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# MUSIC OF ALAN HOVHANNES

**SYMPHONY NO. 11**

**All Men Are Brothers**

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**

**Alan Hovhaness, Conductor**

**ARMENIAN RHAPSODY NO. 1**

**PRAYER OF ST. GREGORY**

**Thomas Stevens, Trumpet**

**TZAIKERK**

**Eudice Shapiro, Violin**

**Gretel Shanley, Flute**

**Crystal Chamber Orchestra,**

**Ernest Gold Conductor**

music of  
**ALAN HOVHANESS**

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**"ALL MEN ARE BROTHERS" (32:26)**

1. Andante appassionato (8:17)
2. Allegro maestoso (12:30)
3. Andante con nobilita (11:23)

**Royal Philharmonic Orchestra**  
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**4. ARMENIAN RHAPSODY NO. 1 (4:54)**

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**6. TZAIKERK (10:32)**

Eudice Shapiro Violin  
Gretel Shanley Flute

**Crystal Chamber Orchestra**  
**Ernest Gold, Conductor**

**TOTAL TIME — 53:02**

**ALAN HOVHANESS CHAKMAKJIAN,**

or Alan Hovhaness, was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, on March 8, 1911. He studied piano with Adelaide Proctor and Heinrich Gebhard, and composition with Frederick Converse at the New England Conservatory of Music. He considers his main teachers Hermon DiGiovanno, a Greek mystic painter, and Masataro Togi, a great Gagaku musician of Japan. In 1943, Hermon DiGiovanno guided him into the ancient world of Armenia, Greece, Egypt, and India. Hovhaness destroyed nearly all his early music and trained an amateur string ensemble to play his new music introducing, in 1944, his oriental alleatory or spirit murmur which became widely imitated by 1959. Later Masataro Togi taught him to play ancient Japanese instruments and music.

Symphony No. 11 is published by C.F. Peters. The other works are published by Peer International.

## Program Notes by Alan Hovhaness

Commissioned by Edward B. Benjamin in honor of the 25th anniversary of the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony, "**All Men Are Brothers**" received its world premiere in New Orleans on March 21, 1961, conducted by Frederick Fennell. During the summer of 1969 a completely new version of the symphony was composed in Luzern, Switzerland. The first performance of the final version was conducted by Werner Torkanowsky with the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra on March 31, 1970.

The first movement, *Andante Appassionato*, opens with a love theme in 13 beats which is developed throughout the entire movement. A lyrical variation in 7 beats leads to a climax where the 13-beat love melody is proclaimed in full orchestra.

The second movement, *Allegro Maestoso*, unfolds a giant melody which is in the form of a vast rondo. The music is in the spirit of a festive processional with a dance interlude and a lively fugue and coda.

The third movement, *Andante con Nobilita*, begins with a theme in 11 beats in praise of universal love. A central fugue in 7 beats leads to a triumphal return of the 11-beat melody in praise of the universe. "*And the voice of the Lord Buddha was heard like the sound of a great gong hung in the skies, saying that though one met a thousand men on his way they would all be one's brothers.*"

The Symphony is an attempt to express a positive faith in universal cosmic love as the only possible ultimate goal for man and nature. Let all unite in peace on our tiny planet, our floating village, our little space ship, as we journey across mysterious endlessness.

**Armenian Rhapsody No. 1**, opus 45, for string orchestra, was composed in April, 1944, and performed in a concert of Hovhaness music on June 17, 1944, in Boston which I conducted. The music begins with a plow song sung before dawn. "We go out to plow in the dark before dawn. A star in the sky, a light on the altar. We plow in the dark earth. What would become of the world if we did

not plow?" Three dance tunes follow, bringing the music to a festive close. This is one of the very few works based on Armenian Mountain Village tunes.

**Prayer of Saint Gregory**, for trumpet and string orchestra, was an intermezzo in my religious opera Etchmiadzin. This opera was composed during May, 1946, and I conducted it in New York City in October of the same year. Saint Gregory the Illuminator brought Christianity to Armenia around the year 301. This music is like a prayer in darkness. Saint Gregory was cast into the pit of a dungeon where he miraculously survived for about fifteen years after which he healed the King's madness.

**Tzaikerk (Evening Song)**, for solo flute, solo violin, timpani, and string orchestra, was composed in 1945 and performed under my direction on March 10, 1946, in Symphony Hall, Boston, Mass. For the present recording, Roto-toms were used instead of timpani. The flute, drums, and strings perform a lively polyphonic dance-like web of sound. A

somber solo violin melodic line enters, defiant, unyielding, deep, aloof, refusing to join in the dancing texture of rapid melodies, counter melodies, and counter rhythms. The other instruments gradually become subdued by the dark solo violin's compelling persistence. The festival gradually becomes lyrical and spiritual. The string orchestra recedes into a mysterious, whispered pizzicato background, a soft ostinato carpet of sound with lone, star-like tones sounded above in the flute. The solo violin has at last silenced the antagonistic dance and sings a long meditative melody of adoration and spiritual serenity.

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Symphony No. 11 was recorded in London on July 6, 1970 by recording engineer Bob Auger. The original tape utilized Dolby-A noise reduction. The rest of the disc was recorded in Los Angeles on August 31 and September 1, 1975, with the composer in attendance. Recording engineer was Stuart C. Plummer. The original tape utilized DBX noise reduction. For this compact disc, the tapes were rerecorded digitally using a Sony 1610 digital processor.

