

NEW
PALESTINEAN FOLK SONGS

A.W. BINDER



מלחמה חלוצים
א.ו. בנדר

BLOCH PUBLISHING COMPANY, Inc., NEW YORK CITY

NEW
PALESTINEAN FOLK SONGS

NOTED, COLLECTED, EDITED *and* ARRANGED

BY

ABRAHAM WOLF BINDER, Mus. B.



NEW YORK
BLOCH PUBLISHING COMPANY, Inc.

"The Jewish Book Concern"

1926

LOVINGLY DEDICATED
TO
LE-ANNA

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PREFACE

THE pleasure of the task of collecting the songs of Palestine can only be revealed in part by acquaintance with some of the beautiful melodies of this collection. To characterize all of these melodies as genuinely Jewish, would mean to stop the growth of something which is now taking root, together with other numerous developments in the Holy Land.

We, however, always take pleasure in going back to the scenes of our childhood, no matter how humble they be. It is, therefore, important to record the melodies associated with the early stages of the rebuilding of our old homeland, so that we, in the Diaspora, can feel something of the spirit which now animates the Chalutzim and Chalutzoth, and that the generations to come, may look back to these songs as those of the "growing" period.

A deep feeling of gratitude goes out to Mr. Gerson Agronsky, of Jerusalem, through whose letters of introduction to the various heads of the "K'vutsoth," I was enabled to collect most of these songs. To the Chalutz Hararri, I am indebted for the musical manner in which a great many melodies were given to me, and to the Chalutz Graboff, of the colony "Chavurath Maabar," for his original melody which I have named "Nigun Graboff."

To my comrade and colleague, Rabbi Moses Barroway, I owe a great debt of gratitude for the translations into English of the texts of these songs, which I am sure will add to their beauty and charm. And to my friend Mr. Hyman Segal as well, for his helpful suggestions, and for the touch of his poetic hand.

A. W. BINDER.

New York, July, 1926.

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TRANSLATIONS OF HEBREW TEXT

1. YIBONEH HAMIKDOSH "May the Temple be Rebuilt"

2. POLKA CHALUTSITH *A Chalutz Polka*

From Jerusalem to Metullah,
Not a maiden to be found;
Already are the fair ones wed,
Lam tsi-di-ri-tsa.

Comrade Beril, laborer loyal,
But so tame and oh, so shy!
And that's the way of our Kvutzah,
Lam tsi-di-ri-tsa.

Here they feed us "bursht" and "borsht,"
And for change again some "bursht,"
And this they call "Chamitsah,"
Lam tsi-di-ri-tsa.

3. YISMACH CHATHAN "Let the Bridegroom Rejoice"

Let the bridegroom rejoice with the bride,
Let the bride rejoice with the bridegroom;
Royal as Abraham in his princely robes,
So Sarah in her loveliness.

Let the bridegroom rejoice with the bride,
Let the bride rejoice with the bridegroom;
Regal as Isaac in his princely robes,
So Rebecca in her loveliness.

4. NA-ALEH L'ARTSENU "On to Our Land"

Let us go up to our land rejoicing!
Let us go up to our land rejoicing!
Rejoicing!
Joyful Day! Gladsome Day!
Peaceful Day!
Holy Day! Sacred Day!
Let us go up to our land rejoicing!

5. EILU VO-EILU MODIM "All in Accord"

These and those agree, (that)
Happy is he who works,
These and those agree,
Happy is he who toils;
Whoever wishes, let him come,
Let him come and be received;
And if he chooses to return,
Let him return, and be forgiven.

Refrain:

Happy are we!
Good our portion!
How fine our lot!
Fortunate our inheritance.

6. ZIRMU GALLIM "Roll on ye Waves"

Roll on ye waves, roll on ye stream,
Towards mountain and valley—
Bring greetings of peace to my beloved,
And my full-hearted blessing.

Tell her, oh stream, tell her, oh brook,
Her I love and I cherish,
How strong my soul is bound to her,
And how great is my grief.

My longing quiet thou, oh stream,
Tell her how I am yearning,
All about is emptiness,
Wanting her, what is life?

7. EIN DOVOR, EIN DOVOR "No Matter, No Matter"

In the Galuth I found nought:
To the land of Israel I journeyed,
No matter, no matter, no matter.

A month or more I waited,
Till I became worthy of work,
No matter, no matter, no matter.

In Hebrew we're called a "Kvish";¹
As for shoes, clothes—"ma-fiche."²
No matter, no matter, no matter.

¹Labor-gang.

²Arabic for "there isn't any."

8. ATOH HU YODEA "Thou Knowest"

Myriads of stars!
Which is my star?
Among all the young men,
Who is the choice of my heart?

Refrain:

Yes! Yes!
Thou art he who knowest;
Yes! Yes!
Thou rendest my heart
Yes!

In my mind is a question,
Who will solve it?
In my heart a flame,
Who will quench it? (*Refrain*)

Who enkindled the fire?
On the plains a youth
Enkindled the fire,
He enflamed my heart. (*Refrain*)

In the valley a spring,
Day and night it sobs;
How it stirs! how it speaks!
Whose fate does it mourn? (*Refrain*)

9. YOFIM HALLELOS "Beautiful Canaan Nights"

Calm are the nights in Canaan—
Calm and cool and bright;
The silence releases a humming,
Filling my heart with song.

Refrain:

Then on the calmness cool and bright,
The jackal's wailing moan,
Cleaves the silence of the night.

