

## Ashrei Hagafurur

*Hannah Senesh (1921-1944) was a Hungarian born Jew, who moved to Palestine in 1939 to escape the Nazi persecution of Jews in Europe. Once there, she enlisted to fight the Germans and was parachuted by the British to Yugoslavia. She was captured, tortured and executed in 1944 at the age of 23. Even at a young age she was a noted poet and playwright.*

*This poem, Ashrei Hagafurur, (“Blessed Is The Match”) is her last poem, written while she was in Yugoslavia. Although not specifically a Chanukah text, it expresses the yearning for religious and political freedom which is the context of the Chanukah holiday.*

*Arnold Harris’ original setting of the text reflects the tension and power of the lyrics with biting harmonies and rhythmic accompaniment.*

*Chanukah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was recaptured from the Syrian Greeks in 165 BCE. The miracle referred to is the fact that when the priests returned to the Temple, they found only enough oil to last for one day, but it lasted for eight. Thus, holiday candles are lit on all eight days. The menorah, with its eight branches, one for each candle, has become the symbol of Chanukah.*

### *Lyrics (Translation by Marie Syrkin)*

<b>Ashrei hagarur she nisraf v’hitzit l’havot</b>	<b>Blessed is the match that is consumed in kindling flame</b>
<b>Ashrei hal’hava shebaarah b’sitrei l’vavot</b>	<b>Blessed is the flame that burns in secret fastness of the heart</b>
<b>Ashrei hal’vavot sheyadu lachdol b’chavod</b>	<b>Blessed is the heart with strength to stop it’s beating for honor’s sake</b>

### **Pronunciation Guide For Hebrew**

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

# Ashrei Hagafzur

poem by Hannah Senesh (1921-1944)

music by Arnold Harris ©2011

♩ = 92

SOPRANO

ALTO

TENOR

BASS

PIANO

*f*

With Intensity

Solo *f*

Ash-

5

S.

rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf, Ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf, ash-

A.

*f*

Ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf, ash-

T.

B.

PNO.

tutti

9

S. *mp* *f*  
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi - tzit le - ha - vot. ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-

A. *mp* *f*  
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi - tzit le - ha - vot. ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-

T. *mp*  
ha-gaf - rur le-ha - vot

B. *mp*  
ha-gaf - rur le-ha - vot

PNO. *mp*

14

S. raf, ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf, ash - rei ha-gaf-rur

A. raf, ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf, ash - rei ha-gaf-rur

T. ash - rei ha-gaf rur

B. ash - rei ha-gaf rur

PNO. *f*

A

18

S. *mp*  
she-nis-raf v' - hi - tzit le - ha - vot.

A. *mp*  
she-nis-raf v' - hi - tzit le - ha - vot.

T. *mp* *mf*  
she-nis-raf v' - hi - tzit le - ha - vot. Ash - rei ha - l' - ha - va\_\_ she-

B. *mp* *mf*  
she-nis-raf v' - hi - tzit le - ha - vot. Ash - rei ha - l' - ha - va\_\_ she-

PNO. *mp* *mf*

22

S.

A.

T. *mf*  
ba\_\_ a - ra b' - sit - rei, b' - sit - rei l'\_\_ va\_\_ vot

B. *mf*  
ba\_\_ a - ra b' - sit - rei, b' - sit - rei l'\_\_ va\_\_ vot

PNO. *mf*

25 **B** *p*

S. Ash rei

A. Ash rei

T. *p* b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot

B. *p* b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot

PNO. *p*

29 *mf*

S. Ash rei ash rei

A. Ash rei ash rei

T. *mf* b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot

B. *mf* b'-sit-rei, b'-sit-rei l' va vot

PNO. *mf*

C

33 *mp*

S. Ash rei ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf,

A. Ash rei ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf,

T. Ash - rei ha - l' - ha - va she-

B. Ash - rei ha - l' - ha - va she-

PNO. *mf* *mp*

37 *f*

S. Ash - rei ha-gaf-rur Ash-

A. Ash - rei ha-gaf-rur Ash-

T. ba a - ra b' - sit-rei, b' - sit-rei l' va vot Ash-

B. ba a - ra b' - sit-rei, b' - sit-rei l' va vot Ash-

PNO. *f*

41

S. *mp* *mf*  
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi - tzit le - ha - vot. Ash-

A. *mp* *mf*  
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi - tzit le - ha - vot. Ash-

T. *mp*  
rei ha-gaf rur she-nis-raf v'-hi - tzit le - ha - vot.

B. *mp*  
rei ha-gaf rur she-nis-raf v'-hi - tzit le - ha - vot.

PNO. *mp*

45

S. *mf*  
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf, Ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi -

A. *mf*  
rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis - raf, Ash - rei ha-gaf-rur she-nis-raf v'-hi -

T. *mf*  
b'-sit-rei b'-sit - rei

B. *mf*  
b'-sit-rei, b'-sit - rei

PNO. *mf*

49

S. *p* tzit l' va vot.

A. *p* tzit l' va vot.

T. *p* b' - sit - rei, b' - sit - rei l' va vot

B. *p* b' - sit - rei, b' - sit - rei l' va vot

PNO. *p*

52

S. *mf* **D** Ash - rei ha - l' - va - vot she - ya - du she - ya - du she - ya -

A. *mf* Ash - rei ha - l' - va - vot she - ya - du she - ya - du she - ya -

T. *mf* Ash - rei ha - l' - va - vot she - ya - du she - ya - du she - ya -

B. *mf* Ash - rei ha - l' - va - vot she - ya - du she - ya - du she - ya -

PNO. *mf*



56 *Poco rit.* *p*

S. du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.

A. du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.

T. du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.

B. du lach - dol lach-dol lach - dol b' - cha- vod.

PNO. *Poco rit.* *p*

59 *A tempo primo* *pp*

S. b' - cha - vod.

A. b' - cha - vod.

T. b' - cha - vod.

B. b' - cha - vod.

PNO. *pp*