

YIDDISH ALBUM GETS PULITZER RECOGNITION

Alex Weiser's 2019 song cycle "And All the Days Were Purple" may possibly be a first of its kind: a marriage of contemporary classical music and (mostly) Yiddish texts. But what is special about "And All the Days..." is not its novelty but its gossamer sensuality, in which music and text join perfectly. On the song 'Poetry,' Weiser uses Avrom Sutzkever's text, which asks us to admire an aching ripe plum, clinging to a branch. "That is poetry/Touch it so lightly that you don't leave a fingerprint." Weiser's lushly delicate soundscape hovers over the listener like a dream, leaving not a fingerprint, but a deeply pleasurable longing to hear more. And so, Alex's many friends and admirers were pleased, but not shocked, this week to learn that "And All the Days Were Purple" was named a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize in Music. Mazl tov, Alex. —Rokhl Kafrissen

