

B'neir Hashmonai

Arnold Harris has set original music for the words of the 7th century poet, Eleazar Kallir's (c.570 c.640, land of Israel) mystical poem about the Chanukah candles. This acapella setting enriches the ancient words with echoes of jazz harmonies.

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 Rabbi Carl Perkins
Temple Aliyah, Needham, MA*

**Zeicher, zeicher, zeicher
Zeicher hakamat neivot
Binvalim v'chinorot
Atah nadlik neivot
Renen v' hallel
Al kein n'halleil
B'k'riat hahallel
V'shah b'rachash hamonai
K'hafiach reiach shmanai
B'neir Hashmonai**

**For the remembrance
of the establishment of candles
celebrated with lute and harp
we now light candles
With joyful song and praise
We therefore, offer praise as well
By reciting the Psalms of Praise
God heard the rustle of crowds
As he instilled the aroma of my oil
With a Hasmonean candle**

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>

B'neir Hashmonai

(With A Hasmonean Candle)

7th century Chanukah piyyut (liturgical poem)
 by Eleazar Kallir c. 570 - c. 640 Land of Israel

Music by Arnie Harris ©2018

SOPRANO
ALTO

mp *mf*

mp *mf*

Zei-cher, zei-cher, zei - cher zei-cher ha-ka-mat nei - rot

TENOR
BASS

5

p *p*

bin - va lim v' - chi no rot, v' - chi no rot, a -

8

1. *p* 2. *p*

tah nad - lik nei rot nei - rot nei - rot

A

12 sopranos

f *f* *f*

f *f* *f*

Re nen v' hal-lel, al kein al kein n' - ha - leil

al kein al kein al kein n' - ha - leil.

16

tenors

b' - k'ri - at b' - k'ri - at b' - k'ri - at ha - hal

B' - k'ri - at ha - hal - lel

19

lel. *f* v' - shah b' - ra - chash v' - shah b' - ra - chash

B ♩ = 120

24

ha - mo - nai, ha - mo - nai. k' - ha - fi - ach

B

29

rei - ach, k' - ha - fi - ach rei - ach, sh'ma nai,

34

shma nai. b' - neir hash - mo - nai

C

39 *mf* **poco rit.**

b' - neir hash - mo - nai.

44 **tempo 1**
mp *mf*

Zei-cher zei-cher, zei - cher zei-cher ha - ka - mat nei -

47 *p*

rot bin - va lim v' - chi no rot, v' -

50

chi no rot, a - tah nad - lik nei rot.