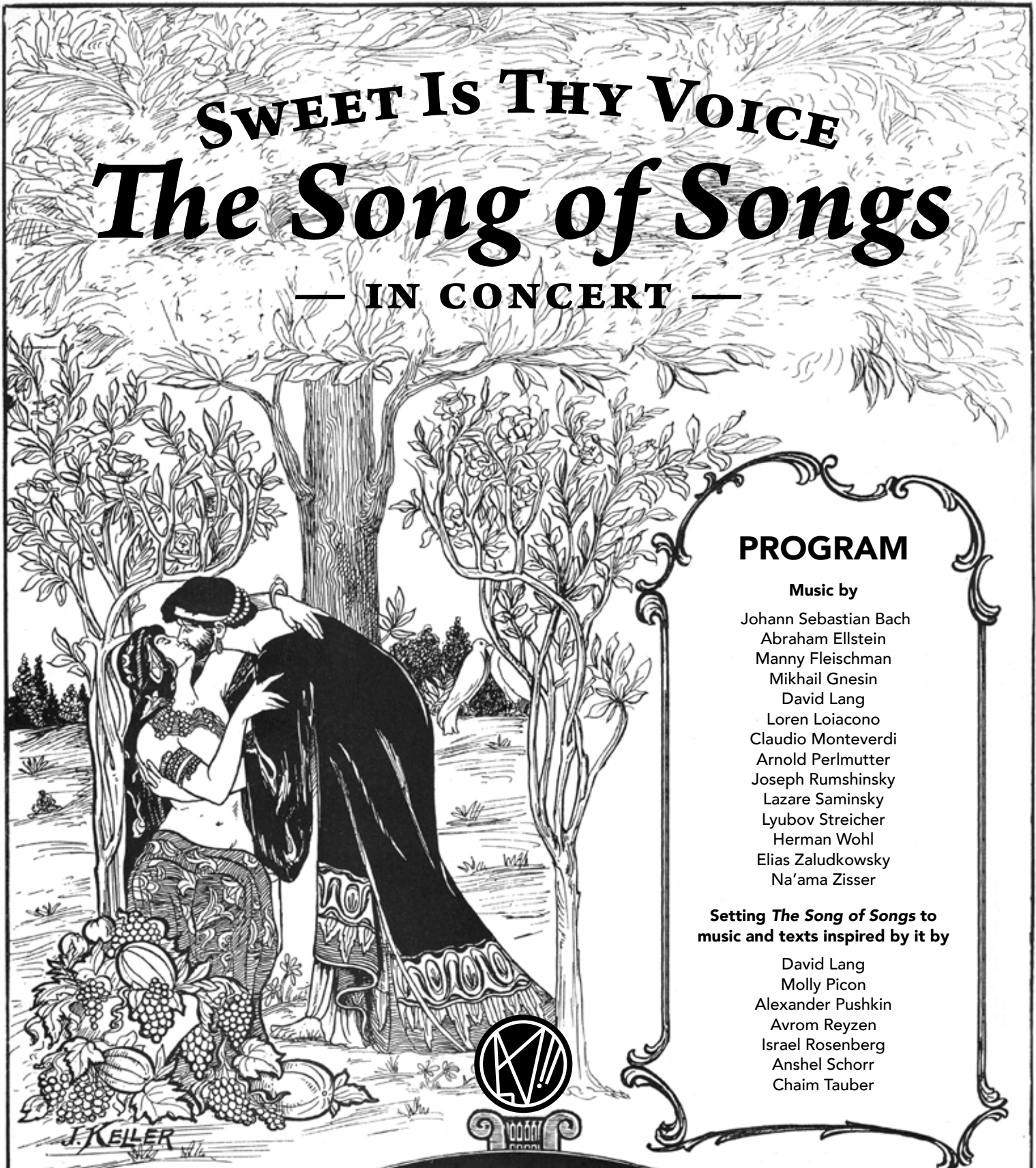


# SWEET IS THY VOICE

# *The Song of Songs*

— IN CONCERT —



## PROGRAM

### Music by

Johann Sebastian Bach  
Abraham Ellstein  
Manny Fleischman  
Mikhail Gnesin  
David Lang  
Loren Loiacono  
Claudio Monteverdi  
Arnold Perlmutter  
Joseph Rumshinsky  
Lazare Saminsky  
Lyubov Streicher  
Herman Wohl  
Elias Zaludkowsky  
Na'ama Zisser

### Setting *The Song of Songs* to music and texts inspired by it by

David Lang  
Molly Picon  
Alexander Pushkin  
Avrom Reyzen  
Israel Rosenberg  
Anshel Schorr  
Chaim Tauber



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

December 6, 2018

15 W 16<sup>th</sup> St, NYC

SIDNEY KRUM  
YOUNG ARTISTS  
CONCERT SERIES

# **Sweet Is Thy Voice: *The Song of Songs* in Concert**

SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES

— December 6, 2018 · 7:00pm —

*The Sidney Krum Young Artists Concert Series is made possible by  
a generous gift from the Estate of Sidney Krum.*

*This program is supported, in part, by public funds from the New York City  
Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the City Council.*



*Singers, LUCY FITZ GIBBON, MARIE MARQUIS,  
KRISTIN GORNSTEIN, and JONATHAN WOODY*

*Piano, MIKI SAWADA*

*Violin, MATHEUS SOUZA*

*Viola, COLIN BROOKES*

*Cello, CLARE MONFREDO*

*Percussion, IAN ROSENBAUM*

## **A Note on Yiddish Dialects**

All Yiddish texts have been changed to reflect YIVO's standardized *klal-yidish*. These changes have been made to make the texts easier to use for the modern reader unfamiliar with Yiddish dialect variations and anachronistic spellings. Those curious about this extra layer of nuance in the original songs are encouraged to look at the original scores, all of which are available in YIVO's archival collection RG 112.

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Cover image adapted from the Hebrew Publishing Co. edition of *Shir hashirim – Song of Love: A Musical Operetta* (1911) by Joseph Rumshinsky with words by Anshel Schorr. The original cover was modeled after an Ephraim Moses Lilien illustration of the Song of Songs.

# PROGRAM

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## **Wann kommst du, mein Heil?** [German] (1731)

from *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*

JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (1685-1750)

## **The Song of Songs** [Russian] (1914)

from *Second Hebrew Song Cycle, Op. 13*

Music by LAZARE SAMINSKY (1882-1959)

Words by ALEXANDER PUSHKIN (1799-1837)

## **From "shir hashirim"** [Yiddish] (1914)

פֿון „שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים“

LYUBOV STREICHER (1887-?)

## **lovesick** [Hebrew] (2018) חֹלֵת אֶהְבָּה\*

after the song of songs (5:2-6)

NA'AMA ZISSER (b. 1988)

## **Shir Hashirim: King Solomon's Song of Songs** [Yiddish] (1908)

from "The Widow" די אלמנה

Music by ARNOLD PERLMUTTER (1859-1953)

and HERMAN WOHL (1877-1936)

Words by ANSHEL SCHORR (1871-1942)

## **Dos Lid Der Libe and Pitselekh Kinderlekh** [Yiddish] (1911)

דאָס ליד דער ליבע און פּיצעלעך קינדערלעך

from *Shir hashirim: Song of Love, A Musical Operetta*

Music by JOSEPH RUMSHINSKY (1881-1956)

Words by ANSHEL SCHORR (1871-1942)

## **Shir Hashirim** [Hebrew] (1926)

from *6 Songs of the Russian Orient, Op. 28*

LAZARE SAMINSKY (1882-1959)

## **Shir Hashirim** [Yiddish] (1926)

from *Five Folk-Songs*

Music by ELIAS ZALUDKOWSKY (1888-1943)

Words by AVROM REYZEN (1876-1953)

