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Noam Sheriff

Contemporary

Noam Sheriff

Born in Israel in 1935, Noam Sheriff studied composition and conducting in his hometown of Tel-Aviv with Paul Ben-Haim, Berlin (Boris Blacher) and Salzburg (Igor Markevitch) and philosophy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Since the premiere of his work *Festival Prelude*, by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Bernstein at the opening of the Philharmonic concert hall in Tel-Aviv in 1957, his works have been regularly performed in Israel and across the globe.

Sheriff has been awarded numerous prizes for his compositions and conducting, and in 2011 was the recipient of the Israel Prize – the highest decoration the state of Israel awards to its citizens – for his life's work. Having been awarded the "Acum" prize, he also won the coveted EMET Prize in 2003 and many other awards for his achievements and contribution to the musical life of the state of Israel.

He was commissioned by performing artists all over the world, including the Twelve Cellists of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, the Bavarian Radio Symphony Orchestra and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. His works have become part of the repertoire in Israel and beyond, entering the repertoire of conductors and performers including Zubin Mehta, Plácido Domingo, Carlo Maria Giulini, William Steinberg and others.

Sheriff's music fuses Eastern and Western musical influences, with the composer perceiving himself as mediator between the musical worlds of the Mediterranean countries springing from the sources of antiquity, and that of highly-developed occidental music. Above all, Noam Sheriff drew from the Jewish sources that were his source of inspiration and an eternal spring of musical and philosophical motifs. He saw himself first of all as a Jewish composer.

Appearing regularly as a guest conductor, he was music director of the Israel Symphony Orchestra, the Israel Chamber Orchestra, the New Haifa Symphony Orchestra, The Kibbutz chamber orchestra, and boasted a long list of credits for the direction and artistic supervision of many music festivals, television and radio programming in Israel and abroad.

He began teaching composition and conducting in 1963 in institutions such the Jerusalem and Tel Aviv University Music Academies as well as the Musikhochschule in Cologne and the Mozarteum in Salzburg. Between 1998 and 2000, Prof. Sheriff served as Head of the Tel Aviv University Rubin Academy of Music.

Noam Sheriff passed away in 2018. He was married in his last 36 years to the composer Ella Milch-Sheriff.

His works are published by Israel Music Institute (IMI) and by Edition Peters, Leipzig.

Leipzig

C. F. Peters Ltd & Co. KG

Talstraße 10

04103 Leipzig

Deutschland

☎ +49 (0) 341 9897 9231

✉ stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com

London

Peters Edition Ltd

2–6 Baches Street

London N1 6DN

UK

☎ +44 (0) 20 7553 4033

✉ katie.tearle@editionpeters.com

New York

C. F. Peters Corporation

70–30 80th Street

Glendale NY 11385

USA

☎ + (1) 718 416 7822

✉ gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com

Noam Sheriff

Noam Sheriff, 1935 in Israel geboren, studierte Komposition und Dirigieren in seiner Heimatstadt Tel-Aviv bei Paul Ben-Haim, in Berlin bei Boris Blacher und in Salzburg bei Igor Markevitch sowie Philosophie an der Hebräischen Universität Jerusalem.

Seit der Uraufführung seines Werkes „Festival Prelude“ durch das Israel Philharmonic Orchestra unter der Leitung von Leonard Bernstein bei der Eröffnung der Philharmonie in Tel-Aviv 1957 wurden seine Werke regelmäßig in Israel und auf der ganzen Welt aufgeführt.

Sheriff wurde für seine Kompositionen und sein Dirigieren mit zahlreichen Preisen ausgezeichnet, und erhielt 2011 den Israel-Preis - die höchste Auszeichnung, die der Staat Israel seinen Bürgern verleiht – für sein Lebenswerk. Nach der Verleihung des „Acum“-Preises erhielt er 2003 den begehrten EMET-Preis und viele weitere Auszeichnungen für seine Leistungen und seinen Beitrag zum Musikleben des Staates Israel.

Er nahm Aufträge von Künstlern auf der ganzen Welt an, darunter die Zwölf Cellisten der Berliner Philharmoniker, das Symphonieorchester des Bayerischen Rundfunks und das Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Seine Werke sind in Israel und darüber hinaus von Dirigenten und Interpreten wie Zubin Mehta, Plácido Domingo, Carlo Maria Giulini, William Steinberg und anderen in ihr Repertoire aufgenommen worden.

In Sheriffs Musik verschmelzen östliche und westliche musikalische Einflüsse, wobei sich der Komponist als Vermittler zwischen den musikalischen Welten der Mittelmeerländer aus der Antike und der hoch entwickelten westlichen Musik versteht. Vor allem schöpfte Noam Sheriff aus den jüdischen Quellen, die seine Inspiration und eine unendliche Quelle musikalischer und philosophischer Motive waren. Er sah sich in erster Linie als jüdischer Komponist.

