

# SHIR DELIGHT WORKSHOPS IN 2020

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I hope that lovers of Jewish Music locally will find my proposal to hold some illustrated workshops to both entertain and stimulate us again and maybe it will lead to new vocal and instrumental renditions in the Synagogue and perhaps elsewhere in the region during 2020 and beyond.

## 6 Dates for your diary

**Tuesday February 18th**

**Tuesday March 17th**

**Tuesday April 21<sup>st</sup>**

**Tuesday May 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday June 16<sup>th</sup>**

**Tuesday July 21<sup>st</sup>**

Future sessions to cover:

**The Tent Repertoire**

**Rabbi Monique's Tracks**

**"Birkat Hamazon" (Grace after meals)**

**"Around the Seder Table"**

**"High Holydays"**

Prominent influences on the contemporary Jewish Music Scene are to be found in all the major Jewish Centres of the US, Israel and the UK.

Disproportionate to its size, Bristol's contribution is not insignificant. Both Bristol Synagogues, the Bristol Hebrew Congregation and the Bristol Progressive Synagogue, not forgetting the much-missed Polack's House, (the last remaining Jewish Boarding House in an English Public School ) have all produced significant contributions to the Anglo Jewish scene. Bristol has its own Jewish Institute, Davar and an earlier success was Shir HaDavar\* which gave choral concerts for several years at various Civic and Inter-faith events, (featured below) with the generous rehearsal support of Clifton College Music School many of which were a group of singers from the two Synagogues and elsewhere.

Rabbi Berry and I attended their wonderful EAJL (European Academy of Jewish Liturgy) weekend in and were very impressed and inspired to work with Joey Weinberg from the US, examples of whose work is attached.

Further research has led me to Craig Taupman's huge body of work which inspired "Shabbat Resouled" at Finchley's Liberal Synagogue. Craig's special monthly Shabbat Services in Los Angeles and Big Jewish Tent inspire others including members of our own Bristol Progressive to regularly hold a Tent Service which together

## What This Music is For:

This music is for singing. It's for singing alone at your table, or perhaps even better for everyone to sing together.

It would be enough ("*dayenu*") to say that we sing simply to experience something beautiful together. But please consider that the ephemeral beauty of a nigun also acts to soften our hearts, allowing us to open up to the majesty of the world, to notice things that we might not have noticed before, to learn wisdom, and ultimately to take that wisdom back into the "real world" where we can then act with expanded patience and generosity of spirit. Singing is thus a golden key that opens the door to an expanded experience of life.

The Nigun is the great *communal* musical art form of Jewish life. The tradition was designed to bring the scholars and the beginners together for brief moments of communal ecstasy. It's my hope that these nigunim can help you to build your own singing communities.

## Where This Music Comes From:

Within the melodies in this book, you can hear old styles of Jewish music - *nigunim* (wordless melodies), *z'mirot* (Sabbath-table melodies), choral music, and traditional *musach* (prayer chant) - organically melding with the spontaneous improvisation, liberated harmonies and indie soul music of the Brooklyn soundscape. These are old-style nigunim that have been written by a sixth generation Milwaukee Jew who has always lived in America, and they have been born in the melting pot of world music that's particularly alive in New York City, where I've lived for fourteen years. Among the sounds that are incorporated into this music are: Blues, Balkan Brass Music, Bach Partitas and Chorales, Flamenco, Gospel, Soul, Indian Music, Rock, Drum and Bass, Contemporary Composition, Klezmer, Nashville Country Music, Bluegrass, Irish, Russian Gypsy Music, Classical Composition, Jazz, Swing, Hip Hop, Cantorial, Nigunim, Electronic, Avant Garde Sonic, Indie Soul, and so many more musical styles that have inspired me and my fellow musicians and singers. Listening to the albums will give you a better sense of the musical process that's happened here, so please listen to the albums with this book. The albums are

- "Spontaneous Jewish Choir," (2011)
- "Transformation of a Nigun," (2012)
- "Live in the Choir Loft," (2013)
- "Brooklyn Spirituals" (2014).

## Instruments/Harmony:

A minority of the melodies in this book rely upon the harmony to make the overall composition interesting (i.e. *Anim Z'mirot*, *L'Mikdashaych Tuv*, *Min Hameitzar*, *Yishakeini*, *Yonati*, etc). Those pieces really "want" the specific bass lines and chords that are written here, and many of them even have specific guitar chords written in the appendix to help it sound right.