## **Aus Dem Hohen Lied (Shir Hashirim)**

[Hebrew] (1927)

from *Hebrew Songs Op. 37*

MIKHAIL GNESIN (1883-1957)

## **Sought, Wanted, Longed For** [English] (2018)\*

LOREN LOIACONO (b. 1989)

## **Shir Hashirim: Song of Love** [Yiddish] (1929)

from "The Galician Rebetsin" די גאַליציאַנער רביצין

Music by HERMAN WOHL (1877-1936)

Words by ISRAEL ROSENBERG (1895-1963)

## **Shir Hashirim: The Song of Love** [Yiddish] (1937)

from "The Rabbi's Sweetheart" דעם רבינ'ס געליבטע

Music by MANNY FLEISCHMAN (1903/8-1963)

Words by CHAIM TAUBER (1901-1972)

## **I Sing** [Yiddish] (1939) איך זינג

from "Mamele" מאַמעלע

Music by ABRAHAM ELLSTEIN (1907-1963)

Words by MOLLY PICON (1898-1992)

## **Aria (Song of Songs)** [Hebrew] (1932)

from "The Pioneers" החלוץ

Music by JACOB WEINBERG (1879-1956)

## **Pulchra Es** [Latin] (1610)

CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI (1567-1643)

## **just (after song of songs)** [English] (2014)

DAVID LANG (b. 1957)

\*World Premiere

# INTRODUCTION

BY ALEX WEISER



Sh. Weil

„שיר השירים דאָס איז אַ ליבעס ליד דאָס  
האָט געזונגען אונדזער שלמהלע. געטלעך  
שײן ביסטו נאָר אַליין האָט געזונגען שלמה.“

“Shir hashirim is a love song  
that our little Solomon sang.  
You alone are divine and  
beautiful, sang Solomon.”

—*Shir Hashirim: King Solomon's Song of Songs* in  
*Di almone* “The Widow” (1908)

When Anshel Schorr wrote the lyrics for a love song between Kalman Juvelier and Regina Prager, stars of the 1908 Kalich Theater production *Di almone* “The Widow,” with music by the composing duo Perlmutter and Wohl, he looked to his traditional Jewish education, and started the song off with a nod to שיר השירים *Shir hashirim*, The Song of Songs. The show was a great success, and a few years later Schorr turned again to *Shir hashirim*, writing an entire operetta with composer Joseph Rumshinsky called “*Shir hashirim: Song of Love*” (1911); an even bigger success that would be adapted into a film in 1935.

Schorr’s invocation of *Shir hashirim* here is far from unique. Sholem Aleichem’s character Shimek from his story *Shir Hashirim* (1909-1911), is reminded of *Shir hashirim* when he looks at his friend Esther Libe, and fantasizes about wooing her with the words of the Song. Writing in Hebrew,

Chaim Nachman Bialik also references *Shir hashirim* in most of his love poetry; the Song has in fact been a source of inspiration for generations of Hebrew love poems.

„אמר רבי עקיבא... אין כל העולם כלו כדאי כיום שנתן  
בו שיר השירים לְיִשְׂרָאֵל, שְׁכַל הַכְּתוּבִים קִדְשׁ, וְשִׁיר  
הַשִּׁירִים קִדְשׁ קִדְשִׁים.“ —משנה ידים (ג:ה)

“Rabbi Akiva said ‘...nothing in the entire world is worthy but for that day on which *Shir hashirim* was given to Israel; for all the Scriptures are holy, but *Shir hashirim* is the Holy of Holies.’” —Mishna Yadayim (3:5)

The Song’s resonance as a symbol of love is clear, but from this perspective, its place in the Biblical canon is perhaps a bit curious.

Paradoxically, *Shir hashirim*, what Rabbi Akiva calls “the holy of holies,” is one of the only texts in the Hebrew Bible which has no mention of God. Rather, this ecstatic, erotic book, found within *ketuvim* writings, seems to take its place within the biblical canon as the ur-love poem, or rather a collection of love poems.

Its date of composition is not certain, but its language and vocabulary suggests creation during the Post-Exilic period, sometime in the 3rd Century BCE. While it bears an attribution to King Solomon, this is generally accepted by biblical scholars not to be literally true. Some believe the Song’s anonymous writer may have been a woman because the Song’s protagonist is a strong and individual woman. The Song also portrays a matriarchal world view referring

numerous times to *בֵּית אִמִּי beyt imi*, my mother's house, with no similar mention of a father's house, as is common elsewhere in the Hebrew Bible.

The little that we know about the origins of the Song notwithstanding, its original purpose and meaning remain elusive. Comparisons to other other ancient near Eastern texts support the notion that it is love poetry, perhaps meant for courtship, or recitation at weddings. Most of Rabbinic tradition, however, fervently denies this use of the Song.

„רבי עקיבה אומר המנענע קולו בשיר השירים בבית  
המשתה ועושה אותו כמין זמר אין לו חלק לעולם הבא—  
תוספתא סנהדרין (יב: ה)

“Rabbi Akiva said, he who warbles his voice in a performance of *Shir Hashirim* in banquet halls performing it in the manner of an ordinary song has no place in the world to come.” —Tosefta Sanhedrin (12:5)

The Song has thus been understood by Rabbinic Judaism as an allegory for love between the Jewish people (the female protagonist), and God (her lover). Similarly, Christian readings have read the Song as an allegory for the Church and Christ. The Kabbalistic tradition reads the Song as an allegory for the male and female components of God.

In many Jewish communities the Song is read on the Shabbat during Passover, connecting the Song's springtime setting with that of the story of the Exodus from Egypt. Echoes of the Song are also heard in the famous Friday evening prayer, *לכה דודי Lekha dodi* “Come, My Beloved,” which originated as a poem by the 16th century poet and kabbalist שלמה אלקבץ Shlomo Alkabetz. Some communities customarily recite the entire Song every Friday.

It is also not uncommon for excerpts of the Song to be recited at Jewish weddings, especially the famous line *אני לדודי ודודי לי Ani ledodi vedodi li*, I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine. The Song's use at weddings can be understood as stemming from its literal meaning—in contradistinction to Rabbi Akiva's warning—or perhaps as an allegory where the bride and groom's love is understood to be as holy as the Jewish People's love for God and as intense and embodied as the love of the lovers in *Shir hashirim*.

Rashi begins his commentary on the Song with an attempt to reconcile the unavoidable literal meaning of *Shir hashirim* with its allegorical interpretation.

„אחת דיבר אלהים, שתיים זו שמעתי (תהלים סב:יב).  
מקרא אחד יוצא לכמה טעמים, וסוף דבר אין לך מקרא  
יוצא מידי פשוטו ומשמעו.” רש"י על שיר השירים

“One thing God has spoken; two things have I heard:” (Psalms 62:12). One verse may have several meanings, but in the end the literal meaning may never be overlooked.” —Rashi, Commentary on *Shir hashirim*

With deep ambiguities and a rich history of reinterpretation, the Song has been a powerful source text that many have returned to for a connection to something ancient, and in many cases for a decidedly Jewish grounding that can be adapted to fit the needs of a particular time and place. It is exactly this that we see on display in myriad ways in the variety of musical readings of *Shir hashirim* on this program.

A listing for a performance of *Di almone* in 1908 in the Yiddish newspaper *Di varhayt* boasted that in this new operetta on the Yiddish stage, the audience would hear “*emes idishe muzik*,

*emes idishe handlung* "true Jewish music, true Jewish action." Similarly a flyer advertising the film *Shir Hashirim: A Love Story* in 1935 advertised, "The most beautiful 100 percent Jewish All-Talking Picture ever filmed." The songs from these shows as well as the other Yiddish theater songs on this program invoke *Shir hashirim* as a symbol of divine and true love. That this symbol also has a deep and ancient Jewish *yikhes* allows these songwriters to create a strong sense of Jewish particularism while writing songs that in many other ways serve a community rapidly acculturating into American society.



