

THE SOUNDS OF ERETZ YISRAEL
IN AMERICA: 1920's-1950's

RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS & TEACHERS

סיפורי מוסיקה
STORIES OF MUSIC



Introduction

This lesson will explore how American Jews have engaged with Israeli musical and dance forms, from the 1920's through the 1950's. We will examine how Israeli music navigated the ongoing relationship between American Jews and Zionism and Israel.

Artists and Their Music Featured in This Lesson

A.W. (Abraham Wolf) Binder (annotator) — read more [here](#)

- [“Na’aleh L’artzeinu”](#)

Julius Chajes — read more [here](#)

- [Hebrew Suite, Movement II “Walls of Zion”](#)
- [Hebrew Suite, Movement III “Hora”](#)
- [Hebrew Suite liner notes](#)
- [“Song of Galilee”](#)

Herbert Fromm — read more [here](#)

- [Pioneers](#)
- [Pioneers liner notes](#)

Max Helfman — read more [here](#)

- [Hag HaBikkurim, 1. “El Hakfar”](#)
- [Hag HaBikkurim liner notes](#)

Marc Lavry — read more [here](#)

- [Sabbath Eve Sacred Service, II. “L’kha Dodi”](#)
- [Sabbath Eve Sacred Service, III. “Barkhu-Sh’ma Yisrael”](#)
- [Sabbath Eve Sacred Service, IV. “V’ahavta”](#)
- [Sabbath Eve Sacred Service liner notes](#)

Sara Levy Tanai — read more [here](#)

- [“El Ginat Egoz”](#) (Music by: Sara Levy-Tanai; Lyrics: Songs of Songs 6:11, 7:12-13; and 4:16, performed by Shoshana Damari)

Milk and Honey — read more [here](#)

- [“Halleluyah”](#) (Music by: Kobi Oshrat; Lyrics by: Shimrit Orr)

Ruth Rubin — read more [here](#)

- [“Artza Alinu”](#) (Music and lyrics by: Shmuel Navon)

Bracha Zefira (accompanied by composer/husband/pianist **Nahum Nardi**)

— read more [here](#)

- ["Bein N'har P'rat Uvein N'har Chidekel"](#) (Music by: Nahum Nardi; Lyrics by: Chaim Nachman Bialik)
- ["Shir Ha-Avodah \(V'ha-M'lachah\)"](#) (Music by: Nahum Nardi; Lyrics by: Chaim Nachman Bialik)

Other Featured Individuals in This Lesson

[Chaim Nachman Bialik](#) (poet/lyricist)

[Shoshana Damari](#) (singer)

[Cantor Charles Davidson](#)

[Emanuel HaRussi](#) (poet, lyricist)

[Nachum Nardi](#) (composer, arranger, pianist)

[Shalom Postolski](#) (composer)

[Yitzhak Shenhar](#) (writer of fiction, poetry, plays, travel notes, and children's literature)

[Mordechai Zeira](#) (composer, lyricist)

Recordings Used in This Lesson (in order of use in the lesson)

["Artza Alinu"](#) and ["El Ginat Egoz"](#)

["Na'aleh L'artzeinu"](#)

["Bein N'har P'rat Uvein N'har Chidekel"](#)

["Shir Ha-Avodah \(V'ha-M'lachah\)"](#)

[Hebrew Suite. Movement II "Walls of Zion"](#)

[Hebrew Suite. Movement III "Hora"](#)

["Song of Galilee"](#)

[Hag HaBikkurim. I. "El Hakfar"](#)

[Sabbath Eve Sacred Service. II. "L'kha Dodi"](#)

Sabbath Eve Sacred Service, III. "Barkhu-Sh'ma Yisrael"

Pioneers

Featured Topics in This Lesson

Israeli History

- ["British Mandatory Palestine: History & Overview: 1922-1948"](#) Jewish Virtual Library
- ["The Second Aliyah"](#) The National Library of Israel

Israeli Culture and Society

- ["The History of Radio in Israel"](#) Jewish Virtual Library
- ["Eurasian Hoopoe: The National Bird of Israel"](#) by Carole Menser
- ["Kibbutz Festivals"](#) Jewish Virtual Library
- ["Shavuot in Israel: A Celebration of Torah or a Celebration of First Fruits?"](#) by Hizky Shoham
- ["Israeli scientists fight to save iconic Sabra prickly pear from devastating pest"](#) by Susan Furkes (*The Times of Israel*)

About the Music

- ["Na'aleh L'artzeinu--A Simple Melody with an Intricate Story"](#) by David Berger

Jewish Lore

- ["The Hoopoe in Jewish Tradition"](#) Jewish Virtual Library
- ["The Palm Tree in Jewish Tradition"](#) Jewish Virtual Library
- ["Shavuot"](#) Jewish Virtual Library

American Zionism

- ["American Zionism Finds Its Voice: Reconciling American Identity with Support for a Jewish Homeland"](#) My Jewish Learning Staff

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LYRICS

“Na’ale L’artzeinu” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Lyrics by: Unknown)

*Na’aleh l’artzeinu b’rinah.
Na’aleh l’artzeinu b’rinah.
Yom gilah, yom rinah,
Yom k’dusha, yom m’nuchah.*

Let us go up to our land rejoicing!
Let us go up to our land rejoicing!
Joyful day! Gladsome day!
Holy day! Restful day!

