

I think any independent record shop must reflect its owner's tastes to a degree, hence the number of CDs reflecting Jewish culture, music and humour in-store. They include sacred music, Lieder, cabaret, traditional / folk music and comedy, plus my personal favourite, Klezmer. A visit to the shop to browse is best but if you can't make it, here are some suggestions:

- *Tradition*, a CD by violinist Itzhak Perlman. Amongst other tunes, he plays *A Yiddishe Mamme* quite beautifully (£10.99)
- *Joshua*, an oratorio by Franz Waxman (£15.99)
- *Yiddish, Hebrew and Klezmer: an anthology of Jewish Music 1905 - 1952*. A 2CD set of music by turns lively, melancholic and life-affirming (£15.99)
- *You don't have to be Jewish / When you're in love the whole world is Jewish* were two great comedy LPs issued on the American Kapp label in the 1960s. The first sold a million in 1965, and its success prompted the follow up a year later. Both albums are full of brilliant sketches e.g. *A call from Long Island*, *The Bar Mitzvah*, *Divorce - Kosher style* but the second also has several clever songs including one based upon Benny Hill's hit *Ernie, the fastest milkman in the west*, reborn as *Irving - the 142nd fastest gun in the west* (although none of the reviews I've read make the connection). Produced by Bob Booker and George Foster, the LPs star Lou Jacobi, Nancy Walker, Beatrice Arthur (*The Golden Girls*), Valerie Harper (*Rhoda*) and many others. At last, both LPs are available on a single CD for £15.99. I envy anyone who hasn't heard them!
- Crooner Issy Bonn was a favourite in the thirties and forties and we always stock at least one of his CDs.
- Comedy CDs and DVDs by Jackie Mason, Shelly Berman etc. We also have archive British music hall recordings on a disc entitled *Hebrew Humour* which features Max Bacon and Julian Rose. Bacon started as the drummer with Ambrose's Orchestra, but later went on to become a comedian. Here he performs *Gershwin Lockshon-Soup Jack*, *Beigels*, *Barmitzvah boy*, *Shmoul - pick up the Kishke*, *Buy my little Ten-a-Penny Pills*, *I can get it for you wholesale*, *Even a Crooner must eat*, *Pancho's Widow*, *Holtz Myer and Cohen*. *I must see Annie tonight*, *Little Red Hooding Ride* and *William T-Hell*. Rose is famous for his depiction of *Levinsky at the Wedding*, the rare full version of which is included on this CD. As an extra, Sam Levenson gives us a lesson in *Basic Yiddish* (£12.99)
- Music to celebrate Jewish religious festivals, for children as well as for adults.
- *Dancing on the edge of a volcano: Jewish Cabaret Popular and Political Songs 1900-1945* is a fascinating survey of this music by the New Budapest Orpheum Society. Composers include Hans Eisler, Kurt Weill, Friedrich Hollaender, Gustav Pick, Darius Milhaud and many others (2CD, £15.99)
- The *Milken Archive* comprises the largest collection of American Jewish music ever assembled. It covers every aspect of music – classical, sacred, Klezmer, traditional, opera and more. The Archive's primary goals are to reconstruct and preserve for current and future generations major musical manifestations of the American Jewish experience, and to reveal the intersection of Jewish composers and Jewish subject matter with some of the major genres in Western classical music. At least 50 CDs have been released by Naxos. For further details see http://www.naxos.com/series/milken_archive_of_american_jewish_music.htm Single CDs in the series are available from us @ £6.99.
- Musicals and shows e.g. *Fiddler on the roof*, *I can get it for you wholesale* etc. Finally, we stock CDs by the great Klezmer band *Moishe's Bagel*. If you get a chance to see them live, don't miss it!