SHULAMIT. EPHRAIM MOSES LILIEN.

On the Yiddish stage this symbol probably originated in Avrom Goldfadn's old world 1880 operetta *Shulamis*, whose protagonist shares a name with the Shulamit of *Shir hashirim*. The connection is invoked by Avsholem, the male lead, to paint Shulamit's desirability as regal and historic.

For composers of the *Society for Jewish Folk Music*—an organization founded by Jewish students of the St. Petersburg conservatory in 1908 dedicated to cultivating a pointedly Jewish way to contribute to European Art Music—the Song similarly offered the ambiguity necessary to walk a fine line between the particularity of Jewish identity and the project of abstraction and universalism in European Art Music. The two works by Lazare Saminsky on this program exemplify some of the range of this musical project. One song, from a cycle utilizing melodies Saminsky collected visiting the Georgian Jewish community in the Caucasus, recreates a purportedly ancient folk rendition of *Shir hashirim*. The approach frames *Shir hashirim* through an ethnographic lens that can inspire classical compositions - a Jewish variant on the kind of work Hungarian composer and ethnomusicologist Béla

Bartók did. The other song, from Saminsky's Second Hebrew Song Cycle, sets a Russian Language poem by non-Jewish Russian poet Alexander Pushkin, framing the song as at once Jewish and Russian. Another interesting thing to note about this song, and the Mikhail Gnesin song on this program, is that they each come with singable translations in multiple languages (the Saminsky has Russian and English, and the Gnesin has Hebrew, Russian, and German) highlighting the multifaceted identities at the root of their musical projects.

The use of *Shir hashirim* as an important source text throughout history extends to many other contexts outside of this program that are nevertheless worthy of noting. In her book, *Agnon's Moonstruck Lovers: The Song of Songs in Israeli Culture*, Ilana Pardes offers a compelling account of *Shir hashirim* in Israeli society of the 1920s-1950s as an example of engaging with the Hebrew Bible through the lens of a new "biblical literalism." This 'literalism' however in fact introduces new allegories for reading the Hebrew Bible, and particularly for *Shir hashirim*, as an allegory for history or for the relationship between the Jewish people and the land of Israel.

*Shir hashirim* was an extremely popular text to set in Israel during the 20th century. In the realm of folk and popular settings Pardes compiles a list of over 100 songs during the 1930s-50s alone, and this doesn't include the many classical composers in Israel including Mordecai

Setzer, Mark Lavry, Mordecai Sandberg, Yizhak Sadai, Ami Ma'ayani, Noam Sheriff, Dov Selzer, and many others who wrote cantatas, oratorios, concertos, chamber music, and more inspired by this ancient Israelite poetry.

In our own times, composers and songwriters continue to turn to *Shir hashirim* for inspiration. In 2015, Jerusalemite Victoria Hanna released a new album of songs in an almost undefinable genre which she calls Kabbalistic Rap, overflowing with quotations from *Shir hashirim*. John Zorn's 2008 30-minute wordless *Shir hashirim* for 5 female voices brings the Song in another direction, also perhaps unlike any other in its long history: an ecstatic avant garde work, at times reminiscent of Morton Feldman's *3 Voices* (1985).

David Lang, whose *Just (after song of songs)* we will hear on this program, has turned to *Shir hashirim* twice, creating his own texts adapted from it. In *Just (after song of songs)* Lang's text extracts all that is attributed to one or both of the lovers into a new minimalist lyric which simply takes account of everything adding the attributions "just your", "and my", and "our." As simple and material as the resulting text is, it remains perplexing and inspiring when heard in dialogue with the traditional allegorical understanding of *Shir hashirim*.

*Shir hashirim*, in its multiplicity inhabiting fantasy and reality, dream and wakefulness, public and private, earthly and divine, continues to offer endless possibilities to its readers. ■

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#### ARCHIVAL SOURCES

YIVO Archives RG 112: Music

YIVO RG 37 Jewish Music Societies

# **Wann kommst du, mein Heil?**

**from Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme (Awake, the voice is calling us)**

MUSIC BY J.S. BACH

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## ORIGINAL GERMAN

(Dialog – Seele, Jesus)

Wann kömmst du, mein Heil?  
Ich komme, dein Teil.  
Ich warte mit brennenden Öle.  
Eröffne den Saal  
Ich öffne den Saal  
zum himmlischen Mahl  
Komm, Jesu.  
Ich komme, komm, liebliche Seele.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

(Dialogue – Soul, Jesus)

When will You come, my Savior?  
I come, as Your portion.  
I wait with burning oil  
Now open the hall  
I open the hall  
for the heavenly meal  
Come, Jesus!  
I come, come, lovely soul!

# **The Song of Songs**

**from Second Hebrew Song Cycle, Op. 13**

MUSIC BY LAZARE SAMINSKY · WORDS BY ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

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## ORIGINAL RUSSIAN

В крови горит огонь желанья,  
Душа тобой уязвлена,  
Лобзай меня: твои лобзанья  
Мне слаще мирра и вина.

Склонись ко мне главою нежной,  
И да почию безмятежный,  
Пока дохнёт весёлый день  
И двинется ночная тень.

## TRANSLITERATION

V'krovi gorit ogon zhelania,  
Duscha toboi uyazvlена,  
Lobzai mienia: tvoi lobzania  
mné slasche mirra I vina.

Sklonis ko mne glavou nezhnoi,  
I da pochiu bezmyatezhnii,  
Poka dochniot vesiolyi den  
I dvignetsa nochnaia ten.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

by Lillian Saminsky

My blood is burning with desire,  
my soul is seduced by thee;  
caress me, for thy lips on mine are sweeter than myrrh and wine,  
Thy lips on mine are sweeter than myrrh and wine!

O lean thy tender head upon my breast, that I may rest in  
thoughtless dreams, while now the joyous day expires and  
shadows of the night appear,  
and silent shadows of the night appear!



# From "The Song of Songs"

פֿון „שִׁיר הַשִּׁירִים” Fun "shir hashirim"

MUSIC BY LYUBOV STREICHER

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## TRANSLITERATION

Shtey zhe af, du shtiler vind,  
Kum fun dorem-zayt geshvind --  
In mayn gortn kum!  
Er vet frische peyres gebn,  
Zise reykhes veln shvebn  
In mayn gortn umetum.

Kum mayn libster in mayn gortn  
Zun un blumen vart undz dortn  
Gikher kum tsu mir.  
Kh'hob a shotn do a kaltn  
Kh'hob an epele bahaltn  
Kh'vel im shenken dir.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Stir, you silent wind,  
Come into my garden,  
From the south!  
It will yield fresh fruit,  
And sweet aromas will linger  
From all over my garden

Come, my dearest, into my garden  
Sun and flowers are waiting for us there  
Quickly come to me.  
I have cool shade here  
I hid an apple  
I'll give it to you.

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

שטיי זשע אויף, דו שטילער ווינד,  
קום פֿון דרום־זייט געשווינד --  
אין מיין גאַרטן קום!  
ער וועט פֿרישע פירות געבן,  
זיסע ריחות וועלן שוועבן  
אין מיין גאַרטן אומעטום.

קום מיין ליבסטער אין מיין גאַרטן  
זון און בלומען וואַרט אונדז דאָרטן  
גיכער קום צו מיר.  
כ'האַב אַ שאַטן דאָ אַ קאַלטן  
כ'האַב אַן עפעלע באַהאַלטן  
כ'וועל אים שענקען דיר.

