

THE SOUNDS OF ERETZ YISRAEL
IN AMERICA: THE CRUCIAL 60'S

**RESOURCES FOR
STUDENTS & TEACHERS**

סיפורי מוסיקה
STORIES OF MUSIC



Introduction

This lesson will explore how the music of Israel grew in the consciousness of American Jews and penetrated American culture generally. American Jewry formulated its own brand of Zionism, which supported the enterprise in Palestine but remained committed to life in America. The Israeli music that penetrated American Jewish life seems to buttress this idea.

To show this, we will explore Israeli dance music and dances from the 1920's through the 1960's. Then we will examine what American Zionism is and how Israeli music navigated the ongoing relationship between American Jews and Zionism and Israel. The lesson will also show how pride in the new state of Israel empowered Jews to celebrate Israel through its music with a broader American public. Finally, we will explore how the connection between American Jews and Israel deepened further due to the crisis of the Six-Day War. Music, too, demonstrates this.

Artists and Their Music Featured in This Lesson

Paul Ben-Haim

- [*Kabbalat Shabbat: "II. Lighting of the Sabbath Candles"*](#)
- [*Kabbalat Shabbat: "IX. Hashkiveinu"*](#)
- [*Kabbalat Shabbat* liner notes](#)

Leonard Bernstein

- [*Four Sabras*](#)
- [*"Silhouette" \("Galilee"\)*](#)

Wild Bill Davis (with Charlie Shavers)

- [*"Independence Day Hora" from *Milk and Honey**](#)

EIse I. Dublin (choreographer)

- [*"Mavim, "Mavim"*](#) (Music by: Emanuel [Pugachev] Amiran; Lyrics by: Isaiah 12:3)

Jonathan Gabay (choreographer)

- [*"Tzaddik Katamar"*](#) (Music by: Amittai Neeman; Lyrics by: Psalm 92:13)

Ernest Gold

- [*"Main Theme from *Exodus*"*](#)
- [*"Exodus Song"*](#) (Sung by: lyricist Pat Boone)

Moshe (Moshiko) HaLevy (choreographer)

- [*"Debka Uriah \(*Debkat Ha'abir*\)"*](#) (Music and lyrics by: Nachamia Sharabi)

Jerry Herman

- [*"Independence Day Hora" from *Milk and Honey**](#)

Rachel Shapira (poet/lyricist), **Yair Rosenblum** (composer)

- ["Ma Avarech"](#) (Performed by: Israel's Navy Ensemble, featuring Rivkah Zohar)
- ["Ma Avarech"](#) (Performed by: the Maccabeats)

Milk and Honey

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

Naomi Shemer

- ["Yerushalayim Shel Zahav"](#) (Sung by: Shuli Nathan)
- ["Yerushalayim Shel Zahav"](#) (Sung by: Naomi Shemer)

Raya Spivak (choreographer)

- ["Yesh Lanu Tavish"](#) (Music by: Folk; Lyrics by: Yitzchak Alterman)

"Tula" (Tali Ben Uri) (performer), **Rabbi Shalom Shabazi** (poet)

- ["Ahavat Hadassah"](#) (Music by: Yemenite Folk; Lyrics by: Rabbi Shalom Shabazi)

The Weavers

- ["Tzena, Tzena"](#) (Music by: Isaac Miron; Hebrew Lyrics [not in video] by: Yehiel Hagiz; English by: Julius Grossman; Original English Lyrics [not in video] by: Mitchell Parish)

Other Featured Individuals in This Lesson

[Emanuel Amiran](#) (composer, educator)

[Yardena Cohen](#) (dancer, choreographer)

[Kobi Oshrat](#) (composer, music arranger, conductor)

[Yair Rosenblum](#) (composer, musical director, conductor)

[Rabbi Shalom Shabazi](#) (rabbi, poet)

[Rachel Shapira](#) (songwriter, poet)

[Charlie Shavers](#) (trumpeter, music arranger)

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

["Chorshat HaEkaliptus" and "Ani V'ata"](#)

["Mayim, Mayim"](#)

["Yesh Lanu Tavish"](#)

["Debka Uriah \(Debkat Ha'abir\)"](#)

["Tzaddik Katamar"](#)

[Four Sabras](#)

["Silhouette" \("Galilee"\)](#)

["Main Theme from Exodus"](#)

["Exodus Song"](#) (sung by lyricist Pat Boone)

