

GJC Hanukah Song Sheet

Page 1

1. O Hanukah/Oi Hanukah (Yiddish folksong; English by F. Minkoff)

O Hanukah, O Hanukah! Come light the menorah.
Let's have a party; we'll all dance the hora.
Gather round the table, we'll give you a treat:
Dreidels to play with and latkes to eat.
And while we are playing, the candles are burning low.
One for each night, they shed a sweet light to remind us of days long ago.

Oi Hanukah Oi Hanukah a yontif a sheiner
A lustiker, a freilicher nito noch azoiner
Aleh nacht in dreidlech shpilen mir
Zudik heiseh latkes est on a shiur
Geshvinder tzindt kinder di dininke lichtelech on
Zingt al ha-nisim, loibt Got far di nisim
Un kumt gicher tantzn in kon

אוי חנוכה אוי חנוכה אַ יום־טוב אַ שיינער
אַ לוסטיקער אַ פריילעכער ניטא נאָך אַזוינער
אַלע נאַכט אין דריידלעך שפילן מיר
זודיק הייסע לאַטקעס עסט אָן אַ שיעור
געשווינדער צינדט קינדער די דינינקע ליכטלעך אָן
זינגט על הנסים לויבט גאָט פאַר די נסים
און קומט גיכער טאַנצן אין קאַן

2. 'Al Ha-nisim (Masechet Sofrim 20)

'Al ha-nisim v'al ha-purkan
V'al ha-g'vurot v'al ha-t'shu'ot
She'asita la'avoteinu ul'imoteinu
Ba-yamim ha-hem ba-zman ha-zeh

על הנסים, ועל הפְּרָקוֹן
ועל הגְּבוּרוֹת ועל התְּשׁוּעוֹת
שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ לְאַבוֹתֵינוּ וּלְאִמּוֹתֵינוּ
בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בַּזְּמַן הַזֶּה

Bimei Matityahu, Matityahu ben Yohanan
Kohen Gadol, Hashmonai u'vanav
K'she'amdah malchut Yavan
'Al 'amcha Yisrael, 'Al 'amcha Yisrael
L'hashkiham Toratecha
U'leha'aviram mehukei r'tzonecha

בִּימֵי מַתִּיתָהוּ, מַתִּיתָהוּ בֶן יוֹחָנָן
כֹּהֵן גָּדוֹל חֲשֹׁמוֹנָאִי וּבָנָיו
כְּשֶׁעָמְדָה מַלְכוּת יָוֵן
עַל עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל, עַל עַמְּךָ יִשְׂרָאֵל
לְהַשְׁכִּיחַם תּוֹרַתְךָ
וּלְהַעֲבִירם מִחֻקֵּי רְצוֹנְךָ

V'atah b'rahameicha
B'rahameicha ha-rabim
'Amad'ta la-hem b'et tzaratam
B'rahameicha ha-rabim

וְאַתָּה בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ
בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הָרַבִּים
עָמַדְתָּ לָהֶם בְּעֵת צָרָתָם
בְּרַחֲמֶיךָ הָרַבִּים

We thank you for the miraculous deliverance, for the heroism, and for the triumphs of our ancestors from ancient days until our time. In the days of Mattathias son of Yohanan, the heroic Hasmonean Kohen, and in the days of his sons, a cruel power rose against your people Israel, demanding that they abandon your Torah and violate your mitzvot. You, in great mercy, stood by your people in time of trouble.

GJC Hanukah Song Sheet

Page 2

3. Ma'oz Tzur/Rock of Ages (Hebrew words by 13th century poet Mordechai; English by Marcus Jastrow, Gustav Gottheil, adapted from the German of Leopold Stein)

Ma'oz tzur y'shu'ati l'cha na'eh l'shabe'ah
Tikon beit t'filati v'sham todah n'zabe'ah
L'eit tachin matbe'ah mitzar ham-nabe'ah
Az egmor b'shir mizmor hanukat hamizbe'ah

מָעוֹז צוּר יְשׁוּעָתִי לְךָ נֶאֱדָה לְשַׁבֵּחַ
תִּכּוֹן בֵּית תְּפִלָּתִי וְשָׁם תִּזְכֶּה נִזְבֵּחַ
לֵעִת תִּכְיִן מִטְבַּח מִצָּר הַמִּנְבֵּחַ
אֶז אֶגְמֹר בְּשִׁיר מִזְמוֹר חֲנֻכַּת הַמִּזְבֵּחַ

Rock of Ages, let our song praise your saving power.
You, amid the raging foes were our sheltering tower.
Furious, they assailed us, but your arm availed us.
And your word broke their sword when our own strength failed us.

Children of the Maccabees, whether free or fettered,
Wake the echoes of the songs where you may be scattered.
Yours the message cheering that the time is nearing
Which will see all people free, tyrants disappearing.

4. S'vivon (Words by L. Kiplis; Music by A. Idelson)

S'vivon sov sov sov, Hanukah hu hag tov
Hanukah hu hag tov, s'vivon sov sov sov

סְבִיבוֹן סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב, חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חָג טוֹב
חֲנֻכָּה הוּא חָג טוֹב, סְבִיבוֹן סוֹב סוֹב סוֹב

Hag simcha hu la'am, nes gadol hayah sham
Nes gadol hayah sham, hag simcha hu la'am

חָג שִׂמְחָה הוּא לְעָם, נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם
נֶס גָּדוֹל הָיָה שָׁם, חָג שִׂמְחָה הוּא לְעָם

Spin, spin, spin, dreidel! Hanukah is a good holiday. It is a happy holiday for our people, for a great miracle happened there.

