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# Bloch, Schoenberg, And Bernstein: Assimilating Jewish Music



## Synopsis

David Schiller's study of the Jewish music of Bloch, Schoenberg, and Bernstein reveals how, in the mid-twentieth century, the problem of assimilation was acutely felt as the unfinished business of European Jewry, at a time when American Jewry was creating its own distinctive culture (albeit with European roots). This incisive study sheds new light on an important aspect of the cultural and aesthetic achievements of these seminal Jewish composers.

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## Customer Reviews

... fascinating analysis. \* Jewish Chronicle \* ...fine book \* Ruth HaCohen, Language, Literature, and the Arts \*

David M. Schiller is at University of Georgia.

This may appeal only to specialists. It analyzes how three major composers brought "Jewish" music and expression into their music in terms of stages of assimilation into the larger American culture in the following works: the Avodath Hakodesh, A Survivor from Warsaw, and the Symphony No. 3 "Kaddish." Schiller analyzes anti-Semitism and Jewish responses to it in three different eras and how this influenced the particular artistic response. Schiller demands a certain historical and musical sophistication (it's a "difficult" book), although it doesn't focus on the technical aspects of the music, but the analysis, mainly in the area of intellectual history, is sharp and valuable.

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