

# honorable menschen

Spring Concert • May 22, 2004 • 9:00 pm

Temple Beth Shalom of Cambridge

## THE MENSCHEN

**Soprano:** Alison Lobron  
Deborah Sager  
Erica Schultz

**Alto:** Tamar Engel  
Karen Livescu  
Deborah Melkin

**Tenor:** Jay Hancock  
Adam Roberts  
David Sadownick

**Bass:** Sacha Litman  
Daniel Ozick  
Yonah Schmeidler

## HAVDALAH

The traditional ceremony to close the Sabbath.

*Hinei El yeshuati, evtah v'lo effhad,*

*ki azi v'zimrat Yah Hashem, va-y'hili lishua.*

*U-shavtem mayim b'sason mi-may'nei ha-y'shua.*

*La-Hashem ha-y'shua al amkha birkhatekha sela.*

*Hashem tz'va-ot imanu, misgav lanu Elokei Ya'akov sela.*

*Hashem tz'va-ot, ashrei adam bote-ah bakh.*

*Hashem hoshia, hamelekh ya-anenu v'yom karenu.*

*La-y'hudim hay'ta ora v'simha v'sason vikar.*

*Ken tih'yeh lanu. Kos y'shuot esa, uv'shem Hashem ekra.*

*Sovrei maranan v'rabanan v'robotai (v'chaverai)!*

*Baruch atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha-olam, borei peri ha-gafen.*

*Baruch atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha-olam, borei minei vesamim.*

*Baruch atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha-olam, borei m'orei ha-esh.*

*Baruch atah Hashem Elokeinu Melech ha-olam, ha-mavdil bein kodesh le-chol, bein or le-choshech, bein Yisrael la-amim, bein yom ha-shvi'i le-sheshet yemei ha-ma'aseh. Baruch atah Hashem ha-mavdil bein kodesh lechol.*

Behold, G-d is my deliverance; I am confident and unafraid; *Hashem* is my strength, my song, and my deliverance. With joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation. Yours alone, *Hashem*, is salvation; may Your blessings be on Your people. *Hashem* is with us; the G-d of Jacob is our protection. *Hashem*, happy is the one who trusts in You. Help us, *Hashem*. Answer us, Sovereign, on the day when we call. There was light and joy, gladness and honor for the Jewish people. So may we be blessed. I lift the cup of salvation and call upon the name of *Hashem*. Let us bless.

Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who creates the fruit of the vine.

Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who creates species of fragrance.

Blessed are You, Hashem, our G-d, King of the universe, Who creates the illuminations of the fire.

Blessed are You, Hashem our G-d, King of the universe, Who makes separation between holy and secular, between light and darkness, between Israel and the nations, between the seventh day and the six days of labor. Blessed are You, Hashem, Who separates holy and secular.

## THE PROGRAM

### Joshua

Traditional

arr. Yonah Schmeidler

CONDUCTOR: Jay Hancock

### Yah Ribon Olam

Julie Geller

CONDUCTOR: Deborah Melkin

*Yah ribon olam ve-almaya,  
ant hu malka, melech malchaya.*

Oh master of the world,  
you are the king of kings.

### Hinei Ma Tov

Abayudaya melody

arr. Daniel Ozick

CONDUCTOR: Daniel Ozick

The Abayudaya are the Jewish people of Uganda.

*Laba bwekulyokulungi bwekusanyusa  
Abaluganda okutula.*

*Hinei ma tovu u-ma naim u  
Sheveti achim gami yachadu.*

The Luganda words mean essentially the same as the Hebrew: "See how good and happy it is for brothers and sisters to sit down (together)."

### Eli Eli (Halicha Le-Kesariya)

Hannah Szenes/David Zehavi

arr. Michael Goldberg

CONDUCTOR: Karen Livescu

ed. Justin Miller

SOLOIST: Deborah Sager

& Karen Livescu

The poem "Walk to Caesarea (Eli Eli)" was written by Hannah Szenes (1921-1944), a World War II paratrooper considered one of the Jewish heroes of the war for her courage in the face of torture and execution in Hungary. The poem was set to music by David Zehavi. The unusual version we perform was arranged mainly by Michael Goldberg, a college friend of some of our current and former members, with the introductory section added by Justin Miller (HM alumnus) and Karen Livescu.

