

Program Notes for *Oh, Chanukah/Y'mei hachanukah*

The more familiar version of the first line of English text reads: "Oh Chanukah, oh Chanukah, come light the menorah." Technically, the menorah is different from the candelabrum used for Chanukah. The correct term for a Chanukah candelabrum is "chanukiah" as reflected in the words of this setting.

Sevonim are spinning tops, or *dreidls*. *Levivot* are the traditional potato pancakes that are served during Chanukah.

The Text

Chanukah, Oh, Chanukah, come light the chanukiah,
retelling the victory of Judus Maccabeus.
And so we gather 'round the table to share in a treat,
sevonim to play with, *levivot* to eat.
And while we play, the candles are burning low.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light
to remind us of days long ago.

Y'mei hachanukah:
chanukat mikdasheinu.
B'gil uv'simcha m'malim libeinu.
Lailah vayom s'vivoneinu yisov;
sufganiyot nochal bam larov.
Hairu, hadliku neirot Chanukah rabim.
Al hanisim, v'al haniflaot
asher chol'lu Maccabim.

*These are the days of Chanukah:
(we recall) that our altar was rededicated.
Joy and happiness fill our hearts.
Night and day our dreidls twirl;
there are jelly doughnuts, just for us.
Lighting, igniting the Chanukah candles all in a row.
For the wondrous acts and for the miracles
that You wrought through the Maccabees.*

Transliteration by Robert Applebaum

English translation by Robert Applebaum

Text based on *Y'mey Hachanukah*, words by E. Guthmann from
The Songs We Sing, edited by Harry Coopersmith, published by the
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(with Piano) | 8439 |

Pronunciation Guide

The system employed in this setting is as follows:

“a”	as in “papa”
“ah”	(at the ends of words) as in “father”
“ai”	as in “aisle”
“e”	as in “get”
“eh”	(at the ends of words) as in “get”
“lei”	as in “vein”
“i”	as in “machine”
“o”	as in “pole”
“oi”	as in “boil”
“u”	as in “rule”
“g”	as in “get” (hard “g”)
“ch”	as in the Scottish “loch” or German “ach”

Robert Applebaum (b. 1941)

For biographical information visit:
www.bobapplebaum.com

The set *Three Pieces for Chanukah* was composed for Greg Skalinder and the Coriolis Ensemble, Evanston, IL.

Three Pieces for Chanukah

1. Oh, Chanukah/Y'mei hachanukah

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

English words by E. Guthmann
Hebrew words by A. Evronim
R. A., alt.

Traditional Jewish folk tune
Robert Applebaum, arr.

With light cheerfulness ♩ = 104

sfz f

Soprano
Oh, Cha-nu-kah, oh, Cha-nu-kah, come

sfz mp *f*

Alto
Oh!

sfz mf *f*

Tenor
Oh, Cha-nu-kah, oh, Cha-nu-kah, come

f

Bass
Oh, it's Cha - nu-kah!

With light cheerfulness ♩ = 104

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

Text based on words from *Y'mei Hachanukah*, from
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6

mp light the cha-nu-ki - ah, *mf* re-

mp 3 La la la la la la la.

mp light the cha-nu-ki - ah, *mf* re-

mp La la la la la la la.

10

tell - ing the vic-to-ry of Ju - das Mac-ca-be - us.

mf ...tell - ing the vic-to-ry of Ju-das Mac-ca-be - us. *mp* Ah, _____

tell - ing the vic-to-ry of Ju - das Mac-ca-be - us. *mp* Ah, _____

mf ...tell - ing the vic-to-ry of Ju-das Mac-ca-be - us. *mp* La la la la la la la la la la

14 *mf*

And so we gath - er 'round the ta - ble to share in a treat, - se - vo -

ah, _____ la la _____ la la _____

ah, _____ la la _____ la la _____

la la la la _____ la la _____ la la share in a treat, -

17 *(mf)*

nim _____ to play with, le - vi - vot _____ to eat. _____ we play, _____ and while,

la la _____ la la _____ la la _____ we play, and while,

la la _____ la la _____ la la _____ we play, and while,

la la _____ la la le - vi - vot _____ to eat. _____ And while we play, and

21

mp

while we play, and while we play, the can-dles are burn - ing low.

mp

while we play, and while we play, — oo, can - dles are burn-ing low. —

mp

oo, — burn - ing low.

mp

while we play, and while we play, can - dles burn - ing low, the

25

p,

p,

p,

p, *mp*

can-dles are burn-ing low. — One for each night, they shed a sweet light, sweet light,