["Independence Day Hora"](#) from *Milk and Honey* (original Broadway cast recording)

["Independence Day Hora"](#) (Wild Bill Davis [with Charlie Shavers])

["Tzena Tzena"](#)

["Ma Avarech"](#) (performed by Israel's Navy Ensemble)

["Yerushalayim Shel Zahav"](#) (sung by Shuli Nathan)

["Yerushalayim Shel Zahav"](#) (sung by Naomi Shemer)

[Kabbalat Shabbat: "IX. Hashkiveinu"](#)

["Ma Avarech"](#) (performed by the Maccabeats)

["Ahavat Hadassah"](#)

["Halleluyah"](#)

Featured Topics in This Lesson

Israeli History

- ["Eichmann Trial"](#) Holocaust Encyclopedia (United States Holocaust Memorial Museum)
- ["Six-Day War"](#) by History.com Staff

Israeli Culture and Society

- ["Kibbutz Na'an"](#) by Efraim Orni/Shaked Gilboa, Encyclopedia.com
- ["Yardena Cohen"](#) by Judith Brin Ingber, Jewish Women's Archives
- ["Dabka--Debka"](#) by Folkdance Footnotes staff
- ["Sabra--The Fruit and the Man"](#) by J Tours staff
- ["Israeli scientists fight to save iconic Sabra prickly pear from devastating pest"](#) by Susan Furkes (*The Times of Israel*)

About the Music

- ["Mayim, Mayim"](#) by Folkdance Footnotes
- ["Remembering Milk and Honey"](#) by Mark Robinson
- ["Pete Seeger and the Story of Tzena, Tzena, Tzena"](#) 2013 film presented by the Milken Archive of Jewish Music

American Zionism

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

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LYRICS

“Mayim, Mayim” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Emanuel Amiran; Lyrics by: Isaiah 12:3)

U-shav-tem mayim b'sason mi-may'nei ha-y'shu-a (2x)

Mayim mayim mayim mayim, hey, mayim b'sason (2x)

Hey, hey, hey, hey

Mayim mayim mayim mayim mayim mayim b'sason (2x)

(English: "Joyfully shall you draw water from the fountains of triumph.")

“Yesh Lanu Tayish” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Folk; Lyrics by: Yitzchak Alterman)

(Note: there are different versions of this song.)

*Yesh lanu tayish
Latayish yesh zakan,
V'lo arba raglayim
V'gam zanav katan.
La la la...*

We have a goat
The goat has a beard
and four legs
And also a small tail.
La la la...

*Yesh lo karnayim
Karnayim lin-go'ach,
Yesh lo te'lafayim
Liv'ot v'liv-ro'ach.
La la la...*

He has two horns,
Horns to butt with.
He has hooves
to kick and to flee.
La la la...

“Tzaddik Katamar” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Amitai Neeman; Lyrics by: Psalm 92:13)

*Tzaddik katamar yi-f'rach
k'erez ba-l'vanon yis-ge.*

The righteous like palm trees shall flourish
Like the cedars of Lebanon shall they thrive.

“Theme from *Exodus*” — also known as “The Exodus Song” and “This Land Is Mine”

(Music by: Ernest Gold; Lyrics by: Pat Boone)

This land is mine, God gave this land to me
This brave and ancient land to me
And when the morning sun reveals her hills and plain
Then I see a land where children can run free

So take my hand and walk this land with me
And walk this lovely land with me
Though I am just a man, when you are by my side
With the help of God, I know I can be strong

Though I am just a man, when you are by my side
With the help of God, I know I can be strong

To make this land our home
If I must fight, I'll fight to make this land our own
Until I die, this land is mine

“Independence Day Hora”

(Jerry Herman, from the musical *Milk and Honey*)

Sing, sing a song of *Mazel tov*,
Keep mazel at your side;
Sing, sing a song of *Mazel tov*,
Toast the lucky groom!
Toast the happy bride!
Dance, dance the weary world away,
Now that the knot is tied;
Sing, sing a song of *Mazel tov*,
The lucky groom!
The happy bride!