A typical *nigun*, however, is designed to stand on its own. It is a melody that works without instruments, chords, or even rhythms. Indeed, most of the compositions in this collection stand alone as melodies, and do not require chords or harmonies at all. If done well, harmony and instrumental chords can be startlingly beautiful, and they might add interesting "color" to a melody, but be aware that chords and harmony can just as easily get in the way of the melody itself. Thus, when playing chords or singing harmonies, *be careful not to lose the melody* with too much harmony or extraneous activity.

Ultimately, there are no rules here - please arrange and rearrange to suit your taste and ever-developing artistic judgement. I've tried to leave it open - to not "over-arrange" it - so that it's most flexible for you to use as a platform for your own creative endeavors.

## **Do you Need a *Fast Melody*?... *A Slow Melody*? ... Melodies by Tempo and Tonality**

Here are some go-to melodies, sorted by tempo and tonality. You might want a slow melody for the end of **Shabbat**, or a fast melody for Hallel, or a waltz melody to warm up for Friday night services, etc. Remember that if it **makes** sense you can abandon the words, remove the melody, and use it as a nignun or in some cases with other **sets** of words. Or, you might find that a fast melody sounds good slower and vice versa in certain situations. Some **fit** into various categories... This is just a quick way to get started, but of course remember that it's most important **to listen** to the albums yourself and get to know the character and style of each melody. Use your artistic judgement **to create** the best match for what you need!

### **1. Fast (Upbeat, Joyous, Danceable, etc) :**

- a. Fast Major: *Bell Road Nigun, Bina's Nigun*
- b. Fast Minor: *Breishit Rikud Nigun, Lev's Dance, Sasa Nigun, Tiferet Nigun, Diego's Nigun*
- c. Fast Freygish: *Hodu Ladoshem Ki Tov*

### **2. Moderate (Relaxed, Sitting) :**

- a. Medium Major: *Bina's Nigun, Lincoln's Nigun - Yamin U'smol, Yishakeini*
- b. Moderate Minor: *Gowanus Nigun, Hadar Nigun, Hayam Ra'ah VaYanos, Mikdash Melech, Mozi's Nigun - (Ana B'Choakh), Rise Sweet Waters, Tiferet Nigun, Tzur Mishelo, Yah Ribon*
- c. Moderate "Other" Tonalties: *Great Love Nigun, Karcigar Nigun, Nigun Andalus*

### **3. Slow (Spacious, Yearning, Slow Shuckling, etc) :**

- a. Slow Major: *Lincoln's Nigun, Nishmat Kol Chai, Yishakeini*
- b. Slow Minor: *Anim Z'mirof, Chaim's Waltz, Heart Opener Nigun, Higale Na, L'Mikdasheych Tuv, Laba Nigun, Mimkomcha, Min Hameitzar, Song of Descents, Tishrei Nigun, Y'did Nefesh, Yearning Nigun, Yonati*
- c. Slow Freygish, and other: *Balkan Blues Nigun*

### **4. Free (i.e. No beat, Not in time, Open, Stretchy, "Rubberband") :**

- a. Free Major: *Ashrei, Ihu Finu, Shabbat Hamalka Nigun*
- b. Free Minor: *Dveykus Nigun, Shalom Aleichem*
- c. Free Freygish, etc : *Mimkomcha, Yearning Nigun*



## On Learning The Music BY EAR:

Written notes only convey the skeleton of the music - they don't contain the nuances, textures styles, embellishments, ornaments, feelings and attitudes that only exist "in the air." To learn these, it is helpful to learn by ear. First, try to absorb the music by ear, and then if you need a reminder about how the melody goes, or want to look at some detail about chords or rhythms, have a look here in the book.

Remember to have lots of patience, as it can take a long time to get a melody "*in the kischkes*" (i.e. "on the inside"). If you learn one melody a year that moves you, that's a great privilege!

## Acknowledgements

The music in this collection is from all of my teachers and heroes who have modeled and passed on a variety of beautiful musical traditions. After several dozen years of "input" from these teachers, I feel blessed that some music is flowing back out from me now as well. I hope that this music honors what they have taught me.

Thank you to Mechon Hadar and especially to Rabbi Elie Kaunfer who has encouraged the creation of all of this music, and pushed me to develop music as a communal spiritual practice that's deeply connected to Jewish prayer and Torah. Thank you to Achi Ben Shalom for his expert transcriptions of the music, to Andrew Benincasa for his lovely paper-cut illustrations, and to Ilusha Tsinadze for his beautiful graphic design work.

