

International Ernest Bloch Society (IEBS)

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News Sheet No 6 – December 2020

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Announcing the IEBS Bloch Study Group starting 13.01.2021

IEBS is happy to announce the establishment of a **Bloch Study Group**. Jesse Rosenberg, who has been an active member on our IEBS Zoom meetings, has discovered a number of young scholars investigating aspects of the music of Bloch. He has kindly offered to host monthly sessions and has invited scholars, performers, commentators and conductors to give presentations on topics of particular interest to them, regarding Bloch's life and work. Jesse, in collaboration with Alexander Knapp, has assembled a most interesting programme from January to June 2021.

Jesse Rosenberg (right) joined the musicology faculty of Northwestern University, in 1998. He is a specialist in Italian opera and has also published research on musical representations of Jewish identity, including "Guilt and Operatic Atonement in Post-Holocaust Italy." *Annali d'italianistica* (2018), 235-259; "Race, religion, and Jewish identity in the operas of fascist Italy," *Journal of Jewish Identities* (2017), 105-134; "Opera and Religion," in Helen Greenwald, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Opera* (2015); "An operatic rabbi: David Sichel and Mascagni's *L'amico Fritz*", in Damien and Alessandro Di Profio, eds., *D'une scène à l'autre: L'opéra italien en Europe. II: La musique à l'épreuve du théâtre* (2009), 411-428.



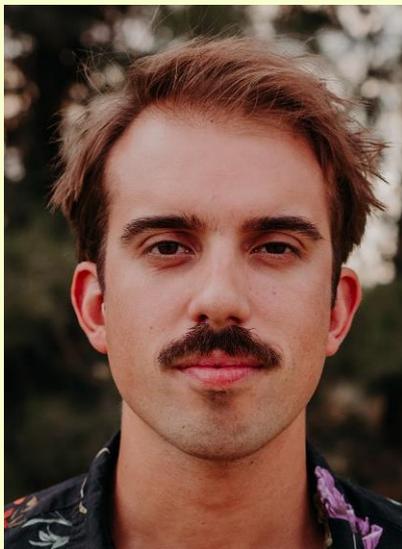
To initiate the series, Jesse has invited **three young scholars** who have focused on aspects of Bloch's music to present their findings to us in January, February and March. (More details about them and their presentations below.) In April, Jesse will share his own studies on **Bloch's reception in Fascist Italy in the 1930s**. In May, Malcolm Singer will talk about the relationship between **Bloch and Yehudi Menuhin**. In June, Alexander Knapp and colleagues will explore **Bloch's relationship with the viola**.

These sessions will take place on the second Wednesday of every month, starting on Wednesday 13 January 2021. They will be held via Zoom at **09:00 Pacific time / 12.00 Eastern USA / 17:00 UK / 18:00 Western Europe / 19:00 Israel** (The room will open 15 minutes early for greetings and socialising).

Jesse says: "We very much look forward to your joining for these sessions, no matter where in the world you may be. Together we will illuminate further aspects of Ernest Bloch's life and music."

IEBS Bloch Study Group programme 2021

January 13: Evan Pardi



Title: Ernest Bloch's Cello Suite #1: A Brief Contextualization, Analysis, and Performance on the Double Bass

Abstract: The suite will be discussed against the background of Bloch's interest in J S Bach (as evidenced in his manuscript copies of Bach's music) and the significance of the cellist Zara Nelsova, as well as Bloch's life in Agate Beach. A motivic analysis will clarify the structure of the work, and introduce the challenge of transcribing it for double bass.

Bio: Evan Pardi is a DMA candidate at Arizona State University in music performance. A double-bassist, Evan Pardi plays regularly with the Phoenix Symphony, Tucson Symphony, and Arizona Broadway Theatre. Additionally, he maintains a broad interest in music beyond performance, including writings on 20th-century analysis, intellectual property issues, and double bass history.

February 10: Aaron Klaus



Title: Jewish Musical Markers in Ernest Bloch's *Proclamation*

Abstract: This presentation will provide an analysis of Bloch's *Proclamation* for Trumpet and Orchestra (1955) grounded in "Jewish musical markers" — characteristic rhetorical gestures that represent a connection to Bloch's Jewish roots.

Bio: Aaron Klaus's research focuses on the interplay between Jewish music and identity from the mid-nineteenth century through the present. He holds multiple degrees in Trumpet Performance.

March 10: Joshua Friedlander



Title: Ernest Bloch: A Native American Musical Journey

Abstract: This presentation will focus on the various influences on Bloch's Violin Concerto of 1938, with special emphasis on Native American influence.

Bio: Joshua Friedlander graduated from Florida State University with a Doctorate in Music, writing his treatise on Bloch's Violin Concerto. He is currently the music director for the Pacific Northwest Chamber Orchestra as adjunct professor at Centralia College, and is the strings teacher for the Centralia School District. He lives in Olympia, WA with his wife and two sons.

Spring 2021 Events (details to follow)

April 14 Jesse Rosenberg on Bloch's reception in fascist Italy

May 12 Malcolm Singer on Menuhin and Bloch and performance of the Sacred Service

June 9 Alexander Knapp 'Bloch and the Viola' a discussion with colleagues

International Forum for Jewish Music Studies (IFJMS)

The IEBS Bloch Study Group (BSG) sessions will be presented in association with the International Forum for Jewish Music Studies (IFJMS) established in June 2020, for scholars, practitioners and archivists of any aspect of Jewish music.