5. Mi Y'malel (Folksong; Music by Menashe Ravina)

Mi y'malel g'vurot Yisrael otan mi yimneh
Hen b'chol dor yakum hagibor go'el ha'am

מִי יִמְלֵל גִּבּוּרֹת יִשְׂרָאֵל אוֹתָן מִי יִמְנֶה
הֵן בְּכָל־דּוֹר יָקוּם הַגִּבּוֹר גּוֹאֵל הָעָם

Sh'ma! Ba-yamim ha-hem baz'man ha-zeh
Maccabee moshi'a u-fodeh
Uv'yameinu kol beit Yisrael
Yitahed yakum v'yiga'el

שְׁמַע בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם בְּזִמָּן הַזֶּה
מַכְבִּי מוֹשִׁיעַ וּפּוֹדֶה
וּבְיָמֵינוּ כָּל־בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל
יִתְאַחַד יָקוּם וַיִּגְאֵל

Who will tell of the heroes of Israel? Who can count them? For in every generation a hero arises to save our people. Listen! In those days at this time of year, the Maccabees saved and redeemed us. But in our days, all of Israel must unite and stand together to be redeemed.

GJC Hanukah Song Sheet

Page 3

6. I have a little dreidel (English by S.S. Grossman; Music by Samuel Goldfarb)

I have a little dreidel; I made it out of clay.
And when it's dry and ready, then dreidel I shall play.
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, I made it out of clay.
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, then dreidel I shall play.

It has a lovely body, with legs so short and thin.
And when it gets all tired, it drops and then I win.
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, with legs so short and thin.
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, it drops and then I win.

My dreidel's always playful; it loves to dance and spin.
A happy game of dreidel; come play now let's begin!
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, it loves to dance and spin.
O dreidel, dreidel, dreidel, come play now let's begin!

7. Ocho Kandelikas (Ladino song by Flory Jagoda)

Hanukah linda 'sta aki - ocho kandelas para mi
Hanukah linda 'sta aki - ocho kandelas para mi

O --- una kandelika, dos kandelikas, tres kandelikas, kuatro kandelikas
sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas, siete kandelikas ---
Ocho kandelas para mi

Mucha fiestas vo fazer - con alegrias i plazer
Mucha fiestas vo fazer - con alegrias i plazer

Los pastelikos vo kumer - con almendrikas i la myel
Los pastelikos vo kumer - con almendrikas i la myel

The beautiful holiday of Hanukah is here - eight candles for me! One candle, two candles, three candles, four candles, five candles, six candles, seven candles - eight candles for me! Many parties will be held with joy and with pleasure. We will eat pastelikos [meat-filled pastries] with almonds and honey.

8. Banu Hoshech L'garesh (Words by Sarah Levi-Tannai; Music by Emanuel Amiran)

Banu hoshech l'garesh, b'yadeinu or va-esh
Kol ehad hu or katan, v'chulanu or eitan

בָּאֵנוּ חוֹשֶׁךְ לְגָרֵשׁ, בְּיָדֵינוּ אוֹר וָאֵשׁ
כָּל-אֶחָד הוּא אוֹר קָטָן, וְכוֹלֵנוּ אוֹר אֵיתָן

Surah hoshech halah sh'hor
Surah mipnei ha-or

סוּרָה חוֹשֶׁךְ הָלָאָה שְׁחֹר
סוּרָה מִפְּנֵי הָאוֹר

We have come to chase away the darkness. In our hands are light and fire. Each one of us is a little light, but together we are one strong light. Flee, darkness! Back, blackness! Flee before the light!

GJC Hanukah Song Sheet

Page 4

Hanukah blessings

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam
asher kidshanu b'mitzvotav
v'tzivanu l'hadlik ner shel Hanukah

ברוך אתה ה' - להיני מלך העולם
אשר קדשנו במצותיו
וצונו להדליק נר של חנוכה

Praised are you, Adonai our God, who rules the universe, instilling in us the holiness of mitzvot by commanding us to light the lights of Hanukah.

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam
she'asah nisim la'avoteinu
ba-yamim ha-hem ba-zman ha-zeh

ברוך אתה ה' - להיני מלך העולם
שעשה נסים לאבותינו
בימים ההם בזמן הזה

Praised are you, Adonai our God, who rules the universe, accomplishing miracles for our ancestors in ancient days at this season.

On the first night only:

Baruch atah adonai eloheinu melech ha'olam
shehehyanu v'kiyemanu v'higiyanu lazman ha-zeh

ברוך אתה ה' - להיני מלך העולם
שהחיינו וקימנו והגיענו לזמן הזה

Praised are you, Adonai our God, who rules the universe, granting us life, sustaining us, and enabling us to reach this day.

Ha-nerot ha-lalu

Ha-nerot ha-lalu anahnu madlikin
Ha-nerot ha-lalu anahnu madlikin
'Al ha-nisim v'al ha-nifla'ot
V'al ha-t'shu'ot v'al ha-milhamot

הנרות הללו אנחנו מדליקים
הנרות הללו אנחנו מדליקים
על הנסים ועל הנפלאות
ועל התשועות ועל המלחמות

She'asita la'avoteinu
She'asita l'imoteinu
Ba-yamim ha-hem, ba-yamim ha-hem
Ba-yamim ha-hem ba-zman ha-zeh

שעשית לאבותינו
שעשית לאמותינו
בימים ההם, בימים ההם
בימים ההם בזמן הזה

These lights which we kindle recall the wondrous triumphs and the miraculous victories that you wrought for our ancestors in ancient days at this season.