

4214 Spruce St. Phila., PA. 19104

May 15, 1978

Dear Mr. Roshies,

A few years ago I participated in a reading of your "Night Words", a Midrash on the Holocaust. In particular I was drawn to some of the poetry you selected, and thought some of it ^{would be} appropriate for a musical composition. The texts I chose were:

Dremlen Feygl af di Tsvayga - Leah Rudsmitzky
Unter Dayne Vayse Shtern - Avram Sutzkever
Shtiler, Shtiler (selection) - Shmuel Kacervinsky

My composition is entitled simply "Three Yiddish Songs" and is scored for soprano and orchestra. I conducted the first performance of the work in 1977 at the Annenberg Center in Philadelphia in commemoration of Yom Hashoah. The work was subsequently performed in Vermont.

On May 21 at 8:30 pm. Andreij Jurkewitsch will conduct the Orchestra Society of Philadelphia in a performance of these songs with Shelly Wolinsky Camp as soloist. The concert will be held ~~at~~ in the old Music building, 32nd and Chestnut streets on the campus of Drexel University in Philadelphia.

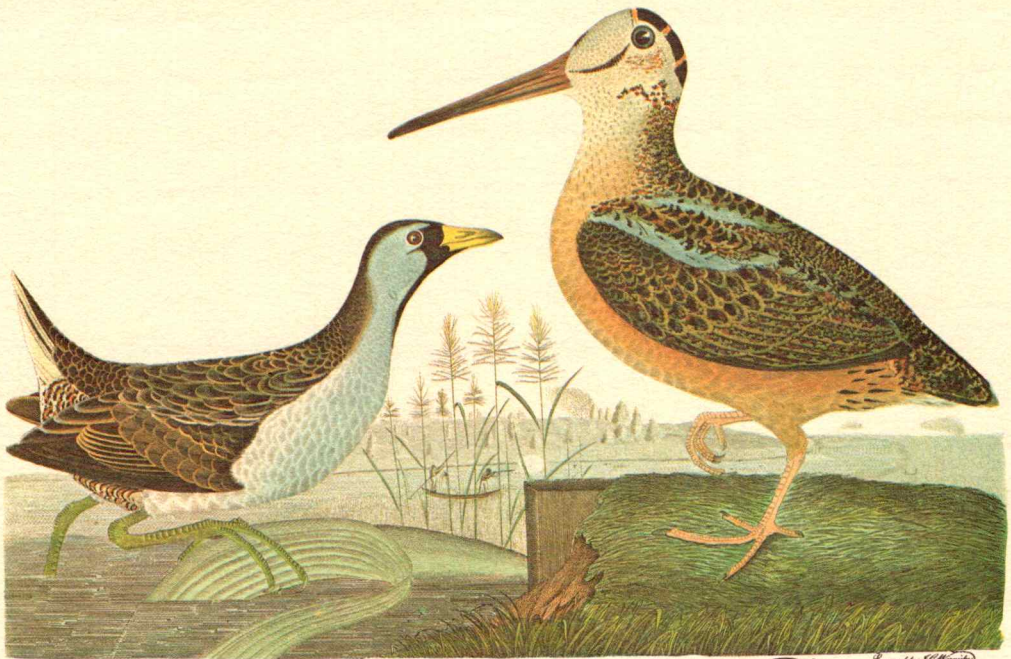
I would be delighted if you could make the performance; however if you cannot, I thank you for having inspired me to write Three Yiddish Songs and hope that someday we'll be able to meet.

With all best wishes,

Stephen Jaffe

Free Library of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Alexander Wilson was born on July 6, 1766 in Scotland and worked there as a weaver and peddler until 1794 when he immigrated to America. For several years he taught school in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey. After meeting naturalist William Bartram in 1802 he began collecting material and making sketches for a study of American birds. The first volume of "American Ornithology" was published in 1808. The hand colored plates were engraved by Alexander Lawson who earned an international reputation through this series. The prints selected for the "Water's Edge" series are from a collection of Wilson pictures which was re-issued in c. 1840.



Drawn from Nature by A. Wilson

Rail

Woodcock

Engraved by J. G. Harwood