# *lovesick* • חולת אֶהְבָּה

## after the song of songs (5:2-6)

MUSIC BY NA'AMA ZISSER

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### TRANSLITERATION

Ani yeshena ve-libi er, kol dodi dofek pitkhi li  
Patakhti ani le-dodi, ve-dodi khamak avar  
Nafshi yatsa'a  
Bikashtihu ve-lo matsati  
Karativ ve-lo anani  
Bikashtihu ve-lo matsati  
Nafshi yatsa'a  
Ani yeshena ve-libi er  
Kol dofek pitkhi

### ORIGINAL HEBREW

אָנִי יֵשְנָה, וְלִבִּי עֵר; קוֹל דּוֹדִי דּוֹפֵק, פְּתַח־לִי  
פְּתַחְתִּי אָנִי לְדוֹדִי, וְדוֹדִי חָמַק עָבַר  
נַפְשִׁי, יָצְאָה  
בִּקְשָׁתִי וְלֹא מָצָאתִי  
קָרָאתִי וְלֹא עָנָנִי  
נַפְשִׁי, יָצְאָה  
אָנִי יֵשְנָה, וְלִבִּי עֵר  
קוֹל דּוֹפֵק, פְּתַח־יִי

### ENGLISH TRANSLATION

I am asleep but my heart is awake. My loved one knocks 'Let me in'  
I opened the door, but he was gone. I sought, but couldn't find him;  
I called, but he did not answer. My heart sank.  
I am asleep but my heart is awake. My loved one knocks 'Let me in'

# Shir Hashirim: King Solomon's Song of Songs

די אלמנה "The Widow"

MUSIC BY ARNOLD PERLMUTTER & HERMAN WOHL · TEXT BY ANSHEL SCHORR

## TRANSLITERATION

Shir hashirim, dos iz a libes lid dos hot gezungen  
undzer shloymele.  
Getlekh sheyn bistu nor aleyh hot gezungen shloyme.  
Akh getlekh sheyn bistu aleyh net, mayne lipn  
Imer klingen; bist mayn, ikh bin dayn, azoy zol zayn  
Far undzer gantsn lebn.

Du geherst mir un ikh dir, mayne libe gib ikh dir;  
Yo nor du bist mir bashert, mayn harts nor tsu  
dir gehert.

Refren:

Emes du bist nor far mir,  
Geshafen bin ikh far dir,  
Shver ikh do heylik far dir,  
Du megst es gloybn mir.  
Emes, du bist nor far mir,  
Un ikh blayb nor far dir.  
Kush mikh mit dayn sheyner mund,  
Shtempl dayn libe bald atsind;  
Kush mikh mit dayn sheyner mund,  
Shtempl dayn libe bald atsind.

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

שיר השירים, דאָס איז אַ ליבעס ליד דאָס האָט געזונגען  
אונדזער שלמהלע.  
געטלעך שיין ביסטו נאָר אַליין האָט געזונגען שלמה.  
אַך געטלעך שיין ביסטו אַליין נעט, מיינע ליפן  
אימער קלינגען; ביסט מײן, איך בין דיין, אַזוי זאָל זײן  
פֿאַר אונדזער גאַנצן לעבן.

דו געהערסט מיר און איך דיר, מיינע ליבע גיב איך דיר;  
יָאָ נאָר דו ביסט מיר באַשערט, מײן האַרץ נאָר צו  
דיר געהערט.

רעפֿרען:

אמת דו ביסט נאָר פֿאַר מיר,  
געשאַפֿען בין איך פֿאַר דיר,  
שווער איך דאָ הייליק פֿאַר דיר,  
דו מעגסט עס גלויבן מיר.  
אמת, דו ביסט נאָר פֿאַר מיר,  
און איך בלייב נאָר פֿאַר דיר.  
קוש מיך מיט דיין שיינער מונד,  
שטעמפל דיין ליבע באַלד אַצינד;  
קוש מיך מיט דיין שיינער מונד,  
שטעמפל דיין ליבע באַלד אַצינד.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Shir hashirim is a love song that our little Solomon sang.  
You alone are divine and beautiful sang Solomon.  
Akh only you are divine and beautiful fit for my lips  
Always resounding: you are mine, I am yours, so it should be  
For our whole life.

You belong to me and I to you, my love I give to you;  
Yes, only you are destined for me, my heart belongs only to you.

CHORUS:

Truly you are only for me,  
I was made for you,  
I swear that I'm holy for you,  
You can believe me,  
Truly you are only for me,

And I remain only for you.  
Kiss me with your beautiful mouth,  
Seal your love now;  
Kiss me with your beautiful mouth,  
Seal your love now.

# **The Song of Love · Dos lid der libe · דאָס ליד דער ליבע** **from "Shir hashirim: Song of Love, A Musical Operetta"**

MUSIC BY JOSEPH RUMSHINSKY · WORDS BY ANSHEL SCHORR

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## TRANSLITERATION

A libes lid zing ikh far dir,  
Akh, vi es glit in hartsn bay mir.  
O, mayn amor!  
Dir din ikh nor.  
Mayn apolon!  
Her tsu mayn ton.  
Her mayn gezang,  
Eyn harfens klang,  
Der libes trunk.

Refren:

Lib mikh nor fil,  
Lib in der shtil.  
Der libes trunk,  
Er shmekht zo zis.  
Kum nor tsu mir,  
Ikh vart af dir,  
In libes paradiz.  
Lib un ver nit mid,  
Zing eyn libes lid.  
Lib mikh nor fil,  
Lib in der shtil,  
Lib mikh nor fil,  
Lib in der shtil.  
Lib, Lib, Lib...

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

אַ ליבעס ליד זינג איך פֿאַר דיר,  
אַך, ווי עס גליט אין האַרצן בײַ מיר.  
אָ, מײַן אַמאָר!  
דיר דין איך נאָר.  
מײַן אַפּאָלאָן!  
הער צו מײַן טאָן.  
הער מײַן געזאַנג,  
אײַן האַרפֿענס קלאַנג,  
דער ליבעס טראַנק.

רעפֿרען:

ליב מיך נאָר פֿיל,  
ליב אין דער שטיל.  
דער ליבעס טראַנק,  
ער שמעקט זאָ זיס.  
קום נאָר צו מיר,  
איך וואַרט אויף דיר,  
אין ליבעס פֿאַראַדיז.  
ליב און ווער ניט מיד,  
זינג אײַן ליבעס ליד.  
ליב מיך נאָר פֿיל,  
ליב אין דער שטיל.  
ליב מיך נאָר פֿיל,  
ליב אין דער שטיל.  
ליב, ליב, ליב...

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

A love song I sing for you,  
Akh, how my heart glows.  
O, my Amour!  
I serve only you.  
My Apollo!  
Listen to my tune.  
Hear my song,  
A harp-sound,  
Of love's drink.

Refrain:

Love me greatly,  
Love quietly.  
Love's drink,  
Tastes so sweet.  
Come just to me,  
I wait for you,  
In Love's paradise.

Love and don't  
be tired,  
Sing a love song,  
Love me greatly,  
Love quietly,  
Love, love, love...

# פיצעלעך קינדערלעך · *Little Kids · Pitselekh Kinderlekh* · from "Shir hashirim: Song of Love, A Musical Operetta"

MUSIC BY JOSEPH RUMSHINSKY · WORDS BY ANSHEL SCHORR

## TRANSLITERATION

Er:

Heyst dos a libe freg ikh dikh?  
Du host af mir gor keyn rakhmones  
Un farshafst mir zo fil yisurim.

Zi:

Di libe brent un flakert  
in mir azoy shtark  
Dos ikh hob dir  
Gevolt farbrenen dem shir hashirim.

Er:

Der shir hashirim  
Ven du zolst farshteyn—  
Volstu gevust  
Vi haltn darf men im dokh  
Yo zeyer heylik!

Zi:

Dem gantsn shir hashirim shenk ikh dir avek  
Ikh bin dir moykhl un halt dikh shoyn  
Oykh mit mayn kheylek.

Er:

Oyb du vilst visn  
Vi ikh lib dikh her mikh oys  
Nor eyn minut es vet dikh  
Shmekn yo zeyer gut.

Zi:

Lomir zeen libe, erkler  
Un makh mir apetit.