“Bein N’har P’rat Uvein N’har Chidekel”

— Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Nahum Nardi; Lyrics by: Chaim Nachman Bialik)

*Bein N’har P’rat Un’har Chidekel
Al ha-har mitamer dekel
Uvadekel bein ofa’av
Tishkon lah duchifat zahav.*

*Between the rivers Euphrates and Tiger
A palm tree stands tall on the hill
Between the branches of the palm tree
Lives a golden bird*

*Tzipor zahav, ufi chugi
Tz’i uvakshi li ben zugi.
Uva-asher timtsa’ihu--
Kifti oto va-havi’uhu*

*Oh golden bird, fly! Circle above!
Go and seek my spouse
And when you find him
Bind him and bring him to me*

*Ach im ein lach chut hashani
Dab’ri shalom el chatani
Ma tagidi lo? Hagidi.
Nafshi yotzeit el y’didi.*

*But if you have not the scarlet thread
Speak peace to my groom
What should you say to him?
Say my soul goes out to my beloved*

*Imri lo hagan porei-ach
Na’ul hu v’ein potei-ach
Rimon paz sham yesh bein alav
Ach ein she y’varech alav.*

*Tell him: The garden does not bloom,
It is unopened, locked.
Among the leaves there is a prized
pomegranate,
But there is no one who can bless it.*

“Shir Ha’Avodah V’hamlachah” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Nahum Nardi; Lyrics by: Chaim Nachman Bialik)

Mi yatzileinu mei-ra’av? Who will save us from hunger?
Mi ya’achileinu lechem rav? Who will feed us enough bread?
Mi yashkeinu kos chalav? Who will serve us a cup of milk?
(Mi ya’achileinu lechem rav?) (Who will feed us enough bread?)

(Chorus:) (Chorus:)
Hoy, l’mi todah? Oh—whom should we thank?
Hoy, l’mi v’rachah? Oh—whom should we bless?
La’avodah v’lam’lachah! Work! Labor!

Mi yitein lanu k’sut bakar? Who will give us covering from the cold?
Mi bachoshech yitein or? Who in darkness will provide light?
Mi ya’aleh mayim min habor? Who will bring up water from the pit?
(Mi bachoshech yitein or?) (Who in darkness will provide light?)
(Chorus:) (Chorus:)

“Song of Galilee” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Julius Chajes, based on song, “El Yivneh HaGalil”)

El yiv’neh hagalil. El yiv’neh hagalil. God will build the Galilee.
Baruch yiv’neh hagalil. Baruch yiv’neh hagalil. Blessed be the One who builds the Galilee.
El yiv’neh hagalil. El yiv’neh hagalil. God will build the Galilee.

Hag HaBikkurim, I. “El Hak’far” — Hebrew translation
(Melody from Mordecai Zeira; Lyrics by: Emanuel Harussi)

From the city, from the town, from the comfortable homes
Arise *halutz*, make haste and flee to the village.
Arise *halutz*, make haste and flee to the plowed field.
Halutz, arise and run to the moshav [cooperative settlement], to the kibbutz.
Halutz, arise and run to the village, to the plowed field,
To your mother, the land.
Don’t ask why, don’t question.
It is known to all, it’s to the land.
Land—it is called mother,
Land—plow ahead,
Land—where the hands engage in labor,
Land—it is the homeland.
Land, land, our homeland, the land.

“Laila Pele” — Hebrew translation
(Music by: Max Helfman, based upon Shalom Postolski;
Lyrics by: Yitzchak Shenhar)

A thousand nights and then another night	On every mountain and on every rock!
Pay tribute to her,	You, my little land,
To this tiny land of mine,	Allow me a pause.
Yet that is not enough for her!	Night of wonder, wonder of night
A thousand wonders and yet another	This is the reward—a home!
wonder	

Sabbath Eve Sacred Service (by Marc Lavry)

VI. BAR'KHU-SH'MA YISRA'EL

Greet HaShem, to whom all praise is due.
Be greeted, HaShem, be worshipped for all eternity.

Listen, Israel! HaShem is our God.
HaShem is the only God
Praised and honored be the name of God's Realm forever and ever.

V. L'KHA DODI

(Chorus:)

Come, beloved, and with me turn and face the approaching bride.
Welcome O bride! Welcome, O Sabbath!

Verse [2]:

Quickly then, come out to greet her,
for is the Sabbath not the source of all blessings?
For already at creation's primeval beginning,
God had established the Sabbath. *(Chorus)*

Verse [5]:

Awaken, awaken!
Your light has come. Arise and shine!
Awake, awake! Speak a song!
The glory of HaShem is revealed to you. *(Chorus)*

Verse [9]:

O Sabbath, you who are your Master's crown,
come in peace, in joy, in gladness
into the midst of the faithful, a remarkably special people.
O bride come! O bride come! *(Chorus)*