Regelmäßig als Gastdirigent tätig, war er auch Musikdirektor des Israel Symphony Orchestra, des Israel Chamber Orchestra, des New Haifa Symphony Orchestra, des Kibbuz-Kammerorchesters und blickt auf eine lange Liste von Referenzen für die Leitung und künstlerische Betreuung vieler Musikfestivals, Fernseh- und Radioprogramme in Israel und im Ausland zurück.

Er begann ab 1963 Komposition und Dirigieren an Institutionen wie der Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance und der Buchmann-Mehta-Musikschule in Tel Aviv sowie an der Musikhochschule Köln und dem Mozarteum in Salzburg zu unterrichten. Zwischen 1998 und 2000 war Prof. Sheriff Leiter der Universität Rubin Academy of Music in Tel Aviv.

Bis zu seinem Tod 2018 war Noam Sheriff 36 Jahren mit der Komponistin Ella Milch-Sheriff verheiratet.

Seine Werke werden vom Israel Music Institute (IMI) und von der Edition Peters, Leipzig, verlegt.

Orchestra / Ensemble**A Vision of David** (1986) 18'

for orchestra (and optional narrator)

narrator (optional) - 3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - timp - perc(4) - hp - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 1986

EP 11008

Akeda (Passacaglia, in Memoriam I. Rabin) (1997) 16'

for orchestra

3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - timp - perc(6) - hp - str

First performed 19 September 1997, Genua (IT), by Orchestra Teatro Felice Genua, cond.: Gary Bertini

EP 8961

Concertino for Piano, Strings and Percussion (2015) 11'

pf - perc(3) - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 17 December 2015, Israel, by Ra'anana Symphonette, cond.: Julien Salemkour

EP 14137

Concertino grosso (2016) 7'

mandolins(4) - perc - str

First performed 26 September 2016, Reutlingen (D), by Israel Mandolin Orchestra and Württembergische

Philharmonie, cond.: Noam Zur

EP 14191

Lenny (2017) 11'

Symphonic Scetch for large orchestra

3.3.3.3 - 4.4.3.1 - timp - perc(3) - hp - str

First performed 22 February 2018, Regensburg (D), Theater Regensburg, by Philharmonisches Orchester

Regensburg, cond.: Oren Gross-Thaler

EP 14264

Solo Concertos with Orchestra / Ensemble**Concerto for Violin and Orchestra** (1986) 21'

vn solo - 3.3.3.2 - 4.3.3.1 - timp - perc(3) - hp - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 1986, Bochum (D), by Michael Guttman and Bochumer Symphoniker, cond.: Noam Sheriff
EP 11006**Concerto for Violoncello and Orchestra** (1987/1996) 21'

vc solo - 1.2.1.2 - 2.0.0.0 - perc(2) - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 1987, Jerusalem, by Yoav Talmi and Israel Chamber Orchestra
EP 10855**Concerto for Viola and String Orchestra "Canarian Vespers"** (2006) 16'

va solo - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 28 June 2006, Tel Aviv, by Avshalom Sarid and Israel Chamber Orchestra, cond.: Noam Sheriff
EP 11058**Dibrot (Commandments)** (2000) 42'

for violin and chamber orchestra

vn solo - 1.1.1.1 - 1.1.1.0 - perc(2) - hp - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 2000, Israel, by Nurit Pacht and the Israeli Contemporary Players
EP 10856**Gomel Le'ish Hassid (Hassid's Reward)** (1997) 16'

for (bass) clarinet and strings

(bass) cl solo - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 22 February 1998, Jerusalem, by Giora Feidman and The Israel Camerata, cond.: Aver Biron
EP 8908**Meyerke geht spazieren...** (2016) 16'

for violin solo and orchestra

vn solo - 2.2.2.2 - 2.2.0.0 - timp - perc - hp - str

First performed 08 June 2016, Ra'nana (IL), by Michael Guttmann (violin and conductor) and Ra'anana Symphonyorchester
EP 14184**Scarlattiana** (1994) 22'

for piano and orchestra

pf solo - 2.2.2.1 - 2.1.1.0 - timp - perc(2) - hp - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 1994, Schleswig-Holstein-Musik-Festival (D), by Ludmila Berman and Israel Symphony Orchestra, cond.: Noam Sheriff
EP 11012

Chamber

Marina loves Brahms (2011) 5'

for piano
EP 11007

Meeting for Six (1986) 5'

for six violoncelli

First performed 1986, Freiburg (D), by Yo Yo Ma, Heinrich Schiff, David Geringas, Antonio Meneses and Boris Pergamentchikov
EP 8978

Piano-Sonata (1961) 11'

