

Program Notes for *Maoz tzur*

The text for *Maoz Tzur* used here is the first of six Hebrew verses. Only the fifth verse is specific to the events surrounding Chanukah. The verses detail instances wherein the Jewish people were subjected to and released from oppression: the slavery in Egypt and the Exodus, the Babylonian exile for seventy years, the oppressive edicts of Haman and his eventual downfall and, finally, the defilement of the temple by the Greeks and its eventual rededication. The first letters of the words of the verses give a clue to the author of the text, spelling out the name “Mordechai.”

Maoz tzur, y'shuati,
l'cha naeh l'shabeiach.
Tikon beit t'filati
v'sham todah n'zabeiach.
L'eit tachin matbeiach mitzor hamnabeiach,
az egmor b'shir mizmor
chanukat hamizbeiach.

Transliteration by Robert Applebaum

The Text

*O, mighty Rock of my deliverance,
How right it is to praise You.
You will restore my House of Prayer,
And there I will offer thanks to You.
When You will have defeated the forces of evil,
Gratefully, in song and psalm,
I will rededicate the Altar.*

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”
“ei”	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) (with Piano)	8439

Robert Applebaum (b. 1941)

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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

2. Maoz tzur

for SSAA Chorus unaccompanied

Traditional Hebrew folk song

Robert Applebaum, arr.

Maestoso e legato ♩ = 108

Soprano 1 *mf* Ma - oz -

Soprano 2 *mf* Ma-oz tzur, ma - oz tzur, ma - oz -

Alto 1 *mf* Ma-oz tzur, ma - oz, *mp*

Alto 2 *mf* Ma - oz tzur, *mp*

Maestoso e legato ♩ = 108

Keyboard (for rehearsal only)

5

mp *mf* *mp*

tzur, ma-oz tzur y' - shu - a - ti, _____

mp *mf*

tzur, _____ L'cha na - eh - l' - sha - bei - ach.

mf

_____ L'cha na - eh - l' - sha - bei - ach

mf *mp* *mf*

ma-oz tzur, _____ L'cha na - eh - l' - sha - bei - ach.

10

mf

_____ Ti - kon beit t' - fi - la - ti _____

mp

Ti - kon - beit t' - fi - - la - ti v' -

mp

Ti - kon - beit t' - fi - - la - ti v' -

mp

Ti - kon - beit t' - fi - - la - ti v' -

14 *(mf)*

p

v'sham to - dah_ n' - za - bei - ach. Ma - oz tzur. _

mf *p*

sham_ to - dah n' - za - bei - ach. Ma - oz tzur. _

mf *p*

sham_ to - dah n' - za - bei - ach. Ma oz tzur. _

mf *p*

sham_ to - dah n' - za - bei - ach Ma - oz tzur. _

17 *mp* *mf*

Ah, mi-tzor ham-na - bei - - ach,

mf *mf* *mp*

L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach mi - tzor ham-na - bei - ach,

mf

L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach mi-tzor ham - na - bei - - ach,

mf

L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach mi - tzor ham-na - bei - - ach,

In tempo

21 *p* Ah, _____ az _____ , *mf*

p Ah, _____ az _____ , *mf*

p Ah, _____ az _____ , *mf*

mf az eg - mor _____ b' - shir miz - mor _____ cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach,

In tempo

Piano accompaniment for measures 21-24, featuring a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

25 _____ eg - mor b' - shir miz - mor cha - nu - kat _____ ha - miz - bei - ach,

_____ eg - mor b' - shir miz - mor, _____ ha - miz - bei - ach,

_____ eg - mor ...shir _____ miz - mor, _____ ha - miz - bei - ach,

mf az eg - mor _____ ...shir miz - mor, _____ ha - miz - bei - ach,

Piano accompaniment for measures 25-28, including a key signature change to B-flat major and a time signature change to 6/4.

30 *mp* **In tempo** *f* *mp*

ha - miz-bei-ach. L' - cha - na - eh,

mp *f*

ha - miz-bei-ach. L' - cha - na - eh l' - sha -

mp *f*

ha - miz-bei-ach. Ma-oz tzur y' - shu-a-ti, l'cha na - eh l' - sha -

mp *f* *mp*

ha - miz-bei-ach. Ma-oz tzur y' - shu-a- ti, ah.

In tempo

34 *f* *mf*

t' - fi - la - ti v' - sham,

mf *f*

bei - ach. Ma-oz tzur. t' - fi - la - ti v' - sham to - dah n' - za -

mf *f* *mf*

bei - ach. Ma-oz tzur. Ti - kon beit t' - fi - la - ti ...sham,

f *mf*

Ti - kon beit t' - fi - la - ti ...sham,

38 *mp*,

Ma - oz _____ tzur. _____

mp,

bei - ach. Ma-oz tzur, ma-oz tzur, _____ ma - oz tzur.

mp,

Ma - oz _____ tzur, _____ ma - oz _____ tzur.

mp,

Ma - oz _____ tzur, _____ ma - oz _____ tzur.

42 **In tempo** *mf*

L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach mi-tzor ham-na -

mf

L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach, ah, _____ ham - na -

mf

mat - - bei - ach - mi - tzor ham - na -

mf

L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach, ah, ham - na -

In tempo

poco rit.

Slightly slower ♩ = 100

46 *mp* *(mp)*

bei - ach, ah, ah, ah,

mp *mf*

bei - ach, ah, az eg - mor b'shir miz - mor

mp *(mp)*

bei - ach, ham - na - bei - ach, Ah, ah,

mp *(mp)*

bei - ach, ham - na - bei - ach, Ah, ah,

Slightly slower ♩ = 100

poco rit.

50 *mf* *f* *> mp*

cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach, az eg - mor ...shir miz - mor,

(mf) *f* *> mf*

cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach, az eg - mor, eg - mor ...shir miz - mor

mf *f* *> mp*

cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach, az eg - mor b' - shir miz - mor,

mf *f* *> mf*

cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach, az eg - mor ...shir miz - mor

54 *p*, **Tranquillo**

Ah, _____

cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach. Ah, _____

Ah, _____ ah, _____

cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach. **Tranquillo**

57 *mp* *rit.* *div.* *p*

ah, _____ ah, _____ Ma - oz tzur. *p*

mp ah, _____ ah, _____ Ma - oz tzur. *p*

mp ah, _____ ah, _____ Ma - oz tzur. *p*

mp Ah, _____ ah, _____ Ma - oz tzur. *p*

rit.