



**Modest
ALTSCHULER**

**Russian Soldier's
Song**

**Manhattan School
of Music Symphony
Orchestra**

Leonard Slatkin



Modest Altschuler (1873–1963)

Russian Soldier's Song (1917)



My family's musical journey began in Russia at the end of the 19th century. On my mother's side, the Altschuler family came across the Atlantic in stages. My grandfather Gregory's first cousin, Modest Altschuler, arrived in 1896 from the city of Mogilev in Belarus. He was an important musician in his homeland and would become a major figure on the musical scene in the United States.

Settling in New York, Modest formed the Russian Symphony Orchestra Society, an ensemble made up of recent émigrés. From 1903 to 1919, this group played concerts at Carnegie Hall, giving American premieres of works by Rachmaninov, Rimsky-Korsakov, Glière, Glazunov, Scriabin, Sibelius, and others. In addition, Modest brought many distinguished soloists to the United States for their debuts. Elman, Lhévinne, and Prokofiev were among the notables.

Russian Soldier's Song was one of several short compositions written by Modest Altschuler. It became a hotbed of controversy when Modest tried to sue Walt Disney for copyright infringement, claiming that the song *Whistle While You Work* was stolen from the little march. In addition, this piece was among the very first recordings made by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra – where I would become music director in 2008. They released it in 1928 under the direction of their first music director, Ossip Gabrilowitsch.

Leonard Slatkin

Manhattan School of Music



Founded as a community music school by Janet Daniels Schenck in 1918, today the Manhattan School of Music (MSM) is recognized for its more than 900 superbly talented undergraduate and graduate students who come from more than 40 countries and nearly all 50 states; its innovative curricula and world-renowned artist-teacher faculty that includes musicians from the New York Philharmonic, the Met Orchestra, and the top ranks of the jazz and Broadway communities; and a distinguished community of accomplished, award-winning alumni working at the highest levels of the musical, educational, cultural, and professional worlds. The School is dedicated to the personal, artistic, and intellectual development of aspiring musicians, from its Precollege students through those pursuing doctoral studies. Offering classical, jazz, and musical theatre training, MSM grants a range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. True to MSM's origins as a music school for children, the Precollege program continues to offer superior music instruction to 475 young musicians between the ages of 5 and 18. The School also serves some 2,000 New York City schoolchildren through its Arts-in-Education Program, and another 2,000 students through its critically acclaimed Distance Learning Program.

www.msmnyc.edu

Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra

Violin I

Nuri Lim, concertmaster
Seoul, South Korea

Hajung Cho
Seoul, South Korea

Lumeng Yang
Beijing, China

Yerin Kim
Bucheon, South Korea

Wing Yan Kwok
Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Ally Cho
Melbourne, Australia

Yena Lee
Seoul, South Korea

Sonya Shin
Alberta, Canada

Fang-chun Hsieh
Tainan City, Taiwan

Jiayin Liu
Shanghai, China

Amos Lee
Astoria, New York

Dong Suk Lee
Seoul, South Korea

Harry Rayner
Los Angeles, California

Violin II

Yuna Jo, principal
Seoul, South Korea

Elizabeth Beck
Oil City, Louisiana

Yunjung Ko
Seoul, South Korea

Eliane Menzel
Zetel, Germany

Clara Hong Ju Jeon
Daejon, South Korea

Eunyoung Kim
Seoul, South Korea

TaTan Huang
Tainan, Taiwan

Basil Alter
Clinton, South Carolina

Shiqi Luo
Shanghai, China

Youngsoo Jang
Seoul, South Korea

Guan Gui
Wuhan, Hubei, China

Viola

Joshua Gomberoff,
principal
*Vancouver, British
Columbia, Canada*

Mookun Jang
Busan, South Korea

Christine Wu
Plano, Texas

Hao-yuan Hsu
New Taipei City, Taiwan

Toby Winarto
Los Angeles, California

Ruisi Doris Du
Wuhan, Hubei, China

Myeonghoon Park
Seoul, South Korea

Kiley Rowe
Goshen, New York

Cello

Esther Seitz, principal
Edinburg, Texas

Magali Toy
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Caitriona Finnegan
Dublin, Ireland

