

## Commentary for "**The Golden Chain** "

European culture, art and spirit were an integral part of A.U.Boskovich's personality. Yet, at the same time he felt an innermost necessity to enhance his connection with the treasures of his Jewish heritage. He joined an organization of Jewish students whose aim was to reinforce the awareness of the Jewish community in Transylvania of their culture and wrote an extensive article "**The Problems of Jewish Music** " in which he displayed his ideas about the particular goal of the Jewish composer . In continuous search for his roots the young composer toured in 1936 diverse villages in the Carpathian Mountains to get acquainted with the rich folklore and collect the beautiful songs of the Jewish communities who lived there. Inspired by the experience of this tour he composed (1936/7) his suite "**Chansons Populaires Juives** " based on seven East European Jewish folksongs for orchestra as well as for piano solo.

In 1938 Boskovich was invited by the "Palestine Symphony Orchestra " – now the "Israel Philharmonic Orchestra" -to attend the premiere of his work under the baton of Maestro Issai Dobrowen. Boskovich came as a visitor but decided to settle down in his ancient- new homeland and participate in the musical , cultural renaissance of his people. He then renamed his suite "**The Golden Chain** " ( after a play by J.L.Perez) .considering this title symbolizing the continuous chain of generations throughout Jewish history. The suite includes the following songs:

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|---------------------------------------|--|------|
| 1."Sleep my daughter" – Lullaby       | 2. "Chazkele "- A Comic Wedding Song     | 3."  |
| The Eternal Enigma "                  | 4. "And Moses Rejoices "-Chassidic March | 5.   |
| "Deep in the Woods " – Love Song      | 6." Yume Yume" –Song of a Maiden         | 7. " |
| Purify our Hearts " – Chassidic Dance |  |      |

**M.B.**