All of this music is dedicated to my extended family who has always encouraged this music, to my parents Bob Weisenberg and Nancy Ettenheim who taught me so much of what I know about music and life, and especially to my wife Molly Weingrod and our children Lev, Mozi, and Bina. Without hundreds of cozy hours spent rocking our children to sleep, the majority of these melodies wouldn't have come into being.

Above all, (*L'eyla min kol birchata v'shirata* "higher than all songs") thank you to the creative force of the world that has generously allowed me to discover these melodies. It's been a true blessing to get to sing these melodies with my friends teachers and students all over the world.



***I have Joey's "Building Singing Communities" A practical guide to unlocking the power of music in Jewish prayer***

1) JOEY WEISENBERG 1) *Introducing Nigunim- Joey Singing with the Park Ave Synagogue - (Music available)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGz-h4bo7xg&list=PLn8msyEnFmmDLdeTn4f52rESH95aCshWY&index=6&t=0s>

2) *Joey's Nigunim Spontaneous Jewish Choir Y'did Nefesh (Music available)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OcpqBNsRTE0&list=PLg953uu1AulBjtAYS78sxx6CXE1olxSBI&index=8&t=0s>

3) *Craig Taubman Friday Night Live & Shabbat Dinner L'cha Dodi*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olglYd6suts&list=PLg953uu1AulCQrBupZUb-dTW4aA\\_d\\_Uxo&index=5&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=olglYd6suts&list=PLg953uu1AulCQrBupZUb-dTW4aA_d_Uxo&index=5&t=0s)

4) Hashkivenu with transliteration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjDQZE-hgOU>

5) *L'Cha Dodi, Central Synagogue- Friday February 7, 2015*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNiX91UYOjQ&list=RD4IDSrxs58Vc&index=4>

6) *IF TIME* 7) *Josh Nelson Y'hiyu L'ratzon*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UYvoO-N\\_nU&list=PLg953uu1AulB6phnRUhRa7ARv96ZbFoNB&index=2&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9UYvoO-N_nU&list=PLg953uu1AulB6phnRUhRa7ARv96ZbFoNB&index=2&t=0s)

Yih'yu l'ratzon imrei fi, v'hegyon libi l'fanecha, Adonai tzuri v'goali.

May the words of my mouth and meditations of my heart be acceptable to you.

7) *Debbie Friedman (Music available) L'Chi Lach*

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLg953uu1AulCDoyu4lzdYLBxCwKBDavY>

8) Chanukah 1<sup>st</sup> Night

# Shir Delight Workshop

## 21<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY

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**9) FOR HMD 27<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY AND YOM HASHOA**  
**"Never Again" by Stephen Melzac (Music available)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M2dKMDz9b64>

**10) "Nishmat Kol Chai" Joey Weisenberg and the Hadar Ensemble (Music available)**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT1Vt9ESZ18>

**11 Avinu Malkeinu – Shira Choir ft. Shulem Lemmer**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anPJFBzVC2c>

**Debbie Friedman**

**12 Mi Shebeirach (2001) 4.33**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHKO3CjuzpY&list=PLq953uu1AulCDoyu4IzgdYLBxCwKBDavY&index=7&t=0s>

**13. Meir Finklestein**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLt2Z9xkA7qAU-E1XE8uTz8g0N4nl0il-u>

**14. Josh Nelson Tracks**  
<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLq953uu1AulB6phnRUhRa7ARv96ZbFoNB>

**UK**

**15) SHABBAT RESOULED – FINCHLEY PROGRESSIVE**  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy\\_k\\_Q9Q6CKSZeXQAHaM09fIHG9TyXsZ3bpl](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=OLAK5uy_k_Q9Q6CKSZeXQAHaM09fIHG9TyXsZ3bpl)

**Transcontinental Website MUSIC TO ORDER**

<https://www.transcontinentalmusic.com/ProductListing.aspx?Composer=Lewandowski&Composer=Sulzer&Composer=Craig%20Taubman&page=0&sort=9>

## **Shir Delight Workshop**

### **BWPJC NOTES**

*Rabbi Mayer's Service vocal tracks are to be found on the Synagogue Website. <https://www.facebook.com/bwpjc>*

