

The background of the cover is a photograph of a forest stream with several small waterfalls. The water is captured with a long exposure, creating a soft, blurred effect. The surrounding trees and foliage are dense and green, with sunlight filtering through the canopy. The overall mood is serene and natural.

OXFORD MUSIC FOR VIOLIN

MEIRA WARSHAUER

BRACHA

(A Blessing)

For Violin and Piano

SCORE AND PART

OXFORD
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Bracha* is a musical interpretation of the Jewish concept of blessing. The Hebrew word *bracha* is related to *breicha*, which means pool of water or flowing stream. In this composition it is interpreted as a stream of Divine goodness flowing downward into the world. The opening violin gesture represents this stream of goodness in its flowing melodic descent. As the piece progresses and the blessing is received, other melodies emerge in response to this influx of goodness. Toward the end of the composition, the opening violin melody turns upwards, as a blessing fully received on earth returns its flow (*shefa*) into the upper worlds (*olamot*).

Bracha was composed for Daniel Heifetz and is dedicated to my mother, Miriam Warshauer, a violinist, and to my father, Samuel Warshauer, for the blessing of my life.

—Meira Warshauer

Meira Warshauer was born in Wilmington, North Carolina, and graduated from Harvard University (*magna cum laude*), New England Conservatory of Music (*with honors*), and the University of South Carolina. She studied composition with Mario Davidovsky, Jacob Druckman, William Thomas McKinley, and Gordon Goodwin. Her works have been performed and recorded to critical acclaim throughout the United States and in Israel, Europe, South America, and Asia. She has received numerous awards from ASCAP as well as the American Music Center, Meet the Composer, and the South Carolina Arts Commission. Warshauer was awarded the Artist Fellowship in Music by the South Carolina Arts Commission in 1994, and in 2000, received the first Art and Cultural Achievement Award from the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina.

Warshauer has received commissions from the Dayton (Ohio) Philharmonic, the South Carolina Philharmonic (three orchestra works), the Zamir Chorale of Boston with the Rottenberg Chorale (New York City), Zemer Chai (Washington, DC), Gratz College (Philadelphia), Kol Dodi (New Jersey); the Cantors Assembly, clarinetist Richard Nunemaker, violinist Daniel Heifetz, and flutist Paula Robison. Her CDs include the soundtrack to the documentary *Land of Promise: The Jews of South Carolina* and *Spirals of Light*, chamber music and poetry (by Ani Tuzman) on themes of enlightenment, on the Kol Meira label, and *Revelation* for orchestra, included on Robert Black Conducts (MMC). *YES!* for clarinet and orchestra, written for and recorded by Richard Stoltzman and the Warsaw Philharmonic, is scheduled for release by MMC in 2004.

Warshauer is on the faculty of Columbia College, Columbia, South Carolina, where she teaches an innovative cross-cultural, multidisciplinary course on the experience of music as a source of healing. Warshauer has devoted much of her work to Jewish themes. In spring 2002, Kol Israel National Radio broadcast an hour-long program to her music. For more information about Meira Warshauer, visit her website at <http://home.sc.rr.com/meirawarshauer/>.

*The *ch* is pronounced like the German; both vowels are short as in *father*.

for Daniel Heifetz

BRACHA

(A Blessing)

For Violin and Piano

Meira Warshauer

Flowing (♩ = 60-63)

Violin

Piano

poco rubato e poco meno mosso

5

9

rit. a tempo (♩ = 60-63) poco rit.

p mp

Led. * * * * *

13

Tempo I rit. Slower (♩ = 58-60) Tempo I

mf mp p mf mp

p

Led. * * * *

17 *mf* *f* *tr* *mp*

Led. * * *

20 *dim. poco a poco* *mp* *rit.* *Slower (♩ = 58-60)* *mp molto legato* *p*

(Led.) * * * *Led.* * * *

24 *poco accel.* *broad* *mf* *cresc.* *f* *mf* *cresc.* *f*

Led. * * * * *

28 *Cadenza, freely (♩ = 69-72)* *poco a poco accel.* *ff* *♩ = 76*

(Led.) *

33 **rit.** $\text{♩} = 63-66$
 sul A
p legato, dolce
pp dolce
 Red. * * *

36 **poco rit.**
mp
p
 Red. * * * 1/2 * 1/2 *

38 **poco accel.** $\text{♩} = c. 72$ **Slightly slower** $(\text{♩} = 69)$ **poco rit.**
p cresc. *molto* *f* *mf*
 LH
mf
 Red. *

43 **molto rit.** **Largo** $(\text{♩} = 48-54)$
mp *p* *mf*
 LH
mp *mf*
 Red. * col Red. (change as needed)

47 **rit.** **Flowing** (♩ = 58) *mp espr.*

49 **poco rit.**

52 ♩ = 54 **poco movimento** **molto a tempo** (♩ = ♩ = 54) **rit.**

55 **poco accel.** **rit.** **molto rit.**

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