

# **Elijah's Violin**

A Family Opera in One Act

Music by Meira Warshauer  
Libretto by Susan Levi Wallach  
and Meira Warshauer  
Dramaturg, Beth Greenberg

Adapted from the Jewish folktale *Elijah's Violin*, in *Elijah's Violin and other Jewish Fairy Tales*, retold by Howard Schwartz, Harper and Rowe, 1983. Oral tradition, Egypt.

## **Full Synopsis**

Princess Shulamit (Shula), a teen in search of her identity, is hiding from her brother Prince Raphael (Rafi) when she finds a room with an enchanted mirror. Believing her reflection can reveal her true self, Shula falls prey to a mirror demon that captures her soul, leaving her frozen in stone. A horrified Rafi, determined to save his sister's soul, ventures into the demon-filled forest. There he encounters an old man gathering mushrooms who directs him to Malka, a healer who lives deeper in the forest. Rafi finds Malka with her young niece Zohara, a healer-in-training. Auntie Malka instructs Zohara to go with Rafi and find Elijah's violin, a magical instrument which can release the imprisoned melodies of Shula's heart and restore her soul. But there's a catch: Zohara must not only play the violin, but do so with true intent and a pure heart of her own. When Zohara's fears and self-doubts arise, Auntie Malka teaches her to turn within and focus on her breath to connect with her inner strength. After an anxious night alone in the forest, the two find Elijah, who entrusts Zohara with his violin. With help from Rafi and the audience (toning), Zohara overcomes her fears so that the violin's healing music can emerge. Back at the palace, the violin, in Zohara's hands, plays the song of Shula's heart, freeing her from the demon's hold and restoring her soul.

Duration: ca. 50 minutes

Instrumentation: Violin, Flute, Cello, Piano

## **Cast:**

Princess Shulamit, Mezzo soprano

Prince Raphael, Tenor

Mycologist/Elijah, Bass

Auntie Malka, Mezzo soprano (may double Shulamit)

Zohara, Soprano

Demons, Children of the Forest and various other roles, S/A Children's Chorus