

As I Heard It

REVIEWED BY MORTON GOLD

Choir is a credit to their Temple

From time to time I receive some CDs from different sources. Most of these are pleasant and welcome. This is a good example of that. I received a CD from Temple Emanuel of Greensboro, N.C. The disc had the music from their Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services of this year. The musical director was Lane Ridenhour and their cantorial soloist was Mitchel Sommers. Their female soloists included Emily Siar, Rachel Gains, Jeanne Fischer and Debbie Thacker.

A variety of compositions were performed, all from the repertoire of the Reform congregations. All the selections were well performed (incredible for a live performance!), and much credit should be given to their director as well as to the performers. Since they were kind enough to send the disc to me, I will only briefly comment on those things I found amiss, and these are open to interpretation as well as taste. There was ever so much more positive than otherwise.

Rating special notice were the performances of Janowski's *Avinu Malkenku* and soloist Jeanne Fischer. I thought the rendition of Bernstein's *Twenty Third Psalm* was excellent, and young Eli Whitehouse deserves a pat on the back. While kudos are being handed out, the choir and their director deserve one. The choir is well trained, disciplined, sings with good ensemble as well as intonation and would be a credit to any temple. While I am at it, Ms. Thacker and company really shined in Finkelstein's setting of *L'dor vador*.

The musicians (more properly referred to as instrumentalists as the vocalists were musicians as well) included: Andy Mock, piano; Janet Ornstein, violin; Brooks Whitehouse, cello (who was superb in the *Kol Nidre*); and Heather Lewis, bass. My thanks to Rabbi Fred Guttman, as well as the temple music committee for sharing this CD with me. They have every reason to take pride in their music program.