

AHM 225

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SATB

Umeiafeilah l'Or Gadol

(From Deepest Darkness
To Great Light)

Music by Arnold Harris

*A Hebrew Song for the
Chanukah Season*



WWW.ArnoldHarrisMusic.com

Umeiafeilah l'Or Gadol

***“U-Mei-Afeilah l'Or Gadol”
“From Deepest Darkness to Great Light”***

Throughout the Hebrew Bible and later Jewish writings, “darkness” is understood to symbolize suffering and enslavement, and “light” symbolizes redemption and freedom.

On the holiday of Passover, Jews use this contrast to describe the Exodus from Egypt as a time when God “brought us from deepest darkness to great light.”

***This image probably underlies the practice of lighting candles on Hanukkah. We pause, on the longest darkest nights of the year, to light candles. How can a candle possibly compare with a 12-hour moonless night? Well, as Rabbi Bachya ibn Pakuda, an eleventh century Jewish philosopher, once wrote, “A little light can dispel much darkness.” May we all be inspired to bring a little light into the world for those of us who walk in darkness.
Rabbi Carl Perkins, Needham, MA***

Arnold Harris has set the word “umeiafeilah”, from “deepest darkness”, in a minor mode in a meter of 3, and “l'Or Gadol”, “to great light”, in a meter of 4 and in major. They are then melded together symbolizing the conflict between the two, with the piece ending with a full major chord, possibly hoping that light will ultimately triumph over darkness.

Translation

***Umeiafeilah – From deepest darkness
L'or gadol - To great light***

Pronunciation Guide For Hebrew

a	as in <i>ah</i>
e	as in <i>led</i>
i	as in <i>ski</i>
o	as in French <i>beau</i>
u	as in <i>zoo</i> (no diphthong)
ei	as in French <i>blasé</i>
ch	as in German <i>buch</i>
g	as in <i>good</i>
h	as in <i>house</i>
k	as in <i>kite</i>
s	as in <i>sound</i>
sh	as in <i>shoe</i>
ts	as in <i>hits</i>

Umeiafeilah l'Or Gadol

From the liturgy

Music by Arnold Harris ©2024

A *mp* $\text{♩} = 100$

Soprano
U — mei — a — fei-lah u - mei - a — fei-lah

Alto
U — u — mei — a — fei-lah u - mei - a — fei-lah

Tenor
U — mei — a — fei-lah u - mei - a — fei-lah

Bass
U — mei — a — fei-lah u - mei - a — fei-lah

6 *f*

u - mei u - mei - a — fei - lah

f

u - mei u - mei - a — fei - lah

f

u - mei u - mei - a — fei - lah

f

u - mei u - mei - a — fei - lah

mp
U mei a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah

mp
U mei a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah

mp
U mei a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah

mp
U mei a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah

u-mei - a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah u - mei a fei-lah

u-mei - a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah u - mei a fei-lah

u-mei - a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah

u-mei - a fei-lah a fei-lah a fei-lah

f **B**
l' - or ga - dol l'-

f
l' - or ga - dol l'-

mp
a - fei - lah

mp
a - fei - lah

26

or l' - or l' - or ga -

or l' - or l' - or ga -

f ga-dol ga - dol l' - or ga -

f ga-dol ga - dol l' - or ga -

29

dol ga - dol *mf*

dol ga - dol *mf*

dol l' - or ga - dol l' or l' -

dol l' - or ga - dol l' or l' -

33

ga - dol l' - or ga - dol l' - or ga - *f* C

ga - dol l' - or ga - dol l' - or ga - *f*

or l' - or ga - dol *mf* u -

or l' - or ga - dol *mf* u -

mei a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah l' -
dol l' - or ga - dol l' -
dol l' - or ga - dol l' -
mei a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah l' -
mei a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah l' -

or ga - dol u - -
or ga - dol u - -
or ga - dol l' - or ga -
or ga - dol l' - or ga -

D *mf*
mf
f
f

mei a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah l' -
mei a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah l' -
dol l' - or ga - dol l' -
dol l' - or ga - dol l' -

E

46

or ga - dol u mei

or ga - dol u mei

or ga - dol u mei

or ga - dol u mei

50

a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah u -

a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah u -

a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah u -

a fei - lah u - mei - a fei - lah u -

54

mei u - mei - a fei - lah l' -

mei u - mei - a fei - lah l' -

mei u - mei - a fei - lah

mei u - mei - a fei - lah

F

or ga - dol l' - or ga -
 or ga - dol l' - or ga -
mf u - mei a - fei - lah u - mei -
mf u - mei a - fei - lah u - mei -

dol u - mei a fei -
 dol u - mei a fei -
f a fei - lah l' - or ga - dol l' -
f a fei - lah l' - or ga - dol l' -

lah u - mei - a fei - lah l' - or ga - dol
 lah u - mei - a fei - lah l' - or ga - dol
 or ga - dol l' - or ga - dol
 or ga - dol l' - or ga - dol

68 **G** *mp*

U mei a fei-lah u - mei - a fei-lah

U mei a fei-lah u - mei - a fei-lah

U mei a fei-lah u - mei - a fei-lah

U a fei-lah u - mei - a fei-lah

73 *f*

u - mei u - mei - a fei-lah

u - mei u - mei - a fei-lah

u - mei u - mei - a fei-lah

u - mei u - mei - a fei-lah

78 *p* 1. | 2. *f*

l'-or ga-dol l' - or ga-dol! or ga - dol!

l'-or ga-dol l' - or ga-dol! or ga - dol!

l'-or ga-dol l' - or ga-dol! or ga - dol!

l'-or ga-dol l' - or ga-dol! or ga - dol!