

## **Commentary to " O r n a m e n t s " ("Adayim")**

**"Ornaments" is the last completed work by Alexander Uriyah Boskovich. In search of an expression that is Jewish- Hebrew and at the same time universal, the composer achieved in "Ornaments" a very special solution and artistic quality. The emotional and spiritual contents of this music are deeply rooted in the Hebrew text of the Bible cantillation of the "Song of the Sea " (Pentateuch, chapter 5) sung by the Yemenite congregation.**

**The composer created a fusion between the serial technic and the verbal rhythmical structures of the Hebrew language which are the silken thread woven into the embroidery of "Ornaments". The composer comments precisely how to perform this composition (written in French and Hebrew).**

**The music of "Ornaments" moves in two different and contrary times: proportional-metric time and differential-asymmetric, flexible time asking for an improvisational freedom of the soloist and the orchestra players in coordination with the conductor. The soloist as well as the orchestra players are invited to choose their own 'Tone-Form' Series like tones that are sharp, round, soft etc. words that are borrowed from non-musical fields. When no instructions are given percussionists are free to choose different ways of playing according to their imagination, thus enriching the sound color of their instruments.**

**The orchestra of 48 players is divided into four chamber groups of 12 players, reminding the style of oriental ensembles:**

**Group 1; piano, celesta, vibraphone, flute in G, engl. Horn  
bass- clarinet, 3 violins, 2 violas, 2 double- bass.**

**Group 2: 5 violins, 2 violas, 3 violoncelli, 2 double -basses.**

**Group 3: harp, guitar, xylophone, marimba, piccolo,  
2 clarinets, oboe, 3 bassoons, 2 horns.**

**Group 4: 4 percussion players, 3 trumpets, 3 trombones,  
tuba, double-bass.**

**Each group should be placed according to the acoustic  
conditions of the concert-hall without consideration to the  
traditional staging.**

**The work was premiered in 1965 - one year after the  
composer's death- at the Israeli Festival by the Israel  
Philharmonic Orchestra with soloist flutist Uri Toeplitz and  
conductor Gary Bertini.**

**In the year 1986 "Ornaments" was performed by the  
Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra with flutist Wendy Eisler and  
conducted by composer and conductor Joel Thome, who came  
especially from the U.S.A to perform this work in memory of  
his teacher and friend Alexander Uriya Boskovich.**

**M.B.**