“Silhouette” (“Galilee”)

(Leonard Bernstein, after a Lebanese folk song)

A last little bird on a palm feather riding,
Black and clean in the afterglow.
A lone little girl in the olive grove hiding,
Crooning soft as the sun sinks low: oo, oo,
Hu! ‘rrfah!
An old little jeep through the mountains crawling,
Tough and tiny against the sun,
A young Arab shepherd upon his knees falling,
Allah, Allah, the day is done, ee, ee, ee,
Hee! ‘rrfah!
The boys in the dark olive groves assemble,
Hand in hand in a dancing ring,
Their eyes to the sun, and their lips atremble,
Drunk with love and the chant they sing:
Walad ela ‘Una, Norkod taht el zetuna!
Ah! Ha! ‘Rrfah

“Tzena, Tzena”

(Music by: Issachar Miron; Lyrics by: Julius Grossman)

(*Note:* Original Hebrew lyrics: Yehiel Hagiz; original English lyrics: Mitchell Parish)

Tzena, Tzena, Tzena, Tzena
Can't you hear the music playing
In the city square
Tzena, Tzena, Tzena, Tzena
Come where all our friends will find us
With the dancers there

Tzena, Tzena--join the celebration
There'll be people there from every nation
Dawn will find us laughing in the sunlight
Dancing in the city square

Tzena, Tzena--come and dance the Hora
One, two, three, four
All the boys will envy me for
Tzena, Tzena--when the band is playing
My heart's saying: *Tzena, Tzena, Tzena*

“Ma Avarech” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Yair Rosenblum; Lyrics by: Rachel Shapira)

*Ma avarech lo ba-me y'vorach
ze ha-yeled sha'al ha-mal'ach. (2x)*

“How shall I bless--with what shall I bless--
this child,” asked the angel.

*U-vei-rach lo chiyuch she-kamohu ka'or U-
vei-rach lo ei-nayim g'dolot v'ro-ot.
Lit-pos bo kol perach, v'chai v'tzippor
V'lev l'har-gish lo et kol ha-mar'ot.*

He shall be blessed with a smile as pure as light
He shall be blessed with eyes big and
observant.
To take in every flower, bird--life!
And a heart to feel all he sees.

*Ma avarech lo ba-me y'vorach
ze ha-na'ar sha'al ha-mal'ach (2x)*

“How shall I bless--with what shall I bless--
this youth,” asked the angel.

*U-vei-rach lo raglayim lirkod ad ein sof
V'nefesh lizkor be et kol hal-chanim.
V'yad ha-osefet tz'dafim alei chof
V'ozen k'shuval lig-dolim u-k'tanim.*

So he blessed him with legs to dance forever,
a soul to remember all the songs,
a hand to gather shells on the beach
and an attentive ear to listen to all.

*Ma avarech lo ba-me y'vorach
Ze ha-elem sha'al hamal-ach (2x)*

“How shall I bless--with what shall I bless--
this young man,” asked the angel.

*U-vei-rach ki yadav halmudot bifrachim
Yitz-l'chu gam lil-mod et otz-mat ha-
p'lada.
V'rag-lav ha-rok'dot et masa ha-d'rachim
Us-fatav ha-sharot et mik-tzav ha-p'kuda.*

So he blessed that his hands, used to flowers,
Will succeed in learning the might of steel,
and his legs learn the dance of dusty roads,
and his lips learn the songs of rhythmic
commands.

*Ma avarech lo ba-me y'vorach
Ze ha-gever sha'al hamal-ach. (2x)*

“How shall I bless--with what shall I bless--
this man, this man?”

*Natati lo kol she-ef-shar li latet
Shir v'chiyuch v'rag-layim lirkod
V'yad m'udenet v'lev m'ratet
U-ma avarech l'cha od*

I have given him all that I can:
A song, a smile, legs to dance,
A gentle hand and a feeling heart
What other blessing might I yet give?

*Ma avarech lo ba-me y'vorach
Ze hayeled, ha-elem ha-rach.*

“How shall I bless--with what shall I bless--
this child, this tender young man?”

*Ha-na'ar ha-ze ach-shav hu mal'ach
Lo od y'var-chuhu lo od y'vorach
Elohim (3x)
Lu ach bei-rach-ta lo chayim.*

This boy is now an angel
No longer can one blessed him, and
no longer can he be blessed.
O God--if only you blessed him with life.

“Yerushalayim Shel Zahav” (“Jerusalem of Gold”) — Hebrew translation
(Naomi Shemer)

The mountain air is clear as wine and the scent of pines around
Is carried on the breeze of twilight, with bells resounding.
While the trees and stones softly slumber, the city is caught in a dream
So solitary lies the city, and at its heart a wall.

