



Heinz Freudenthal, Nuremberg

(April 25, 1905 in Danzig – May 29, 1999 in Munich)

Introduction

How could a classical musician and conductor be honored more adequately than by one of his works, in particular if it has a special connection to his own life? For this reason **RIJO** decided not to include a conventional brief biography of Heinz Freudenthal, the son of Nuremberg's long-term chief rabbi Dr. Max Freudenthal, but to introduce his 1982 recording "A Sabbath service in the former main synagogue of the Jewish congregation in Nuremberg" to the visitors and to cite a text written by him in this context.

Heinz Freudenthal: Curriculum Vitae

1905	born in Danzig
1907	moved with his family to Nuremberg
1922	first public appearance as a solo artist in Nuremberg's former St. Katharina cloister ("Katharinenbau")
1922 - 1927	studies in Wuerzburg
1927 - 1928	solo viola player with the state orchestra in Meiningen (Thuringia)
1928 - 1936	solo viola player with the symphonic orchestra in Goeteborg (Sweden)
1936 - 1953	chief conductor of the symphonic and radio orchestra in Norrkoepping (Sweden)
1954 - 1961	chief conductor of the Israeli state radio orchestra
1961 - 1969	director of the municipal music school in in Karlstad (Sweden)
1969 - 1973	municipal musical director in Kristiansand (Norway), after that working as free lance conductor, chamber musician and pedagogue
1982	moved to Munich
1985	last concert as conductor in Sweden
1999	deceased in Munich

(source: Inge Obermayer: "Der Kreis bin ich selber". Zum 90. Geburtstag von Heinz Freudenthal, dem Sohn des Nuernberger Oberrabbiners. In: "Nuernberger Zeitung", April 22, 1995.)

Heinz Freudenthal: Music of the Synagogue. A Sabbath service in the former main synagogue of the Jewish congregation in Nuremberg (CD 1998)

Music: Louis Lewandowski

Cantor: Baruch Grabowski

Organ: Rolf Groeschel

Choir: Hans Sachs Chor, Nürnberg (Leitung: Wolfgang Riedelbauch)

Speaker: Werner Galas

Directed by Heinz Freudenthal

(Recorded in 1982)

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I. Evening service for the Sabbath

II. The Sabbath morning service

Heinz Freudenthal: How this production came to be made



Heinz Freudenthal

(photo: CD Booklet)

My father, Ph. D. Max Freudenthal, was appointed chief rabbi to the parish of the Israelitic community of Nuremberg in 1907. His tenure of office coincided with the final flowering of Jewish religion and culture in Germany which was so tragically ended or rather destroyed in 1933.

His reputation as a religious leader, orator and man of letters went far beyond the confines of Nuremberg and Germany. His publications on the history of the Jews and the results of his

studies in genealogy were considered important enough to dedicate a special "Freudenthal room" for his collected works at the library of the University of Jerusalem.

My father's interest in the fine arts, primarily with music (he was a fine singer and experienced pianist). compelled him to pay special attention to the aesthetic content of the service at the former synagogue at Hans-Sachs-Place in Nuremberg.

He was fully supported in his endeavors by the chief cantor of the parish, also an excellent singer, Theodor Fraenkel. The choir master Wilhelm Funk the organists Herr Sturm and Herr Stirnweis as well as the members of the synagogue choir must not be forgotten in this context.



Dr. Max Freudenthal

(photo: CD Booklet)

Already during the office of Dr. Bernhard Ziemlich, my father's predecessor, the management of the Israelitic parish in Nuremberg had commissioned a setting of the complete liturgy for tenor (cantor), mixed choir and organ from a composer residing in Berlin, Louis Lewandowski.

I dearly remember those handwritten manuscripts of Lewandowski, which were lost in the hubbub of the Nazi period. but which turned up again after 1945. In those days the service in the Nuremberg synagogue was of such a high standard as to be an example to other Jewish communities in Germany.

Louis Lewandowski (1821-1894) received his musical education at the composition class of the Berlin Academy of Arts. In 1840 he was granted the title Royal Prussian Master of Music. For many years he acted as conductor of the choirs in the Jewish parish of Berlin. Apart from writing numerous compositions for orchestra, choir and chamber music, he was particularly concerned with the rejuvenation of Jewish sacred music - the music of the synagogue.

He was without a doubt a reformer in this field. Lewandowski's music is clearly influenced by the German romantic school while at the same time tending to use ancient Jewish chants in its melodies. In connection with a concert I gave in Nuremberg in 1980, I met the director and the cantor of the Jewish parish. This meeting led to the idea of preserving these last tokens of Jewish life from before the catastrophe of 1933, and to transmit them to coming generations.

This notion was embraced with great interest by the management of the "Nuernberger Symphoniker" and by "Colosseum", their affiliated recording company. Thus the plan materialized to produce this recording of the service as it once used to be celebrated in the synagogue of Nuremberg.

As one of the few living witnesses to those special occasions I was proud to accept the artistic responsibility and guidance of this record. Very soon I also found the most expert and competent assistants whose names are gratefully acknowledged here. I am specially indebted to the Mayor of Nuremberg, Dr. Andreas Urschlechter and to the councilor in charge of education and the arts, Dr. Hermann Glaser, without whose sympathy and help the production of this commemorative record would not have been possible. May this record do honor to the city of Nuremberg, as a reminder to the living and as a lesson for coming generations.

Closing Chant



The original text of the chant is in Hebrew. The translation was made by Otto Freudenthal from the "Israelitic Prayer Book Nuremberg", edited in 1914 by chief rabbi Dr. Max Freudenthal:

Lord of the world, who ruled, before any living being was formed, when from Your word the universe was created, You were named King. And when the universe will cease, You will rule alone in splendor, You were and will be and shall remain in eternity and glory. You the One, the only One, no one can be like You. You are without beginning and without end in time, Yours is the power and the glory.

You live forever, my God, my Savior, in sorrow and despair, my rock, my life, You are my refuge, my shield, my cup, my life, I call to You.

In Your hand I place my soul, when I sleep and when I wake, and my body is

Yours.
I am not afraid, God is with me.

For ordering information about the CD please contact:

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info[at]colosseum.de**

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