Er:

Lib mikh nor fil  
Lib in der shtil  
Der libes trunk  
Er shmekt zo zis.

Zi:

Es gefelt mir nit azoy  
S'iz a libe fun a goy  
Vayl dos past dokh gut nit far dir,

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

ער:

הייסט דאָס אַ ליבע פֿרעג איך דײַך?  
דו האָסטט אויף מיר גאָר קיין רחמנות  
און פֿאַרשאַפֿסט מיר זאָ פֿיל יסורים.

זי:

די ליבע ברענט און פֿלאַקערט  
אין מיר אזוי שטאַרק  
דאָס איך האָב דיר  
געוואָלט פֿאַרברענען דעם שיר השירים.

ער:

דער שיר השירים  
ווען דו זאָלסט פֿאַרשטיין—  
וואָלסטו געוואוסט  
ווי האַלטן דאָרף מען אים דאָך  
יאָ זייער הייליק!

זי:

דעם גאַנצטן שיר השירים שענק איך דיר אַוועק  
איך בין דיר מוחל און האַלט דײַך שוין  
אויך מיט מיין חלק.

ער:

אויב דו ווילסט וויסן  
ווי איך ליב דײַך הער מיך אויס  
נאָר איין מינוט עס וועט דײַך  
שמעקן יאָ זייער גוט.

זי:

לאָמיר זעען ליבע, ערקלער  
און מאַך מיר אַפּעטיט.

ער:

ליב מיך נאָר פֿיל  
ליב אין דער שטיל  
דער ליבעס טראַנק  
ער שעמקט זאָ זיס.

זי:

עס געפֿעלט מיר ניט אזוי  
ס'איז אַ ליבע פֿון אַ גוי  
ווייל דאָס פֿאַסט דאָך גוט ניט פֿאַר דיר,

Vilstu mikh gevinen  
Muztu bald gefinen  
A shenere libe far mir.

ווילסטו מיך געווינען  
מוזטו באַלד געפֿינען  
אַ שענערע ליבע פֿאַר מיר.

Er:  
Lib un ver nit mid  
Zing eyn libeslid.

ער:  
ליב און ווער ניט מיט  
זינג איין ליבעסליד.

Zi:  
Gey shoy'n fun mir  
Vayl ikh lakh fun dir  
Dos hob ikh gehert nokh frier.

זי:  
גיי שוין פֿון מיר  
ווייל איך לאַך פֿון דיר  
דאָס האָב איך געהערט נאָך פֿריער.

Er:  
Vos vilstu  
Ikh zol far dir knien?

ער:  
וואָס ווילסטו  
איך זאָל פֿאַר דיר קניען?

Zi:  
Neyn neyn neyn mayn liber zun;  
Kh'hob lib a libe vi mayn tate hot geton.

זי:  
ניין ניין ניין מיין ליבער זון;  
כ'האָב ליב אַ ליבע ווי מיין טאַטע האָט געטאָן.

Refren, beyde:  
Pitselekh, kinderlekh  
Libn zikh kindershe naiv,  
Yingelekh, meydelekh.  
Libn fun hartsn zo tif,  
Tatelekh mamelekh.  
Hobn eyn ander bagrif  
Vayl dir geher ikh heylik, do shver ikh  
mikh nor dayn ketsele ruf.

רעפֿרען, ביידע:  
פיצעלעך קינדערלעך  
ליבן זיך קינדערשע נאַיוון,  
יינגעלעך, מיידעלעך.  
ליבן פֿון האַרצן זאָ טיף,  
טאַטעלעך מאַמעלעך.  
האָבן איין אַנדער באַגריף  
ווייל דיר געהער איך הייליק, דאָ שווער איך  
מיך נאָר דיין קעצעלע רוף.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

He:  
This is love? I ask.  
You have absolutely no pity for me,  
And you make me suffer so much.

Just one minute!  
It will taste so good.

She:  
Go away from me already,  
Because I laugh at you,  
I already heard that earlier.

Her:  
Love burns and flickers  
So strongly in me  
For you,  
That it would incinerate *Shir hashirim*.

She:  
Let's see, beloved, explain!  
Make me hungry!

He:  
What do you want?  
Should I kneel for you?

He:  
If you could understand  
*Shir hashirim*  
You would realize  
How it can be regarded  
As being so very holy.

He:  
Love me greatly,  
Love me in silence.  
The love drink  
Tastes so sweet.

She:  
No, no, no my lovely sun.  
I love a love like my dad did.

She:  
I gift you the whole *Shir hashirim*.  
I forgive you and hang onto you now,  
Everything that is mine is yours.

She:  
It doesn't please me,  
It's love from a goy,  
Because that really doesn't suit you well.

Refrain, both:  
Little kids!  
Loving, childlike, and naive,  
Little boys, little girls.  
Loving from a heart so deep,  
Little dads, little moms.  
They have another notion  
Because I belong to you, here I  
solemnly swear, just call your little cat.

He:  
If you want to know  
How I love you, hear me out

Want to win me?  
You need to quickly find  
A more beautiful love for me.

He:  
Love and don't tire,  
Sing a love song.

# The Song of Songs

שיר השירים *Shir hashirim*

MUSIC BY LAZARE SAMINSKY

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## TRANSLITERATION

Shir hashirim (1:1-4)

Shir hashirim asher lishlomo.

Yishakeni menishikot pihu, ki tovim dodekha meyayin.

Lereyakh shemanekha tovim, shemen turak shemekha;

Al ken alamot, alamot ahevukha.

Moshkheynei, akharekha narutsa; heviani hamelekh

Khadarav, nagila venismekha bakh--nazkira

Dodekha meyayin, mesharim ahevukha.

## ORIGINAL HEBREW

שיר השירים (א: א-ד)

שיר השירים, אשר לשלמה.

ישקני מנשיקות פיהו, כי טובים דדיך מין.

לריח שמניך טובים, שמן תורק שמך;

על-כן, עלמות אהבוך.

משכני, אחריך נרוצה; הביאני המלך

חדריו, נגילה ונשמחה בך--נזכרה

דדיך מין, מישרים אהבוך.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

(JPS 1917 Translation)

The song of songs, which is Solomon's.

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth--for thy love is better than wine.

Thine ointments have a goodly fragrance; thy name is as ointment poured forth; therefore do the maidens love thee.

Draw me, we will run after thee; the king hath brought me into his chambers; we will be glad and rejoice in thee, we will find thy love more fragrant than wine! sincerely do they love thee.

# Shir hashirim

MUSIC BY ELIAS ZALUDKOWSKY · WORDS BY AVROM REYZEN

## TRANSLITERATION

Oy, yerusholayim techter,  
Aykh hob ikh bashvorn:  
Veyst ir efsheer vu farfaln  
Iz mayn fraynd gevorn?

Oyb ir vet im vu gefinen,  
Vos zolt ir im zogn?  
Kh'bin fun libe krank gevorn,  
Kh'ken shoy'n nit fartrogn.

-- O, du shenste fun di froyen  
Ver iz dayn basherter,  
Vos du host gelozt zikh zukhen  
Im in ale erter?

-- Rozik vays iz er, mayn liber,  
Mer fun ale tayer;  
Zayne lokn -- shvarts vi robn,  
Zayne oygn -- fayer...

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Oh, Daughters of Jerusalem  
I implore you:  
Do you know where  
My friend has disappeared to?

If you find him  
What will you tell him?  
I've become love-sick,  
I can't bear it any longer.

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

אוי, ירושלים-טעכטער,  
איין האָב איך באַשוואָרן:  
ווייסט איר אַפּשער, וווּ פֿאַרפֿאַלן  
איז מיין פֿרײַנד געוואָרן?

אויב איר וועט אים וווּ געפֿינען,  
וואָס זאָלט איר אים זאָגן?  
כ'בין פֿון ליבע קראַנק געוואָרן,  
כ'קען שוין ניט פֿאַרטראַגן.