## Hora

Avi Toledano

arr. Jesse Rodin

CONDUCTOR: Deborah Sager

ed. Karen Livescu

SOLOIST: Erica Schultz

The field we left is still golden,  
the earth still bears its crop,  
and the nights in Canaan are still beautiful  
before the sun rises.

A train still crosses a green orchard,  
a stork still floats above,  
and the fog in the valley still rises  
between the sunrise and the dew.

And the hora! The one with the "hey"!  
Its voice still rises;  
its voice hasn't been silenced.  
And the hora! The one with the "hey"!  
Its song fills  
my heart forever.

## David's Lamentation

William Billings (1746-1800)

CONDUCTOR: Daniel Ozick

Absalom was King David's third son, who led a revolt against his father and came to an untimely end:

Now in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty; from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.... Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying: 'As soon as ye hear the sound of the horn, then ye shall say: Absalom is king in Hebron.'... When David was come to Mahanaim, Absalom passed over the Jordan, he and all the men of Israel with him.... And the king commanded [his generals] Joav and Abishai and Itai, saying: 'Deal gently for my sake with the young man, with Absalom.'... And the people of Israel were smitten there before the servants of David, and there was a great slaughter there that day of twenty thousand men. ... And Absalom was riding upon his mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak tree, and his head caught hold of the oak tree, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went on.... Then Joav took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak tree.... And the king covered his face, and the king cried with a loud voice: 'O my son Absalom, O Absalom, my son, my son!' (excerpted from 2 Samuel 14-18)

## By the Rivers of Babylon

Traditional

arr. Karen Livescu/Adam Roberts

CONDUCTOR: Karen Livescu

SOLOISTS: David Sadownick, Karen Livescu, Deborah Melkin, Deborah Sager

The lyrics to this song are mostly based on Psalm 137, except the last verse ("So may the words of our mouths...") which is based on Psalm 19. Various versions of the lyrics have been used in different contexts, among them the music of the Rastafarians, who saw their situation as similar to that of the Jews in Babylon.

In arranging this tune, we listened to a wide variety of versions and were inspired largely by Boney M, a disco-inflected group from the '70s and '80s, and Juba, a six-part Canadian a cappella group.

## Na'ar Hayiti

Traditional

arr. Justin Miller

CONDUCTOR: Adam Roberts

*Na'ar hayiti, gam zakanti,  
ve-lo ra'iti tzadik ne'ezav  
ve-zar'o mevakesh lachem.*

I once was young, and have grown old,  
and have not seen a righteous man forsaken  
or his children begging for bread.

*Ha-shem oz le-amo yiten;  
ha-shem yevarech et amo va-shalom.*

The Lord will give strength to His people;  
the Lord will bless His people with peace.

## Lecha Dodi

Richard Samuels

CONDUCTOR: Deborah Melkin

SOLOISTS: Daniel Ozick, Alison Lobron, Deborah Sager, Deborah Melkin

Based on the the central prayer of the Friday night liturgy.

*Lecha Dodi likrat kallah,  
P'nei Shabbat n'kab'la.*

Come, my beloved, to greet the bride,  
To receive the presence of Shabbat.

*Shamor v'zachor b'dibur echad,  
Hishmianu Eil ha-m'yuchad.  
Adonai echad u-shemo echad,  
Lesheim u-l'tiferet v-lit'hila.*

Keep and Remember: a single command,  
the Only G-d caused us to hear;  
the Eternal is One, G-d's name is One,  
for honor and glory and praise.

*Likrat Shabbat lechu ve-neil'cha,  
Ki hi m'kor ha-b'racha.  
Mei-rosh mi-kedem n'sucha,  
Sof ma'aseh, be-machashava t'chilah.*

Come, let us go to greet the Sabbath,  
forever a fountain of blessing.  
Still it flows, as from the start:  
the last days, for which the first was made.

*Boi v'shalom, ateret ba'ala;  
Gam b'simcha u-vetzohola.  
Toch emunei am segula.  
Boi kallah! Boi kallah!*

Enter in peace, O crown of your husband;  
enter in gladness, enter in joy.  
Come to the people that keeps its faith.  
Enter, O bride! Enter, O bride!

## MORE MENSCHEN!

Visit our web page at [www.honorablemensch.org](http://www.honorablemensch.org) for the sights and sounds of the Menschen! Join our e-mail list to stay on top of our upcoming events.

**Sunday, June 27:**

**Brookline Community Center for the Arts**

We'll be the featured halftime performers for their Open Mic Night, 7-9pm. [www.bccaonline.org](http://www.bccaonline.org)