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The Ernest Bloch Society

Founded 1937

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295 Regent Street
London, W1

The International Ernest Bloch Society

Re-launched 2008

President: Sir Charles Mackerras CH CBE AC



Portrait of Ernest Bloch by Milein Cosman, Edinburgh 1949

Aims and Objectives

- To promote greater awareness and appreciation of the music of Ernest Bloch.
- To encourage performances of his works by professional and amateur musicians.
- To encourage the provision of online resources listing his compositions with details of publication and recordings.
- To encourage the provision of online resources for biographical information and scholarly research on Bloch and his work.
- To keep members informed of performances of Bloch's compositions

Ernest Bloch

Born 24 July 1880 Geneva, Switzerland
Died 15 July 1959 Portland, Oregon, USA

Ernest Bloch was so admired in his heyday that many considered him the fourth 'B' after Bach, Beethoven and Brahms. He was one of the most original composers of the 20th century whose music, whilst intellectually challenging, was accessible to a wide audience. His works were regularly performed from the 1920s to the 1950s, particularly in the USA, UK and Italy. Now, as we pass the 50th Anniversary of his death, it is time to rejoice in the wide range of his oeuvre and hear again the well known and lesser known orchestral, choral, chamber, instrumental, and vocal works. There will also be an exploration of his hitherto unpublished music. Bloch has often been referred to as a 'Jewish composer' because of the substantial number of his works that carry Jewish titles, yet his repertoire incorporates a variety of influences such as Renaissance, neo-Classical, neo-Romantic styles, Swiss, Native American, Chinese folk idioms, and Gregorian Chant. Although he never founded a 'school' of composition, some of the most prominent American composers of the 20th century were his students. He visited Britain in the 1930s, where concerts of his chamber music were presented. In 1949 his Concerto Symphonique for piano and orchestra was premiered at the Edinburgh Festival. In the same year he conducted a major concert at the Royal Albert Hall, including Schelomo with cellist Zara Nelsova and The Sacred Service with baritone Aron Rothmüller and the London Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorus. Following the founding of the American Ernest Bloch Society, an Ernest Bloch Society was founded in London in 1937 with Albert Einstein, Sir Thomas Beecham, Sir Henry Wood, Sir Arnold Bax, and Sir John Barbirolli, among others, as honorary officers. As well as his many other attributes, Bloch was a prolific letter writer, an accomplished photographer, a collector and polisher of agates and an expert on mushrooms. This Society rekindles the light of the original one and has spearheaded and coordinated an international Festival of Bloch works worldwide.

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Hon. Vice-Presidents

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Membership Application Form

The International Ernest Bloch Society
135 Stevenage Road
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London
SW6 6PB
UNITED KINGDOM

I wish to join the International Ernest Bloch Society by making a donation as follows:

- Full Member** at GBP 20.00 per year
- Overseas Full Member** at GBP 25.00 per year
- Junior Member** (under 18) at GBP 5.00 per year
- Concessionary Member –**
I am a full-time student
 over 60
at GBP 15.00 per year
- Life Member** at GBP 250.00 (single payment)
- Donation** of GBP
- I am a UK taxpayer and wish my donation to be considered under the Gift Aid scheme
- I enclose a cheque or international money order, payable to the **International Ernest Bloch Society**, for the appropriate amount
- Please charge a total of GBP to my Visa / MasterCard
- Name on Card:
- Card Number:
- Expiry Date: CCV:

[CCV = the last 3 digits of the security code on the back of the card]