Paul Moskalew
Muncie, Indiana

Hyeunji Lee
Seoul, South Korea

Li Pang
Shanghai, China

Jonathan Lin
San Diego, California

Georgia Bourderionnet
New Orleans, Louisiana

Marcie Kolacki
Phoenix, Arizona

Ni Yan
Beijing, China

Double Bass

Zachary Merkovsky,
principal
Dumont, New Jersey

Tyler Vittoria
Eden Prairie, Montana

Logan May
Lagrangeville, New York

Sienna George
Long Beach, California

John VanDuzer
Oakville, Ontario, Canada

Conor O'Hale
Millburn, New Jersey

Hanxiao Deng
Xiamen, Fujian, China

Flute*

Joanne Lee
*Manchester, UK and
Seoul, South Korea*

Francesca Leo
Pleasant Ridge, Michigan

Yuxi Yang
*Guangzhou, Guangdong,
China*

Oboe*

Andres Ayola
New York, New York

Ellen O'Neill
New York, New York

Rajan Panchal
Los Gatos, California

Clarinet*

Chao-Chih George Chen
Taipei, Taiwan

Juhyun Lee
Seoul, South Korea

KyoungMin Lee
Seoul, South Korea

Shogo Urahata
Tokyo, Japan

Bassoon*

Cheryl Fries
Red Creek, New York

Hunter Lorelli
Washington, D.C.

Pinghua Ren
Shanghai, China

Horn*

Torin J. Hallett
Oconomowoc, Wisconsin

Liana Hoffman
Coral Springs, Florida

Kevin Newton
South Boston, Virginia

Eli Pandolfi
St. Louis, Missouri

Emma Potter
Surprise, Arizona

Trumpet*

Changhyun Cha
Busan, South Korea

Imani Lenore Duhe
Atlanta, Georgia

Caleb Laidlaw
Bridgewater, New Jersey

Trombone*

Julia Dombroski
Ontario, New York

David Farrell
Geelong, Australia

Logan Reid
Orlando, Florida

Tuba

Brandon Cazden
*Shawnigan Lake, British
Columbia, Canada*

Timpani*

Hamza Able
Jacksonville, Florida

Arthur Dhuique-Mayer
Paris, France

Percussion*

Tae McLoughlin
South Orange, New Jersey

Cooper Martell
Delmar, New York

William Richards
Wheaton, Illinois

Madison Shake
Indianapolis, Indiana

Mitchell Vogel
Oviedo, Florida

Harp*

Dominique Moreno
Houston, Texas

Karen Tay
New York, New York

Piano and Celeste

Somin Kelsey Park
Busan, South Korea

*Wind, brass, timpani,
percussion and harp
seating rotated by piece.

Performers are listed
alphabetically within
each section.

Leonard Slatkin



Photo: Nico Rodamel

Internationally acclaimed conductor Leonard Slatkin is Music Director Laureate of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO), Directeur Musical Honoraire of the Orchestre National de Lyon (ONL), and Conductor Laureate of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He maintains a rigorous schedule of guest conducting throughout the world and is active as a composer, author, and educator. Slatkin has received six GRAMMY awards and 35 nominations. His latest recording is the world premiere of Alexander Kastalsky's *Requiem for Fallen Brothers* commemorating the 100th anniversary of the armistice ending World War I. Other recent Naxos releases include works by Saint-Saëns, Ravel, and Berlioz (with the ONL) and music by Copland, Rachmaninov, Borzova, McTee, and John Williams (with the DSO). In addition, he has recorded the complete Brahms, Beethoven, and Tchaikovsky symphonies with the DSO (available online as digital downloads). A recipient of the prestigious National Medal of Arts, Slatkin also holds the rank of Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor. He has received the Prix Charbonnier from the Federation of Alliances Françaises, Austria's Decoration of Honor in Silver, the League of American Orchestras' Gold Baton Award, and the 2013 ASCAP Deems Taylor Special Recognition Award for his debut book, *Conducting Business*. A second volume, *Leading Tones: Reflections on Music, Musicians, and the Music Industry*, was published by Amadeus Press in 2017. His latest book, *Classical Crossroads: The Path Forward for Music in the 21st Century* (2021), is available through Rowman & Littlefield. Slatkin has conducted virtually all the leading orchestras in the world. As Music Director, he has held posts in New Orleans; St. Louis; Washington, DC; London (with the BBC Symphony Orchestra); Detroit; and Lyon, France. He has also served as Principal Guest Conductor in Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and Cleveland.

www.leonardslatkin.com

The composer Modest Altschuler was a cousin of Leonard Slatkin's grandfather. Although the origins of his *Russian Soldier's Song* remain unknown, it became a hotbed of controversy when Altschuler tried to sue Walt Disney for copyright infringement, claiming the song *Whistle While You Work* was stolen from the little march. This piece was among the very first recordings made by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, where Leonard Slatkin would become music director 80 years later. The album *Slatkin Conducts Slatkin* is available on Naxos 8.574352.

Modest
ALTSCHULER
(1873–1963)

1 **Russian Soldier's Song** (1917)

1:11

Manhattan School of Music Symphony Orchestra
Leonard Slatkin

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Mastering: Silas Brown • Booklet notes: Leonard Slatkin

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