

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 neirov Chanukah rabim.

Al hanisim, v'al haniflaot

asher chol'lu Maccabim.

Transliteration 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
United Synagogue Commission on Jewish Education in 1950.

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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.

English translation by Robert Applebaum

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"

Available Editions

SATB Chorus

1. Oh, Chanukah/Y'mei hachanukah	5902
2. Maoz tzur	5903
3. Funky Dreidl (I Had a Little Dreidl)	5904

SSAA Chorus

1. Oh, Chanukah/Y'mei hachanukah	8437
2. Maoz tzur	8438
3. Funky Dreidl (I Had a Little Dreidl)	8439

(with Piano)

Robert Applebaum (b. 1941)

For biographical information visit:
www.bobapplebaum.com

The set *Three Pieces for Chanukah* (SATB) was composed for Greg Skalinder and the Coriolis Ensemble, Evanston, IL.
The SSAA version was arranged for Rob Keene and the Williamsburg Women's Chorus, Williamsburg, VA.

Three Pieces for Chanukah

1. Oh, Chanukah/Y'mei hachanukah

for SSAA 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 mf

Soprano 1
Oh, oh,

sfz mp *sfz mf*

Soprano 2
Oh, oh, oh,

sfz mf *f*

Alto 1
Oh, oh, it's Cha - nu - kah! —

f

Alto 2
Oh, it's Cha - nu-kah!

With light cheerfulness ♩ = 104

Keyboard
(for rehearsal only)

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5 *f* *mp*

Cha-nu-kah, oh, Cha-nu-kah, come light the cha-nu-ki - ah, _____

f *mp*

Cha-nu-kah, oh, Cha-nu-kah, come light the cha-nu-ki - ah, _____

mp 3

La la la la la la la la. _____

mf *mp*

Cha - nu - kah come light the cha-nu-ki - ah, _____

8 *mf*

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

mf

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

La la la la la la la la. _____

12

mp Ah, _____ ah,

mf And so we

mp Ah, _____ ah,

mp La la la la la la la la la la la la la la

15

ah, la la _____ la la _____ la

gath-er 'round the ta-ble to share in a treat, _ se - vo - nim _____ to play with, _ le - vi -

ah, la la _____ la la, _____ le - vi -

ah, _____ share in a treat, _ la la _____ la la le - vi -

18 *mf*
 la la. — we play, — and while, while we play, and while we play
,mf
 vot — to eat. — And while, we play, and while we play, and while we play the
mf
 vot to eat. — we play, and while, while we play, and while we play
mf *mp*
 vot — to eat. — we play, and while, oo, —

23 *mp* *p*
 can - dles burn low. —
mp *p*
 can-dles are burn-ing low. —
mp *mf* *p*
 can - dles burn-ing low, the can-dles are burn-ing low. —
mf *mp* *p*
 oo. can - dles are burn-ng low. —

27

mp One for each night.

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

30

mf One for each night, shed a sweet light,

mf shed a sweet light, sweet light, one for each night, shed a sweet light, sweet light,

mf shed a sweet light, sweet light, one for each night. they shed a sweet light, sweet light,

33 *f*

One for each night, shed a sweet light

f one — for each night, shed a sweet light, sweet, *mf* one for each night,

f one for each night, shed a sweet light, — sweet light

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

36 *mf* *mp*

...mind us of days long a - go. —

mf *mp*

they shed a light to re - mind us of days long a - go. —

mf *mp*

...mind us of days long a - go. —

mf *mp*

they shed a light to re - mind us of days long a - go. —

40

One for each night, shed a sweet light, ah, _____

One for each night, shed a sweet light, ah, _____

one_ for each night, shed-ding a sweet light to re-mind us of days long a -

Ah, _____ ah, _____

43

days_ of long a - go. _____

ah, days_ of long, long a - go. _____

go. _____ long a - go. _____

days_ of long a - go. _____

47

(mp)

La la _____ la la.

(mp) *mf*

La la _____ la la. Y'-

(mp)

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

(mp) *mf*

La la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la. Y'-

51

mp

mei ha-cha-nu-kah: cha-nu - kat ³ mik-da-shei - nu. _____

mf ³

La la la la la la la la. _____

mp

mei ha-cha-nu-kah: cha-nu - kat ³ mik-da-shei - nu. _____

54

mf

La la la la la la la la. _____

mf

B' - gil uv-sim-cha m'-ma - lim ³ li bei - nu.

mp

mf

B' - gil uv-sim-cha m'-ma - lim ³ 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.

mp

mf

La la. _____

mf

Oo. _____ La la la la la la.

mf

La la. _____

62 *mp*

Oo. _____

(mf)

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

mp

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

mf

suf - ga-ni-yot no - chal bam la-rov. _

66 *mf*

Lai - lah va-yom s'vi-vo - nei - nu yi-sov; oh, suf - ga-ni-yot no - chal _

mp

Ah, _____ ah. _____

mf

Lai - lah va - yom s'vi-vo - nei - nu yi - sov; _ no - chal _

mp

Ah, _____ ah. _____

69

f

bam — la - rov. Ha - i - ru, — had - li - ku —

f

— Ha - i - ru, — had - li - ku —

f

bam — la - rov. Ha - i - ru, — had - li - ku — nei - rot Cha - nu - kah ra -

f

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

73

mp

nei - rot — ra - bim. — Al ha - ni - sim, v' - al ha - nif - la - ot, a -

mp

nei - rot — ra - bim. — Al ha - ni - sim, v' - al ha - nif - la - ot, a -

mp

bim. — Al ha - ni - sim, v' - al ha - nif - la - ot, a -

mp

bim — Al ha - ni - sim, — v' - al ha - nif - la - ot, a -

rit. *a tempo*

76

f

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

f *unis.*

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

f

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

f

sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim. _____ ha - ni - sim, _____ nif - la - ot,

a tempo

80

mp *mf*

sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim. _____ Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah! _

mp

sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim. _____ Cha - nu - kah! _____

mp

sher cho-l' - lu Mac-ca - bim. _____ Cha - nu - kah! _____

div.

Ah, Mac - ca - bim.

84

mf

poco rit.

mp

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

mp

mf

mp

La la la la la.

mf unis.

3

div.

mp

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

poco rit.

3

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 Review