#### **Shabbat Morning Service Number 1**

***Includes instructions and mp3 recordings for the following songs and explanations:***

***Ma Tovv***

***Yehi Ratson (read)***

***Shachar avakeshka***

***Barukh She'amar (read)***

***Ashrei***

***Yishtabach***

#### **Shabbat Morning Service Number 2**

***Includes instructions and mp3 recordings for the following songs and explanations:***

***Ma Tovv***

***Elohai Neshamah***

***Barukh She'amar (read)***

***Yih'yu (read)***

***Anim Zmirot***

***Shabbat Morning Service — Barekhu through Tefillah – pages 135-146***

***Shabbat Torah Service — pages 481-489***

***Chanting the V'ahavta***

***Weekly Tefillah***

***Tent Service vocal tracks are to be found on the Synagogue Website. <https://www.facebook.com/bwpjc>***

***This page features many of the songs we sing together on our Friday evening Kabbalat Shabbat 'Tent' services.***

***Erev Ba***

***Shiru L'Adonai***

***Mizmor Shir***

***L'cha Dodi***

***Open up your Eyes and Shema***

***Adonai Sfatai Tiftach***

**MUSIC – SOME TRANSLITERATIONS**



# Y'did Nefesh

Joey Weisenberg  
Text: R' Elazar Azkari  
From Shabat Shacharit

Rhythm: Open Waltz

**A**

C Dm C Dm Gm Dm

Ye - did ne - fesh av - ha ra - cha - man m -  
Ya - rutz av - dach k' - no a - yal yish-

9 C Dm C Dm Gm

shoch av - dach el r' - tzo - nach  
ta - cha - veh el mul ha - da - rach

**B**

Bb

ye - e-rav ye - e-rav lo ye - e-rav lo y' - di - du -

22 C Dm G

tach mi - no - fet tzuf v' - chol ta - am nai

**C**

Bb

nai nai (etc.)

37 F Gm Cm F

C Dm C Dm  
Yedid nefesh av ha rachaman  
C Dm C Gm  
M'shoch avdach el r'tzonach  
C Dm C Dm Gm  
Ya-rutz avdach k'mo ayal  
C Dm C Dm Gm  
yishtachaveh el mul hadarach  
Bb  
Ye-erav lo y'didutach  
C G  
minofet tzuf v'chol taam

Hadur na-eh ziv ha-olam  
Nafshi cholat ahavatach  
Ana eil na r'fa na lah  
B'har-ot lah noam zivach  
Az titchazek v'titrapeh  
V'haita lach shifchat olam

ידי נפש אב הרחמן  
משך עבדך אל הצורך  
יריץ עבדך כמו אל  
ישתחוה מול הדרוך  
יערב לו ידידותך  
מנפת צור וכל טעם

הדור נאה זיו העולם  
נפשי חולת אהבתך  
אנא אל נא הפא נא לה  
בהקאות לה נעם זיוך  
אז תתחזק ותתקרא  
והיתה לך שפחת עולם

"Beloved of my soul... let your servant run to you...  
for your love is sweeter than honey..."

## Lecha Dodi

### לְכֵה דוֹדִי

Lecha dodi likrat kala, p'nei Shabbat n'kabelah!

Shamor v'zachor b'dibur echad, Hishmi'anu el ha'meyuchad.  
Adonai echad u'shmo echad; L'shem ul'tiferet v'l'tehila.  
Lecha dodi likrat kala, p'nei Shabbat n'kabelah!

Likrat Shabbat l'chu v'nelcha, Ki hi m'kor ha'bracha.  
Me'rosh mi'kedem n'sucha; Sof ma'aseh b'mach'shava  
t'chila. Lecha dodi likrat kala, p'nei Shabbat n'kabelah!

Mikdash melech, ir m'lucha, Kumi, tze'i mi'toch ha'hafecha.  
Rav lach shevet b'emek ha'bacha; V'hu yachmol alai'yich  
chemla. Lecha dodi likrat kala, p'nei Shabbat n'kabelah!

Hit'oreri, hit'oreri, Ki va orech, kumi uri.  
Uri, uri, shir daberi; K'vod Adonai alai'yich nigla.  
Lecha dodi likrat kala, p'nei Shabbat n'kabelah!

Lo tevoshi ve'lo tikal'mi mah tishtochachi umah tehemi,  
bach yechesu ani'ei ami, venivnetah ir al tilah.  
Lecha dodi...

Vehayu lim'shisah shosaich, verachaku kol miv'laich,  
yasis alaich Elohaich, kimesos chatan al kalah. Lecha dodi...

Yamin usmol tif'rotzi, ve'et hashem ta'aritz,  
al yad ish bein partzi, venis'mechah venagilah. Lecha dodi...

Bo'i v'shalom, ateret ba'ala, Gam b'simcha uv' tzhala.  
Toch emunei am segula; Bo'i chala, bo'i chala.  
Lecha dodi likrat kala, p'nei Shabbat n'kabela

**NISHMAT MUSIC TO FOLLOW  
MI SHEBEIRACH TO FOLLOW**