From morning to evening,
Do I plow with my plow—
Even though Rachel has been unfair,
Yet, I do not despair. (*Refrain*)

10. SHIR SHOMRIM *M'chorotay*

My father-land! The place of my birth!
The roll of the waves in the sea,
And the shadow of the mountains round about;
The moan of the jackals in the cornfield.
Hail, my birthplace, my fatherland!
The whole extent of the cornfield is in slumber,
And the sound of the flute is heard in the dead
of night;
Wilderness, clouds and wind.

11. HALLELUYAH

"Praised be the Lord"

We are in tatters,
In rags are we,
For a holiday we will deck out,
Patch upon patch.
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!
For ever and ever!
And the heart is torn and hungry,
But it sings, it shouts through its pain.

We are hungry,
In thirst are we,
On the holiday we shall feast,
A crust of hard bread.
Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord,
From out of the depths.
And the heart is torn and hungry,
But it sings, it shouts through its pain.

12. SHIR HA-CHALUTZIM

A Song of the Chalutzim

We are the vanguard,
Therefore have we pledged brother to brother,
That we shall be among the builders!
The furlled banner—free!

We come and we go,
Our ceaseless labor doing!
Plant the trees upon the cliffs,
And upon the mountain heights!

13. SH'MA KOLENU

"Hear our Cry"

Hear our prayer, O Lord, our God!
Woe! Woe! Woe!
Do not send Chalutzim hither,
Woe! Woe! Woe!
They seek to raise the prices,
Woe! Woe! Woe!
If not, they are ready to strike,
Woe! Woe! Woe!
They work, "aza yor of zei!"
Woe! Woe! Woe!
If you do not believe, come and see,
Woe! Woe! Woe!
At half-past seven they come to work,
Woe! Woe! Woe!
At half-past four they are already leaving,
Woe! Woe! Woe!

14. R'ISIHO

Arabian Love Song

I saw her—
I loved her—
When she went to the well
To draw water
Ei-ola!

I embraced her—
I kissed her—
When she went to the well
To draw water
Ei-ola!

I blessed her—
Said farewell—
When she went to the well
To draw water
Ei-ola!

15. HOI, HOI, Y'FE'FIYO

"Oh, Beauty, Beauty"

O Beauty, O daughter of the Galilee hills!
Thy eyes are a pair of doves,
Lips like roses;

O Beauty, O daughter of the Galilee hills!
What is to me father and mother?
Without thee I am desolate;

O Beauty, O daughter of the Galilee hills!
Place thy hand in mine,
For thou art mine and I am thine.

16. HINEH MAH TOV

"How Good and Beautiful"

How good and beautiful when brothers dwell in
amity!

17. ZIVCHU, ZIVCHE TSEDEK

"Sacrifice and Faith"

Worship in righteousness and trust in the Lord.

18. NIGUN GRABOFF

Song without Words

An original song by the Chalutz Graboff.

19. UV'CHEN TSADIKIM

"The Righteous Rejoice"

(From Liturgy for the Holy Days)

Then shall the just also see and be glad, and the
upright shall exult, and the pure trium-
phantly rejoice.

20. AL MOS TRUMPELDOR

Upon the Death of Trumpeldor

From Dan to Beersheba,
From Gilead to the sea,
There is no span
Not atoned for, in blood;
Hebrew blood has flowed in plenty,
Furrowed field, mountain and valley:
For generations, blood has not been shed, purer
than that of Tel-Hai.

Twixt Ayeleth and Metullah,
Stands a solitary grave;
A silent watchman, at the border of our land,
A sentry, strong, and one-armed;
Our heart has been taken captive,
At Tel-Hai in the North;
Ours, only ours—art thou,
Crown of the Herman.

21. NIGUN BIALIK

Dance-Song without Words

A dance-melody very popular among the Chalut-
zim and taught to them by the great Hebrew
poet Bialik.

22. ADON OLOM

"The Lord of All"

The Lord of all did reign supreme
Ere yet this world was made and formed.
When all was finished by His will,
Then was His name as King proclaimed.

And should these forms no more exist,
He still will rule in majesty.
He was, He is, He shall remain;
His glory never shall decrease.

And one is He, and none there is
To be compared or joined to Him.
He ne'er began, and ne'er will end,
To Him belong dominion's power.

He is my God, my living God,
To Him I flee when tried in grief;
My banner high, my refuge strong,
Who hears and answers when I call.

My spirit I commit to Him,
My body, too, and all I prize,
Both, when I sleep and when I wake;
He is with me, I shall not fear.

New Palestine Folk Songs
1. Yiboneh Hamikdosh
(May the Temple be Rebuilt)

1

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by A. W. Binder

Largo, con espressione

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system begins with a treble staff for the voice and a grand staff (treble and bass) for the piano. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The tempo/mood is 'Largo, con espressione'. The first system of music includes the lyrics 'Oy, yi - bo - neh yi - bo - neh yi - bo - neh yi - bo - neh ha - mik -' with a piano dynamic 'p' marking. The second system continues with 'dosh Yi - bo - neh ha - mik - dosh' and includes a pianissimo 'pp' marking. The third system features a more complex vocal line with 'Oy yi-bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi-bo-neh Oy yi-bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi - bo-neh' and a mezzo-forte 'mf' marking. The fourth system concludes with 'Oy yi-bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi - bo-neh ha - mik - dosh' and includes a 'poco rall' (slowing down) marking and a final pianissimo 'pp' marking. The piano accompaniment provides harmonic support throughout, with various dynamics like 'p' and 'pp' indicated.

mf Oy, yi - bo - neh yi - bo - neh yi - bo - neh yi - bo - neh ha - mik -

dosh Yi - bo - neh ha - mik - dosh

mf Oy yi-bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi-bo-neh Oy yi-bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi - bo-neh

Oy yi-bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi - bo-neh yi - bo-neh ha - mik - dosh