-- אָ, דו שענסטע פֿון די פֿרויען  
ווער איז דיין באַשערטער,  
וואָס דו האָסט געלאָזט זיך זוכען  
אים אין אַלע ערטער?

-- ראַזיק-ווייס איז ער, מיין ליבער,  
מער פֿון אַלע טײַער;  
זײַנע לאַקן -- שוואַרץ ווי ראַבן,  
זײַנע אויגן -- פֿײַער...

-- O, you, most beautiful among women,  
Who is your *bashert*,  
That you have set about searching  
For him everywhere?

-- He is Rosy-white, my beloved,  
More precious than any other;  
His locks -- black as ravens,  
His eyes -- fire...



# Aus Dem Hohen Lied (Shir Hashirim)

from Hebrew Songs Op. 37

MUSIC BY MIKHAIL GNESIN

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## TRANSLITERATION

Shir hashirim (8:8-10)

Akhot lanu ketana, veshadayim eyn la;  
Ma-nase lakhotenu, bayom scheyedubar ba.  
Im-khoma hi, nivne aleya tirat kasef;  
Ve'im delet hi, natsur aleya lu'akh arez.  
Ani khoma, veshaday kamigdalot;  
Oz hayiti ve'eynav, kemotset shalom.

## ORIGINAL HEBREW

שיר השירים (ח:ח-י)

אָחות לָנוּ קְטָנָה, וְשָׂדַיִם אֵין לָהּ;  
מֵה-נִשְׁעָשָׂה לְאָחֹתֵנוּ, בַּיּוֹם שֶׁיִּדְבַר-בָּהּ.  
אִם-חֹמָה הִיא, נִבְנֶה עָלֶיהָ טִירַת כֶּסֶף;  
וְאִם-דֶּלֶת הִיא, נִצּוֹר עָלֶיהָ לֹחַם אֶרֶז.  
אֲנִי חֹמָה, וְשָׂדַי כַּמִּגְדָּלוֹת;  
אֹז הָיִיתִי בְּעֵינָיו, כְּמוֹצֵאת שָׁלוֹם.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION Song of Songs (8:8-10)  
(JPS 1917 Translation)

We have a little sister, and she hath no breasts;  
what shall we do for our sister in the day when she shall be spoken for?  
If she be a wall, we will build upon her a turret of silver;  
and if she be a door, we will enclose her with boards of cedar.  
I am a wall, and my breasts like the towers thereof;  
then was I in his eyes as one that found peace.

# ***Sought, Wanted, Longed For***

MUSIC BY LOREN LOIACONO

---

You  
Love You  
They Love You  
They Want You  
They Love You  
Want You  
Love You  
Want You  
Why They Love You  
Why Love You  
Why Love Your Name  
Love Your Scent  
Your Sweet Name  
Your Name Perfume Poured Out  
Your Sweet Name an Ointment Poured Forth  
Your Sweet Name Spoken a Spreading Perfume  
Anointing Oils Spreading  
You are Myrrh  
You are Fragrant  
You are Aloes  
Your Savor  
You are Myrrh  
You are Fragrant  
You are Aloes  
Your Name  
Your Scent  
Your Savor

The Song of Songs (1:3)

Therefore the maidens love you!  
Therefore the virgins love you!  
All of the women want you!  
How Rightly You are Loved!  
How Rightly They Love You!  
No Wonder They Love You!  
How the Upright Love You!  
How Rightly You are Loved!

The Song of Songs (1:4)

Catch us the Foxes!  
The Little Foxes,  
The Little Vixens!  
Catch for Us the Little Foxes,  
The Quick Little Foxes  
The Little Vixens!  
That Raid Our Vineyards Now  
Ruining Our Vineyards Now  
Despoiling Our Vineyards Now  
Spoiling the Vines

The Song of Songs (2:15)

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<p>The New Grapes on the Vines          For Our Vines have Tender Grapes          For Our Vines are in Blossom          Our Vineyards are in Blossom          Our Vineyards are in Bloom          I Blossom in Your Shade          I've Lingered in Your Shadow          Lingered Tasting Your Sweet Fruit!          My Beloved is a Sweet Fruit Tree Growing Wild in the Thickets!          My Beloved is an Apricot Tree in the Wood!          My Lover, a Quince Tree among the Trees of the Forest!          My Beloved, an Apple Tree          A Quince Tree          An Apricot Tree          An Apple Tree</p>	<p>The Song of Songs (2:3)</p>
<p>Come, Love, Let Us Go to the          Open Fields and Lie Among the Flowering Henna,          the Pomegranate Boughs          There I Will Give You My Love.</p>	<p>The Song of Songs (7:12)</p>
<p>Rising Early for the Vineyards,          See if the Vines are in Bloom,          See if the Buds have Opened,          the Pomegranates Blossomed          There I Will Give You My Love,          There I Will Give You My-</p>	
<p>Have You Seen Him?          Have You Seen the One I Love?          Have You Seen the One My Heart Loves?          The One My Soul Loves?</p>	<p>The Song of Songs (3:3)</p>
<p>All Night I Looked For Him          At Night I Longed for Him          At Night I Sought Him          At Night I Want Him          I Sought Him, But Found Him Not</p>	<p>The Song of Songs (3:1)</p>
<p>Who Is That Rising from the Desert?          Who Is That Rising from the Wilderness?          What Is This Approaching, in Columns, In Pillars of Smoke?          Perfumed with Myrrh? With Frankincense?</p>	<p>The Song of Songs (3:6)</p>
<p>More Fragrant than Rare Spices?</p>	
<p>O, Let Him Kiss me with the Kisses of his Mouth!</p>	<p>The Song of Songs (1:1)</p>
<p>Awake! Awake! Awake! Arise!</p>	<p>The Song of Songs (4:16)</p>

# Shir Hashirim: Song of Love

די גאַליציאַנער רביצין "The Galician Rebetsin"

MUSIC BY HERMAN WOHL · WORDS BY ISRAEL ROSENBERG

## TRANSLITERATION

Zeligl:

Ven ikh kuk in dayne sheyne oygelekh  
Tut es in harts bay mir a bri  
Ikh hob shoyne gezen a sakh feygelekh  
Nor nit aza feygele vi du.

Feygele:

Ven ikh lig af mayn gelegerl  
Trakht ikh nor fun dir ikh trakht.  
Ven ikh tu a kuk af mayn zeygerl  
Gekholmt fun dir a gantse nakht.

Zeligl:

Ven fun ale beymer vern zol papir  
Fun ale yamim zol gor vern tint  
Vel ikh alts nit kenen arum-shraybn dir  
Vos ikh fil lebn dir atsind.

Feygele:

Di zun volt nit azoy likhtik geven  
Ven ikh volt dayn nomen nit gehert.  
Di levona volt nokh kleyner oysgezen  
Ven du bist mir kholile nit bashert.

Beyde:

Undzer libe bazungen hot in shires  
Shloyme hameylekh in shir hashirims zmires.

Refren:

Shir hashirim zingt der yid  
Shir hashirim a libes lid  
Shir hashirim zingen ale  
S'zingt der khosn tsu zayn kale.  
Bist mir tayer, bist mir lib,  
On dir iz mayn lebn trib.  
Oy got hot mikh baglikt  
Fun himl dir geshikt  
Dos lid fun shir hashirim  
Zing ikh nor far dir.

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

זעליגל:

ווען איך קוק אין דייןע שיינע אויגעלעך  
טוט עס אין האַרץ ביי מיר אַ ברי  
איך האָב שוין געזען אַ סך פֿייגעלעך  
נאָר ניט אַזאַ פֿייגעלע ווי דו.

פֿייגעלע:

ווען איך ליג אויף מיין געלעגערל  
טראַכט איך נאָר פֿון דיר איך טראַכט.  
ווען איך טו אַ קוק אויף מיין זייגערל  
געחלומט פֿון דיר אַ גאַנצע נאַכט.