IFJMS has set up weekly Conversations on Zoom (COZ) on a Tuesday at 5.00pm. It is also establishing an overarching three-year project under the title 'Migration and Transformation in Jewish Music'. Join the Forum's Jewish Music Group free at <https://jewishmusic.hcommons.org> and be kept abreast of all its programmes.

Also join the <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ifjmsgroup>

IEBS Electronic Connections

In this age of pandemic, we can all embrace and benefit from the wonders of technology to further our interest in Ernest Bloch and his music. We are especially excited to be running our IEBS Bloch Society Group on Zoom. The Zoom log-in will be posted on our Facebook page and website under activities.

IEBS Website www.ernestblochsociety.org

Checkout the valuable permanent repository of information, past activities and reviews.

IEBS Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2810320052621256>

For those who like Facebook we have a new Facebook group for International Ernest Bloch Society. You may like to join to see what is going on and post your own ideas. So far there are nine members. On it are pictures of delegates from the Ernest Bloch Conference in Cambridge in 2007. We are hoping you can help us identify them all.

IEBS YouTube Channel

We will be creating an IEBS YouTube Channel to live-stream and also store our study sessions.

IEBS Electronic Mailing List

We also have an academic mailing list which includes 80 people interested in Bloch who can be informed and communicate with each other. Please steer anybody interested in Bloch to join this mailing list. To join this list, send an email to listserv@jiscmail.ac.uk. Leave the subject line BLANK and in the Message say: SUBSCRIBE ERNESTBLOCHSOCIETY followed by your First name and your Last name only (please delete any automatic signatures). If you have any queries or difficulties send an email to events@ernestblochsociety.org and we will try to help.

Reminders of ongoing activity

1. **Translation, editing and publication** of Bloch monographs, texts and letters are in progress. Frank Geltner, Alexander Knapp, Sylvain Frémaux, Walter Simmons and others are working on these projects.
2. **Ernest Bloch: Composer in Nature's University.** Frank Geltner has created and is now ordering 200 reprints of the July 2018 edition of the Ernest Bloch booklet. They will be delivered to three businesses which have agreed to make copies available to anyone who asks — based on a note posted on the Interpretive Sign in Ernest Bloch Place which Frank worked hard to create and was dedicated in July 2018 within the larger Ernest Bloch Memorial Wayside, Agate Beach, Oregon.
3. **Creating a chamber orchestral reduction** for Ernest Bloch's *Sacred Service* - so that more choirs can take it on. Composer and conductor Benjamin Wolf in London has completed and performed Part One and is working on the other parts.
4. **Holding virtual workshops /masterclasses.** IEBS is in discussion with Miriam Kramer (violin), Rivka Golani (viola) and Raphael Wallfisch (cello) to see whether we can run virtual masterclasses / workshops individually for each instrument.
5. **Zecharia Plavin has written a play *The Return of Ernest Bloch*:** he says it was presented in San Diego in English, with Simon Ordever as Bloch. Its original text is in Hebrew, and it was presented several times in Israel, the last time with Emmanuel Halperin.
6. **YouTube:** Zecharia suggested he would organise cumulative gatherings of youngsters playing Bloch pieces, also his chamber music, via YouTube. He says: 'It could even be arranged in our shadowed days; it is very important that there would be not only benevolent listenings, but also culturally interesting comments. Of course, I would do the organization when I get freer from my huge current tasks, and if you give me your blessing and agree to respond to my questions in process of finalising the idea.'
7. Alex Knapp reminds us that he has several sets of the substantial **four-volume Lewinski-Dijon Compendium in French** and is happy to give them to whoever would like one, for the cost of just the packaging and postage. We will invoice you for postage and packing to be paid to IEBS bank account details here: **HSBC Bank:** Sort Code: 400321 A/C number: 62240548 **International Bank Account Number:** GB73HBUK40032162240548 **Branch Identifier Code:** HBUKGB4106P. identify your payment with your name, followed by 'books'.

Recordings and Performances

Nicola Benedetti and colleagues play a new arrangement for string quintet by the Ayoub Sisters of Ernest Bloch's 'Prayer' (originally composed in 1924 for Cello and Piano) - commissioned by the luxury furniture-making company Maker&Son in support of The Benedetti Foundation. This performance in this video also features Yume Fujise and Charlie Westhoff (violins), Jenny Lewisohn (viola) and Ariane Zandi (cello). The live recording was made at Kemps House, the home of Maker&Son Founder Alex Willcock. <https://www.thestrads.com/video/nicola-benedetti-and-friends-play-ernest-blochs-prayer/11454.article>

Complete list of Bloch Compositions

Alexander Knapp and Frank Geltner have worked together to revise a list of Bloch's works. It is incorporated into the latest edition of the Bloch Booklet that Frank and Alex worked on in 2018.

The complete list appears on the inside front and back covers of the booklet. The link can be found on the International Ernest Bloch Society website homepage.

<http://ernestblochsociety.org/data/uploads/compositionslist.pdf>

For more detailed information about each of Bloch's works (name, instrumentation, dedicatee, medium, named movements, dates of composition and publication, length, publisher, expiry of copyright), please see "Alphabetical List of Bloch's Published and Unpublished Works", in eds. Alexander Knapp and Norman Solomon (2016) *Ernest Bloch Studies* (Cambridge University Press), pp. xxvi-xlvi.

You can also see a list of works sorted by genre here.

<http://bloch.music.coocan.jp/list02.htm>

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If you no longer wish to receive these occasional Ernest Bloch Newsletters, please let me know and I will remove your name from our list.