Cover Design: Ed Mitchell

**THOMAS STEVENS**, principal trumpet with the Los Angeles Philharmonic, has also played principal trumpet with the Casals Festival Orchestra in Puerto Rico, and has been soloist with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra (Neville Marriner conducting), and the Utah Symphony (Maurice Abravanel) as well as with several conductors with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. He has four solo CDs on Crystal: CD665, CD667, CD761, and CD960

**GRETEL SHANLEY** has been flutist with the Rochester Philharmonic and the National Symphony, and solo flutist with the Santa Fe Opera, the National Ballet of Canada, the Ojai Festival, the Carmel Bach Festival, and the California Chamber Symphony, among others. Her varied career includes solo radio broadcasts in New York, Paris, Bombay, and Los Angeles. As a member of the Westwood Wind Quintet she toured frequently, and is heard on that group's early recordings on Crystal Records, and on CD321 with Peter Christ, oboist.

**EUDICE SHAPIRO** has given numerous violin recitals and solo performances with orchestras throughout

the United States, Europe, New Zealand, and the Orient. Now widely acclaimed as one of the world's best violinists, she was a child prodigy who at age 12 was awarded a scholarship to the Eastman School of Music. A scholarship to the Curtis School of Music followed, and even during these early years she was an active soloist, performing with such orchestras as the Rochester Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Orchestra under Leopold Stokowski. She is presently Professor of Violin at the University of Southern California. Her other recordings on Crystal Records include a Stravinsky recital (CD302) and the Violin Concerto by Lou Harrison (CD850).

**ERNEST GOLD** is famed as a composer as well as a conductor. His score to the Motion Picture "Exodus" won an Academy Award and the recording of that score sold over one million copies. His concert works include *Symphony for Five Instruments*, recorded on Crystal S862, and *Songs of Love and Parting*, in which he conducted the Vienna Volksoper Orchestra with Marni Nixon as soloist on Crystal Records CD501.

**More Hovhanness Compact discs on Crystal:**

**CD802:** St. Vartan Symphony, "Artik" Concerto for Horn & Orchestra. National Philharmonic of London, Hovhanness conducting, & members of the Israel Philharmonic, David Amos conducting, Meir Rimon, horn.

**CD803:** Majnun Symphony (Symphony No. 24). National Philharmonic of London with John Aldis Choir, Hovhanness conducting.

**CD804:** Symphony Etchmiadzin, Armenian Rhapsody No. 3, Mountains and Rivers Without End, Fra Angelico. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Hovhanness conducting.

**CD805:** Symphony No. 19 "Vishnu", Requiem and Resurrection. Sevan Philharmonic & North Jersey Wind Symphony. Hovhanness conducting.

**CD806:** Lady of Light & Avak, The Healer. Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Hovhanness conding, and Crystal Chamber Orch., Ernest Gold cond., with Marni Nixon, soprano; Thomas Stevens, trumpet.

**CD807:** Odysseus (Symphony No. 25), Celestial Gate (Symphony No. 6), Prayer of St. Gregory. Polyphonia Orchestra, Hovhanness conducting.

**CD808:** Magnificat : Louisville Orchestra & Univ. of Louisville Chorus; Robert Whitney, conductor; and Saturn: Kate Hurney, soprano; Lawrence Sobel, clarinet; Martin Berkovsky, piano.

**CD810:** And God Created Great Whales, Anahid, Elibris, Alleluia and Fugue, Concerto No. 8 for Orchestra. Philharmonia Orchestra, David Amos conducting.

**CD811:** Symphony No.49 "Christmas Symphony", Symphony No. 31, Celestial Canticle, O

Joy at the Dawn of Spring, Starry Night. Gerard Schwarz and Alan Hovhanness, conductors; Northwest Sinfonia.

**CD813: Piano Music.** Wayne Johnson, piano. Macedonian Mountain Dance, Mountain Dance No. 2, Sonata Ananda, Fantasy, Love Song Vanishing into Sounds of Crickets, Mystic Flute, Dance Ghazal, Blue Job Mountain Sonata.

**CD200:** Hovhanness: Six Dances; Plus music of Gabrieli, Speer, Malcolm Arnold.; Dutton, Leclerc, Liadov-Glazunov, Horovitz, Brade, etc.

**CD508:** Hovhanness: Celestial Fantasy & Armenian Rhapsody No. 2; Creston: Chant of 1942 & Suite for Strings; Dello Joio: Air for Strings; Persichetti: Introit for Strings; Chajes: Israeli Melodies. Israel Philharmonic; David Amos, conducting.

**CD636:** Hovhanness, Chahagir for solo viola; plus Carter, Bergsma, Rochberg, & Persichetti Paul Cortese, viola.

**CD653:** Hovhanness: Suite for saxophone and guitar; plus Thomys, Noda, Massias, Grant, Bozza, & Gershwin. Bill Perconti, Saxophone.

**CD666:** Hovhanness, Sonata for Trumpet and Organ; plus Handel, Fantini, Persichetti, Baldassare, Grossi, Tomasi, Bellini. Richard Giangiulio, trumpet; Paul Riedo, organ.

**CD741:** Hovhanness: Lake Samish, plus Mozart, Frescobaldi, Pasatieri, Bartok. Verdehr Trio.

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*"Because of his ability to produce beautiful sounds and the unabashedly melodic character of his work, his music possesses instant appeal."* –  
New York Times

*"This is what music should be."* –  
American Record Guide

*"These collections of music by the prolific...Alan Hovhaness should be welcome discoveries. There is nothing else quite like it, and most of his work shows a deeply serious religious and mystical impulse. All the performances are excellent."* – Stereo Review

