

 **JRC Lectures Series** 
Presents

KARL MIDDLEMAN

**PART 1: Leonard Bernstein – American
Idol/American Idealist and Passionate Jew**

Wednesday, July 24, 2024

at 2 p.m. in the PAC

Beginning in the 1940's Leonard Bernstein reigned as America's idol, the most charismatic presence in American arts. He was an idealist and adventurous spirit with lots of Mahler and mayhem in his life. Whether writing for the Broadway theater or the concert stage Lenny's music and performances electrified audiences like nothing else. We'll learn what made him tick, throb, and grab at America's heartstrings.

Of all the leading American musicians of his generation Leonard Bernstein most embodied Jewish values. The son of Russian emigrants, he grew up loving the religious life at Temple Mishkan Tefila in Boston. He later attributed his childhood music experiences there as being among the most important influences of his life. As an adult he spoke widely from synagogue pulpits on matters of freedom and ethics. He supported innumerable Jewish causes both with financial gifts and powerful advocacy. A frequent visitor to Israel, while still in his 20's he became the favorite conductor of what was then the Palestine Philharmonic. Well-rounded and impressively read, he brought a spirit of inquiry – call it Talmudic wisdom – to his conducting. Now, more than a century past his birth, the art and life of Leonard Bernstein are explained in connection with his Judaism. Maestro Karl Middleman's thoughtful commentary and rare video recordings will shed new light and enjoyment on America's greatest musician.

Karl Middleman

Karl Middleman returns to the JRC for another presentation. As both conductor and educator, Karl Middleman has been hailed for the easy way he mixes scholarship with showmanship. And versatility. He is equally at home with Hart and Hammerstein as he is with Handel and Haydn. Karl has lectured for the Philadelphia Orchestra over 50 times and has received awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pew Center for Arts and Heritage, and the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. He has taught for many years at Temple University, the Chautauqua Festival Summer Institute and Pendle Hill Learning Center where he leads workshops on music and personal growth. His presentations on Leonard Bernstein for the Pennsylvania Humanities Council were broadcast on National Public Radio.



EVERYONE IS WELCOME!!

**Your free-will donation benefits the
Resident Benevolent Care Fund**