(Chorus:)

Oh, Jerusalem of gold, and of light and of bronze,
I am the violin for all your songs.

We came back to the water wells to the market place and the square.
On the Temple Mount within the city, the shofar rings out loud.
Within the caverns in the mountains a thousand suns glow,
Again, we will go down to the Dead Sea road that runs through Jericho. *(chorus:)*

When I come today to sing to you--and you with crowns adorn,
I am the least of all your children, of all the poets born.
Your name scorches my lips, like a seraph's kiss,
If I forget thee, o golden city *(chorus:)*

Kabbalat Shabbat — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Paul Ben-Haim)

IX. Hashkiveinu
*Hashkiveinu ADONAI eloheinu l'shalom,
v'ha-amideinu malkeinu l'hayim.
Ufros aleinu sukat sh'lomecha,
V'tak'neinu b'eitza tova mil'fanecha,
V'hoshieinu l'ma-an sh'mecha.
V'hagein ba-adeinu, v'haseir mei-aleinu,
oyeiv, dever, v'cherev, v'ra-av, v'yagon;
Uv'tzeil k'nafecha tastireinu –
Ki El shom'reinu umatzileinu ata;
Ki El melech chanun v'rachum ata.
Ushmor tzeiteinu uvo-einu –
l'hayim ul'shalom mei-ata v'ad olam.
Ufros aleinu sukat sh'lomecha.
Baruch ata Adonai,
haporeis sukat shalom aleinu,
v'al kol amo Yisrael v'al Y'rushalayim.*

Lay us down, HaShem our God, in peace,
and raise us up again, our Ruler, to life.
Spread over us Your sukkah of peace,
Repair us with Your good counsel.
Save us for Your Name's sake.
Shield us and turn us away from every
enemy, plague, sword, famine, and sorrow.
Shelter us in the shadow of Your wings,
for You are a God who watches and spares us,
for You are a gracious and compassionate
Ruler.
Guard our going out and our coming in
grant us life and peace, now and always.
Spread over us your sukkah of wholeness.
Blessed are You, HaShem,
who spreads Your sukkah of wholeness over
us,
over all Your people Israel and over Jerusalem.

“Ahavat Hadassah” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Yemenite Folk; Lyrics by: Rabbi Shalom Shabazi)

*Ahavat Hadassah al l’vavi nik-sh’ra
Va’ani b’toach gola, p’amai tsol’lim.*

The love of Hadassah is tied to my heart
And my steps are sunk deep in exile.

*Lu yesh r’shut li e’ele et-chab’ra
Toch sha’arei Tsiyon asher heim
nahalalim.*

If I could, I would go up and connect
Inside Zion’s praised gates.

*Shacharit v’aravit bat n’divim ez-k’ra
Libi v’ra’ayonai b’cheshek niv-halim.*

Morning and evening I recall her
My heart and thoughts are shaken with
desire.

“Hallelujah” — Hebrew transliteration and translation
(Music by: Kobi Oshrat; Lyrics by: Shimrit Orr)

*Haleluya la’olam,
haleluya yashiru kulam
b’mila achat bod’da
halev malei b’hamon toda
V’holem gam hu eize olam nifla.*

Hallelujah to the world,
everyone will sing
One word only
and the heart is full of thanks
And beats as well what a wonderful world

*(Chorus:)
Haleluya im hashir,
haleluya al yom she-me’ir,
Haleluya al ma shehaya,
uma she-od lo haya--
Haleluya*

*(Chorus:)
Hallelujah with the song,
for a day that shines
For all that has been
and for all that is about to happen
Hallelujah!*

*Haleluya la’olam
haleluya yashiru kulam
V’ha-inbalim hag’dolim
y’had-hedu b’hamon tz’lilim
V’itanu hem yom’ru - haleluya.
(Chorus)*

Hallelujah to the world,
everyone will sing
And the big bells
will echo in a lot of sounds
And together with us they will say--
hallelujah!
(Chorus)

*Haleluya al hakol
halelu al machar v’et-mol
Haleluya ut-nu yad b’yad
v’shiru milev echad--
Haleluya
(Chorus)*

Hallelujah for everything,
yesterday and tomorrow
Hallelujah hand in hand
and sing in one heart--
Hallelujah!
(Chorus)