of Indiana University in 1984-86 and has been a panel member of various international competitions. He is featured soloist on several recordings on Crystal and other labels. His other compact discs include the "Artik" Horn Concerto by Alan Hovhaness on Crystal CD802 and "Premieres of the Old and the New" on Crystal CD510.

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