זעליגל:

ווען פֿון אַלע ביימער ווערן זאָל פֿאַפּיר  
פֿון אַלע ימים זאָל גאָר ווערן טינט  
וועל איך אַלץ ניט קענען אַרומ-שרייבן דיר  
וואָס איך פֿיל לעבן דיר אַצינד.

פֿייגעלע:

די זון וואָלט ניט אַזוי ליכטיק געווען  
ווען איך וואָלט דיין נאָמען ניט געהערט.  
די לבנה וואָלט נאָך קליינער אויסגעזען  
ווען דו ביסט מיר חלילה ניט באַשערט.

ביידע:

אונדזער ליבע באַזונגען האָט אין שירות  
שלמה המלך אין שיר השירים זמירות.

רעפֿרען:

שיר השירים זינגט דער ייד  
שיר השירים, אַ ליבעס ליד  
שיר השירים זינגען אַלע  
ס'זינגט דער חתן צו זיין כלה.  
ביסט מיר טייער, ביסט מיר ליב,  
אַן דיר איז מיין לעבן טריב.  
אוי גאָט האָט מיך באַגליקט  
פֿון הימל דיך געשיקט  
דאָס ליד פֿון שיר השירים  
זינג איך נאָר פֿאַר דיר.

---

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Little Zelig:

When I look in your beautiful little eyes  
It gives me a burning sensation in my heart  
I have already seen a lot of little birds  
Only not such a little bird as you

Little Feygl ("bird"):

When I lay on my little couch  
I think only of you.  
When I give a look at my watch  
I dream of you the whole night

Little Zelig:

If all trees should become paper  
And all seas should become ink  
I would still not be able to write about everything to you  
That I feel next to you right now.

Little Feygl:

The sun wouldn't be as bright  
If I didn't hear your name  
The moon would appear smaller  
If you were, godforbid, not my *bashert*.

Both:

Our love was celebrated in song by  
King Solomon in *Shir hashirim's* hymns.

Refrain:

*Shir hashirim* sings the Jew,  
*Shir hashirim*, a love song.  
*Shir hashirim* sing all.  
It's sung by the groom to his bride.  
You are dear to me, you are my love,  
Without you my life is bleak.  
Oy, God made me happy!  
From heaven you were sent.  
The song of *Shir hashirim*  
I sing only for you.

# Shir Hashirim: The Song of Love

from "The Rabbi's Sweetheart" דעם רבינ'ס געליבטע

MUSIC BY MANNY FLEISCHMAN · WORDS BY CHAIM TAUBER

## TRANSLITERATION

Er:  
Shir hashirim asher lishloyme  
Her zikh libste itst ayn.  
Yishokeyni minshikoys pihu  
Ki toyvim doydekho miyayin.

Zi:  
Ikh ken di verter nit farshteyn  
Nor ikh fil zey zaynen sheyn,  
Vi fun himl a muzik  
Klingen zey mit freyd un glik.

Er:  
Kh'vell di lider  
Zingen vider  
Eybik nor far dir.

Zi:  
Zing zey liber  
Vider iber  
Zing zey nor far mir.

Refren:  
Shir hashirim hot shloyme geshribn  
Zayn libster shulamis - dos getlekh gezang;  
Shir hashirim - af eybik geblibn  
Dos lid fun di lider - heyligster libes klang.  
Ven herts n flamen  
Un broyzen di yamen,  
Zey zingn tsuzamen  
In himlishn khor.  
Dem shir hashirim - di getlekhe tener  
Es zingt yeder eyner  
Dem shir hashirim nor.

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

ער:  
שיר השירים אשר לשלמה  
הער זיך ליבסטע איצט אין.  
ישקני מנשיקות פיהו  
פי טובים דודיך מיין.  
זי:  
איך קען די ווערטער ניט פֿאַרשטיין  
נאָר איך פֿיל זיי זיינען שיין,  
ווי פֿון הימל אַ מוזיק  
קלינגען זיי מיט פֿרייד און גליק.

ער:  
כ'וועל די לידער  
זינגען ווידער  
אייביק נאָר פֿאַר דיר.

זי:  
זינג זיי ליבער  
ווידער איבער  
זינג זיי נאָר פֿאַר מיר.

רעפֿרען:  
שיר השירים האָט שלמה געשריבן  
זיין ליבסטער שולמית - דאָס געטלעך געזאַנג;  
שיר השירים - אויף אייביק געבליבן  
דאָס ליד פֿון די לידער - הייליגסטער ליבעס קלאַנג.  
ווען הערצער פֿלאַמען  
און ברויזן די ימען,  
זיי זינגען צוזאַמען  
אין הימלישן כּאָר.  
דעם שיר השירים - די געטליכע טענער  
עס זינגט יעדער איינער  
דעם שיר השירים נאָר.

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ENGLISH TRANSLATION

He:

*Shir hashirim* which is Solomon's  
Listen carefully now, beloved.  
Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth  
For thy love is better than wine.

She:

I can't understand the words  
Only feel that they are beautiful  
Like a music from heaven  
Resounding with joy and happiness.

He:

I will go on  
singing the songs  
Forever only for you.

She:

Sing them beloved  
Again and again  
Sing them only for me.

Refrain:

*Shir hashirim* was written by Solomon  
For his beloved Shulamit -- the divine song  
*Shir hashirim* forever remaining  
The song of songs -- the holiest sound of love.  
When hearts are ablaze  
And seas are bubbling  
They sing together  
In a heavenly choir  
*Shir hashirim* - the heavenly tones  
Everyone sings  
Only *Shir hashirim*.

# I Sing • איך זינג

from "Mamele" מאַמעלע

MUSIC BY ABRAHAM ELLSTEIN • WORDS BY MOLLY PICON

## TRANSLITERATION

Shloyme hameylekh hot tsu zayn shulamis  
Gezungen a libes shir,  
Un punkt vi shloyme dan, gelibte mayne,  
Breng ikh mayn lid itst tsu dir.

Refren:

Ikh zing far dir mayn shir hashirim  
Mit libe ikh batsir im,  
Far dir nor neshome mayn  
Ikh zing, far dir mayne khaloymes.  
Mayn libe vi a troym iz  
Far dir nor nekhome mayn,  
Ven ikh gey oys fun benken,  
Nokh dir gelibte mayn.  
Un ven ikh halt in eyn denken,  
Az du vest nokh a mol mayne zayn,  
Ikh zing, fun hartsn mayne lider  
Mayn shir hashirim vider,  
Gelibte, far dir ikh zing.

## ORIGINAL YIDDISH

שלמה המלך האָט צו זײַן שולמית  
געזונגען אַ ליבעס שיר,  
און פונקט ווי שלמה דאָן, געליבטע מײַנע,  
ברענג איך מײַן ליד איצט צו דיר.

רעפֿרען:

איך זינג פֿאַר דיר מײַן שיר השירים  
מיט ליבע איך באַציר אים,  
פֿאַר דיר נאָר נשמה מײַן  
איך זינג, פֿאַר דיר מײַנע חלומות.  
מײַן ליבע ווי אַ טרוים איז  
פֿאַר דיר נאָר נחמה מײַן,  
ווען איך גיי אויס פֿון בענקען,  
נאָך דיר געליבטע מײַן.  
און ווען איך האַלט אין איין דענקען,  
אַז דו וועסט נאָך אַ מאָל מײַנע זײַן,  
איך זינג, פֿון האַרצן מײַנע לידער  
מײַן שיר השירים ווידער,  
געליבטע, פֿאַר דיר איך זינג.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

King Solomon, to his Shulamit,  
Sang a song.  
And just like Solomon back then, my beloved,  
I now bring my song to you.