EP 8957

Präludium (2016) 7'

for organ
EP 14187

Sonata à 3 (1998) 18'

for flute solo (fl / alto fl / picc)

First performed March 1998, Tel-Aviv, by Noam Buchman
EP 8976

String Quartet No. 2 'Rosendorf' (1996) 12'

First performed 02 August 1996, Kfar Blum (IL), Chamber Music Festival
EP 8914a

String Quartet No. 3 'Nuits oubliées' (2008) 21'

First performed 2008
EP 12432

String Quintet (2014) 16'

First performed 07 September 2014, Jerusalem Chamber Music Festival
EP 14055

Vocal

A Sephardic Passion (1992) 36'

for soli, mixed choir and orchestra
text: traditional / liturgical

soprano, mezzo-soprano, tenor (soli) - mixed choir - 3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - timp, perc(2) - hp - str (8.0.6.5.4)

First performed 04 May 1992, Toledo (E), by Esther Kenan Ofri, Plácido Domingo, Gil Shaham, the RTVE Choir and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, cond.: Zubin Mehta

EP 11010

Bereshit (Genesis) (1998) 17'

for boys' voices, children's choir and orchestra

text: liturgical

soli - children's choir - 3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - timp, perc - pf - hp - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 29 April 1998, Tel Aviv, by Shimrit Malihi, Itamar Zorman, Hed Meirsson, the Meitar Choir, the Bat-Kol Choir, the Efroni Choir, the Cantabile Choir, the Shir Choir, cond.: Maya Shavit and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, cond.: Zubin Mehta

EP 8965

Between Sacred and Secular (2014) 19'

for counter tenor and orchestra

text: traditional / liturgical

counter tenor - 2.2.2.2 - 2.2.0.0 - perc - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 29 October 2014, Israel, by Yaniv D'or and Ra'anana Symphonette, cond.: Omer M. Wellber

EP 14083

“Ich träume so leise von dir” (1998) 8’

for solo voice and piano

text: Else Lasker-Schüler

First performed February 1998, Israel, by Ella Sheriff (voice) and Astrit Balzan (piano)

EP 10877

Lullabies and Madrigals (1998) 25’

for alto and instruments

text: folk / traditional

alto solo - rec - ob - hp - va - vc

First performed 25 July 2001, Kfar Blum (IL), Chamber Music Festival, by Ella Sheriff (alto) and Chamber Ensemble

EP 10875

Mechaye Hametim (Revival of the Dead) (1985) 52’

Symphony for soli, mixed choir and orchestra

Text: traditional / liturgical

tenor solo - bar solo - SATB - 3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - tb off-stage(3) - timp, perc(4) - hp - str

First performed 03 May 1987, Amsterdam, Opera, by Joseph Malovany (t), Lieuwe Visser (bar), Choir Hilversum, Tölzer Knabenchor and Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, cond.: David Porcelijn

EP 8756

Missa Terra Sancta (2018) 31’

for choir a cappella

Text: liturgical

First performed 24 May 2018, Tel Aviv, by The Israeli Vocal Ensemble, cond.: Yuval Benozzer

EP 14341

Moadim (2001) 25’

for mixed choir, piano, percussion and tape (ad lib.)

Text: liturgical

First performed 25 July 2001, Kfar Blum (IL), Chamber Music Festival, by Collegium Vocale, cond.: Avner Itay

EP 10876

Psalms of Jerusalem (1995) 56’

for soli, mixed choir and orchestra

text: traditional / liturgical

tenor solo - bass solo - SATB - 3.3.3.3 - 4.3.3.1 - sopr sax - timp, perc(3) - hp - str (0.0.6.5.4)

First performed 21 December 1995, Jerusalem, by Donald George (ten), Denis Sedov (bass), the „Jauna Muzika“ - choir Vilnius and Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, cond.: David Shallon

EP 8916

Wenn das Pendel der Liebe schwingt (1996) 16’

for alto and chamber orchestra

text: Paul Celan

alto solo - 2.2.2.1 - 2.1.0.0 - perc - hp - str (8.7.6.5.4)

First performed 10 February 1996, Jerusalem, by Ella Sheriff (alto) and Kibbutz Chamber Orchestra, cond.: Noam Sheriff

EP 11011

*Works of Noam Sheriff are also published by the Israel Music Institute.
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Leipzig

C. F. Peters Ltd & Co. KG

Talstraße 10
04103 Leipzig
Deutschland

☎ +49 (0) 341 9897 9231

✉ stefan.conradi@editionpeters.com

London

Peters Edition Ltd

2–6 Baches Street
London N1 6DN
UK

☎ +44 (0) 20 7553 4033

✉ katie.tearle@editionpeters.com

New York

C. F. Peters Corporation

70–30 80th Street
Glendale NY 11385
USA

☎ + (1) 718 416 7822

✉ gene.caprioglio@editionpeters.com