

Music of Healing and Hope: Songs of Israel
CD Notes by Cantor Tifani Coyot and Rabbi Jaclyn Cohen

Eretz Zavat Chalav (1963) *Land of Milk & Honey/Eli Gamliel & Exodus 3:8*

This popular Israeli folk song speaks of the Jewish exile experience of yearning to be in the holy land, which is flowing with milk and honey. This version captures the joy and sweetness of the Zionist dream; to be free people in our land.

Hinei Mah Tov (2017) *How Good it is /Elana Arian*

Elana Arian's Hinei Mahtov was released in 2017 and has quickly spread across camps and synagogues. She blends Hebrew, English and Arabic for a hopeful and joyful message of inclusion and peace.

Over the Rainbow (1938) */Harold Arlen & E.Y Harburg Arranged by Tifani Coyot*

This song is an integral part of the American songbook and was written and composed by Jews. In the post-Auschwitz era, the lyrics take on new meaning. The Jews of Europe longed to be the blue bird who could fly above the chimney tops. They could not escape beyond the rainbow. This song is both a prayer and an anthem for the Jewish people. I sang it as a lullaby to my son Rafael when he was a baby. The words in Hebrew and English acknowledge the difficult past of our people while simultaneously being a blessing of hope and peace for the land of Israel.

Oseh Shalom (2010) *Make Peace/Elana Jagoda & Liturgy. Feat Natanel Coyot*

This classic text is refreshed through this modern interpretation of peace. This song is often sung in Hebrew. She adds the English verse to give words new meaning and remind God of the urgency in which we need peace.

Y'rushalayim Shel Zahav (1967) *Jerusalem of Gold/Naomi Shemer*

This song paints the beauty of the old city at sunset; the golden sun is reflected off the exquisite Jerusalem stone walls. Our love for Jerusalem runs deep and we wish to show that love through music. We promise to be the harp on which Jerusalem will sing her songs.

Israel Medley: *Heiveinu Shalom Aleichem* (1960), *Bashana Haba'ah* (1970), *Am Yisrael Chai* (1972)
We Bring Peace Upon You, Next Year, The Jewish People Live. Folk/ Nurit Hirsch & Ehud Manor, Shlomo Carlebach

This medley of Israeli folk songs is one that expresses the joy of being *Am Yisrael* (the People of Israel). The cannon of Israeli folk music grew in the 1960's and 1970's. The excitement and love for the Jewish homeland is felt in each of these melodies.

Heal Us Now (2003) *Leon Sher & Numbers 12:13, Psalms 28:9, 85:10, 118:25, 145:18/Arranged by Sam Glaser*

This piece weaves together healing liturgy, biblical text and psalms. We hear Moses' voice as he calls out to God to heal Miriam, "*El Na R'fana La.*" - please, God, heal her. We are reminded that there are times in our lives when we need healing of the mind, the body and the spirit. The passionate melody echoes our fervent cries to God for healing. This text reassures us with conviction: "God is *karov*/close to all who call out to God. Surely help is near to all who call out to God." - description Cantor Lauren Furman Adesnik

***Lu Yehi* (1973) & *Let it Be* (1968) Naomi Shemer, John Lennon and Paul McCartney**
Arranged by Michael Alfera and Sam Glaser

"Lu Y'hi," one of Israel's most iconic songs, is sometimes overlooked as simply a cousin of the great Beatles epic of the same title. However, it is actually a deeper, beautiful expression of hope and longing – a piece the poet, musician and kibbutznik Naomi Shemer wrote to inspire optimism in an Israel demoralized by its heavy losses in the Yom Kippur War. "Let It Be," one of the most beloved Beatles songs of all time, was written following a dream of Paul McCartney's involving his late mother. Anxious about the Beatles' tense sessions for The White Album, Paul's mother told him in the dream, "*it'll be alright - just let it be.*" This mashup of "Lu Y'hi" and "Let It Be" was arranged by Michael Alfera and sung by Cantor Coyot and Rabbi Cohen during their first Yom Kippur service together in 2018.

Shalom Rav (1974) *Abundant Peace / Cantor Jeff Klepper and Rabbi Dan Freeland*

Shalom Rav is a prayer for peace traditionally sung at the evening service. The prayer moves us from private to communal prayer: we ask for peace not just for ourselves, but for Israel, the world, and for all time. This setting of Shalom Rav was first sung at camps in the 1970s and eventually made its way to the synagogue to become the classic we know today.

Mi Shebeirach (1987) *Healing Blessing/Debbie Friedman, Drorah Setel & Liturgy, additional verse written by Tifani Coyot & Sam Glaser/feat. Piper Rutman*

The impact of Debbie Friedman's music on Reform Judaism is most prevalent in this composition. Over thirty years ago, Debbie introduced this song and made healing an integral and accessible concept in modern Jewish worship. This setting provides comfort and helps us express our hopes and prayers for healing.

Erev Shel Shoshanim (1954) *Evening of Roses Moshe Dror & Yosef Hadar*

The Hebrew is drawn from Shir ha'Shirim (Song of Songs), the most romantic, sensual book in the Jewish Bible. Beloved worldwide as a Jewish wedding song, *Erev Shel Shoshanim* has also received attention and acclaim from modern artists. Its lyrics - *night falls slowly and a wind of rose blows, let me whisper a song for you slowly; a song of love* are among the most romantic language you can find in all biblical literature.

Ani V'atah (1971) *You & I /Arik Einstein & Miki Gavrielov*

Undoubtedly one of the most iconic pieces of music to emerge from the golden age of Israeli pop following the Six Day War, "Ani V'Atah" - You and I - still holds tremendous meaning and power for Israelis and Jews worldwide. It speaks of two people - you and me - changing the world, not letting fear get in the way of possibility. It is a rousing anthem for courage; a battle cry to take risks for the betterment of a society. It is a song filled with potent hope and a youthful longing to change the world.

Hatikvah (1897) *The Hope/Naftali Herz Imber & Folk*

The text of "Hatikvah" was written by Jewish poet Naftali Herz Imber in 1878 as a nine-stanza poem entitled "Tikvatenu" ("Our Hope"), an expression of his thoughts and feelings towards the construction of one of the first Jewish settlements in Israel, Petah Tikva. When the State of Israel was declared in 1948, "HaTikvah" was unofficially proclaimed the national anthem, but it did not become the official anthem until November 2004, when it was sanctioned by the Knesset. The anthem's underlying message is about hope – the wish of the Zionists that they would someday attain national independence in the land of Israel.

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