Refrain:

I sing my *Shir hashirim* for you  
With love I adorn it,  
Only for you, my soul,  
I sing, for you, my dreams.  
My love is like a dream  
Only for you, my comfort,  
When I yearn with longing

For you, my beloved.  
And when I stop and think  
That you will once again be mine.  
I sing, my songs from my heart  
My *Shir hashirim* again  
Beloved, I sing for you.



# Aria (Song of Songs)

החלוץ "The Pioneers"

MUSIC BY JACOB WEINBERG

## TRANSLITERATION

Ani khavatselet hasharon, shoshanat ha'amakim.  
Ketapu'akh ba'atsey ha'yar, ken dodu ben ha'banim;  
Be'tsilo khimadti ve'yashavti, u'firyu matok le'khiki.  
Hevi'ani el-bet hayayin, ve'diglo alay ahava.  
Samkhuni, ba'ashishot -- rapduni, ba'tapukhim:  
ki-kholat ahava, ani.  
Kol dodu, hiney ze ba; medaleg, al heharim --  
mekapets, al hagva'ot.  
Dome dodu litsvi, o le'ofer ha'yalim;  
Hiney ze omed akhar kotleynu --  
Mashgiyakh min ha'khalonot,  
Metsits min-ha'kharakim.  
Ana dodu ve'amar li: kumi lakh kumi lakh ra'yati yafati.  
Ana dodu ve'amar li: kumi lakh rayati yafati,  
u'lekhi-lakh u'lekhi-lakh.  
Hiney ha'stav avar; ha'geshem, khalaf holakh lo.  
Hanitsanim niru ba'arets et ha'zamir higi'a;  
ve'kol hator, nishma be'artseyenu.  
Kumi lakh ra'yati yafati, u'lekhi-lakh u'lekhi-lakh.  
Harini et-mara'ikh, ha'shmi'ini et-kolekh:  
ki-kolekh arev, u'marekh nave.  
Dodu li ve'ani lo, haro'eh ba'shoshanim.  
A a a a

## ORIGINAL HEBREW

אני חבצלת השרון, שושנת העמקים.  
כתפוח בעצי היער, כן דודי בין הבנים;  
בצלו חמדתי וישבתי, ופריו מתוק לחכי.  
הביאני אל-בית היין, ודגלו עלי אהבה.  
סמכוני, באשישות--רפדוני, בתפוחים:  
כי-חולת אהבה, אני.  
קול דודי, הנה-זה בא; מדלג, על-ההרים --  
מקפץ, על-הגבעות.  
דומה דודי לצבי, או לעפר האילים;  
הנה-זה עומד, אחר כתלנו --  
משגיח מן-החלונות,  
מציע מן-החרפים.  
ענה דודי, ואמר לי: קומי לך קומי לך רעיתי יפתי  
ענה דודי, ואמר לי: קומי לך רעיתי יפתי,  
ולכי-לך ולכי-לך.  
הנה הסתו, עבר; הגשם, חלף הלך לו.  
הנצנים נראו בארץ, עת הזמיר הגיע;  
וקול התור, נשמע בארצנו.  
קומי לך רעיתי יפתי, ולכי-לך ולכי-לך.  
הראיני את-מראיך, השמיעני את-קולך:  
כי-קולך ערב, ומראיך נאוה.  
דודי לי ואני לו, הרעה בשושנים.  
א א א א

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

I am the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys.  
As the apple tree among trees is my beloved among the sons.  
I sat down under his shadow and his fruit was sweet to my taste.  
He brought me to the banqueting house,  
and his banner over me was love.  
Oh stay me up with flowers, and compass me about  
with apples, because I languish, I languish with love.  
For behold, the voice of my beloved, he cometh  
leaping on the mountains and skipping on the hills.  
My beloved is like a roe or a young hart:  
behold, he standeth behind our wall,  
he looketh forth at the windows  
Through the lattice shewing himself.  
He spake and said, my beloved spake and said:

Rise up Rise up, my love, my fair one!  
He spake, my beloved spake, saying: Rise up  
my love, my fair one, and come away,  
and come away: for lo, the winter is past, the rain is  
over and gone, on earth appear the flowers,  
the time of singing of the birds is come, and the  
voice of the turtle is heard in our land.  
Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away, and come away.  
O let me see thy countenance let me hear thy voice, for  
sweet is thy voice and thy countenance is comely!  
My beloved is mine and I am his; he feedeth among lilies.  
Ah Ah Ah Ah.

# *Pulchra Es*

MUSIC BY CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI

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## ORIGINAL LATIN

Song of Songs 6:3-4a - Latin Vulgate

Pulchra es, amica mea,  
suavis et decora sicut Jerusalem,  
terribilis ut castrorum acies ordinata.  
Averte oculos tuos a me,  
quia ipsi me avolare fecerunt.

## ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Song of Songs 6:3-4a - King James Bible

Thou art beautiful, O my love, [as Tirzah,]  
comely as Jerusalem,  
terrible as an army with banners.  
Turn away thine eyes from me,  
for they have overcome me.

## *just (after song of songs)*

WORDS AND MUSIC BY DAVID LANG

---

just your mouth  
just your love  
just your anointing oils  
just your name  
just your chambers  
just your love

and my mother's sons  
and my own vineyard  
and my soul

just your flock  
just your companions  
just your kids  
just your cheeks  
just your neck  
just your couch

and my perfume  
and my beloved  
and my breasts  
and my beloved  
and my love

just your eyes  
and my beloved

our couch  
our house  
our rafters

and my love  
and my beloved

just your shadow  
just your fruit  
just your banner over me  
just your left hand  
just your right hand

and my beloved  
and my beloved

our wall

and my beloved  
and my love  
and my fair one  
and my love  
and my fair one  
and my dove

just your face  
just your voice

just your voice  
just your face

our vineyards  
and my beloved

just your flock

and my beloved  
and my bed  
and my soul  
and my soul  
and my soul  
and my soul

and my mother's house

just your sword  
just your mother  
just your wedding  
just your heart

and my love

just your eyes  
just your veil  
just your hair

---

just your teeth  
just your lips  
just your mouth  
just your cheeks  
just your veil  
just your neck  
just your two breasts

and my love  
and my bride  
and my heart  
and my sister  
and my bride  
and my heart

just your eyes  
just your necklace  
just your love

and my sister  
and my bride

just your love  
just your oils  
just your lips

and my bride

just your tongue  
just your garments

and my sister  
and my bride

just your shoots

and my garden  
and by beloved  
and my garden  
and my sister  
and my bride

and my myrrh  
and my spice  
and my honeycomb  
and my honey  
and my wine  
and my milk  
and my heart  
and my beloved  
and my sister  
and my love  
and my dove

and my perfect one  
and my head  
and my locks  
and my garment  
and my feet  
and my beloved  
and my hand  
and my heart  
and my beloved  
and my hands  
and my fingers  
and my beloved  
and my beloved  
and my soul  
and my beloved

just your beloved  
just your beloved

and my beloved

just your head  
just your locks  
just your eyes  
just your cheeks  
just your lips  
just your arms  
just your body  
just you legs

just your appearance  
just your speech

and my beloved  
and my friend

just your beloved

and my beloved  
just your garden  
just your flock

and my beloved  
and my beloved

just your flock  
and my love

just your eyes  
just your hair  
just your teeth  
just your cheeks

and my dove  
and my perfect one  
and my mother  
and my fancy  
and my prince

just your feet  
just your rounded thighs  
just your navel  
just your belly  
just your two breasts  
just your neck  
just your eyes  
just your nose  
just your head  
just your flowing locks  
just your breasts  
just your breasts  
just your breath  
just your kisses

and my beloved

just your desire

and my beloved  
and my love

our doors

and my beloved  
and my mother's breast  
and my mother  
and my pomegranates

just your left hand  
just your right hand

and my beloved

just your mother  
just your heart  
just your arm

our sister  
and my breasts  
just your eyes

and my vineyard  
and my very own  
and my self

just your voice  
and my beloved

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