

*H*e was a man with a golden heart and a golden voice. To those who knew him, Leibale Heschel was a true inspiration. A man of immense talent, he was also a true ba'al middos. Born in Argentina, he moved to Israel with his parents as a young child. At an early age, it became clear that Leibale had a most extraordinary voice.

Leibale's first album was recorded in Israel and named "Moh Oshiv LaHashem". The songs were written by Wolfson and arranged by Laufer. It became an immediate success and catapulted Leibale into a superstar in the Jewish music world. Afterwards two more albums were released "Ad Bli Day" and "Me Tal Hashomayim". Recently, he was asked to perform as cantor at the Riverdale Jewish Center. The congregants there were stunned by his lovely singing and he soon developed a strong and dedicated following in that area.

Leibale had one of those rare voices that can only be described as breathtaking. When he sang, people were taken in by the beauty of the songs, enveloped in the warmth of his voice. All who listened were drawn by the mystique, as if overcome by its subtle allure. Such was the power of his music, so pleasant his

Shimon Kugel Remembering LEIBALE HASCHEL



Leibale Heschel 771

song, that it made a great impression on all those who listened, bringing tears to your eyes.

The legacy of Leibale Heschel grew beyond his voice. He knew that his talents were a special gift from Hashem and he was more than willing to use this gift to help those less fortunate. He was an enormous ba'al chesed with a true heart of gold. Often approached to sing for charity, he would gladly volunteer to lend his G-d-given talents and perform for the benefit of the needy.

About one year ago, Leibale was tragically taken from us, and has left a void which can never be filled. The Jewish music world has lost a giant in his field. Leibale is survived by two precious young children. Hopefully, they will find a way to continue in his footsteps and develop into truly unique and devoted members of k'lal Yisrael. Those of us who knew Leibale personally as well as those who enjoyed his music will sorely miss him. We look forward to the coming of Moshiach when we can all be reunited and can once again enjoy the beautiful music of this very special man with the golden heart and the golden voice..

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Purim Issue

BE IN IT!