29

mf One — for each night,
mp One for each night, *mf* shed a sweet light, — sweet light, one for each night,
mp one for each night, *mf* they shed a sweet light, — sweet light, one for each night, they

32

f shed the sweet-est light, *f* one — for each night, *f* shed the sweet-est light,
f shed a sweet light, — sweet light, *f* one for each night, *f* shed a sweet light, — sweet light,
f One for each night, *f* shed a sweet light,
f shed a sweet light, — sweet light, *f* one for each night, they shed a sweet light, — sweet light,

35

mf one for each night, ...mind us of days long a - go. *dim.*

mf one for each night, ...mind us of days long a - go. *dim.*

mf They shed a light_ to re - mind us of days long a - go. *dim.*

mf They shed a light_ to re - mind us of days long a - go. *dim.*

39

p, mf One for each night, shed a sweet light, ah, *mp*

p, mf One_ for each night, shed-ding a sweet light, ah, *mp*

p, mf One for each night, shed a sweet light, ah, *mp*

p, mf Ah, *mf* to re - mind us of days long a -

43 *(dim.)* *p*
days — of long a - go. —
(dim.) *p*
ah, days — of long a - go. —
(dim.) *p* *mp*
8 days long a - go, days of long a - go. La la la la la la
(dim.) *p* *mp*
go, — long a - go. — La la la la la la

48 *mp*
La la — la la.
mp
La la — la la.
mf
8 la la la la — la la la la la la la la la la. — Y' -
mf
la la la la — la la la la la la la la la la. — Y' -

51

La la la la la la la la. —

mei ha - cha - nu - kah: cha - nu - kat — mik - da - shei - nu.

mei ha - cha - nu - kah: cha - nu - kat — mik - da - shei - nu.

54

La la la la la la la la. —

B' - gil uv'-sim-cha m'-ma - lim — li - bei - nu. —

B' - gil uv'-sim-cha m'-ma - lim — li - bei - nu. —

58

mf

B'gil - uv' - sim - cha _____ m' - ma - lim - li - bei - nu. La la la la la la la la la la la la.

mf

Oo. _____ La la la la la la.

mp *mf*

La la.

mp *mf*

La la.

62

mp

Oo. _____

mp

Oo, _____ no - chal bam la - rov. _

(mf)

Lai - lah va-yom s'vi - vo - nei - nu yi-sov; suf - ga - ni-yot no - chal bam la - rov. _

(mf)

Lai - lah va-yom s'vi - vo - nei - nu yi-sov; suf - ga - ni-yot no - chal bam la - rov. _

66

f Lai - lah va-yom s'vi-vo - nei - nu yi-sov; oh, suf - ga-ni-yot no-chal bam — la-rov.

f Lai - lah va - yom s'vi-vo - nei - nu yi - sov; — no - chal — bam — la-rov.

(mf) Ah, ————— ah. ————— Ha-
(mf) Ah, ————— ah. ————— Ha-

70

f Ha - i - ru, ————— had-li - ku ————— nei-rot — ra - bim. _

f Ha - i - ru, ————— had-li - ku ————— nei-rot — ra - bim. _

f i - ru, ————— had - li - ku ————— nei - rot Cha-nu-kah ra - bim. —————

i - ru, ————— had - li - ku ————— nei - rot Cha-nu-kah ra - bim. —————

74 *mp* *rit.*

Al ha-ni-sim, v' - al ha-nif-la-ot, a - sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim.

Al ha-ni-sim, v' - al ha-nif-la-ot, a - sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim.

Al ha-ni - sim, v' - al ha-nif-la-ot, a - sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim.

Al ha-ni-sim, v' - al ha-nif-la-ot, a - sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca-bim.

78 *a tempo* *f* *div.*

Al ha-ni-sim, v' - al ha-nif-la-ot, a - sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim.

Al ha-ni-sim, v' - al ha-nif-la-ot, a - sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim.

Al ha-ni-sim, v' - al ha-nif-la-ot, a - sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim.

a tempo ha - ni - sim, nif - la - ot, Mac - ca - bim.

82

mp Cha - nu - kah, *mf* Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah!

mf 3 La la la la la la la la.

mp Cha - nu - kah!

unis. mp Cha - nu - kah!

85

poco rit. *mp*

mp

mf *mp*

La la la la la la la la la la la la la la.

mf *mp*

La la la la la la la.

div.

poco rit.

1999
3:15