

Maoz Tzur

Maoz Tzur is the most well-known of all Chanukah lyrics, recounting the deliverance of the Jews from destruction, celebrated during Chanukah. The words are ascribed to a 13th century source writing during the Crusades. Arnold Harris has written a powerful new melody in an acapella setting, reflecting the “Rock of Ages” sentiment of the title.

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

<i>Maoz Tzur y'shuati</i>	<i>To you my Rock of Salvation</i>
<i>L'cha naeh l'shabeiach</i>	<i>it is a delight to offer praise</i>
<i>Tikon beit t'filati</i>	<i>Restore my House of Prayer</i>
<i>V'sham todah n'zabeiach</i>	<i>and there we will offer thanksgiving</i>
<i>L'eit tachin matbeiach</i>	<i>When you have punished the abusive foe</i>
<i>Az egmor b'shir mizmor</i>	<i>then I shall complete with song & psalm</i>
<i>Chanukat hamizbeiach</i>	<i>the dedication of the altar</i>

Pronunciation Guide For Hebrew

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

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Maoz Tzur

traditional Chanukah lyrics

music by Arnold Harris ©2019

f = 80

Ma-oz tzur _____ y'-shu a - ti l' - cha _____ na-eh l'-sha-

Ma - oz tzur _____ y' - shu a - ti l' - cha _____ na-eh l'-sha-

f Ma-oz tzur y' - shu a - ti l' - cha na-eh l'-sha-

5 *mp* _____ *mf*

bei-ach _____ ti-kon beit t' - fi - la - ti v' - sham to-dah n' - za-

mp _____ *mf*

bei - ach _____ ti - kon beit ti-kon beit t' - fi - la - ti v' - sham to-dah n' - za-

9

bei _____ ach Ma _____ oz _____ tzur _____ y' - shu _____ a - ti l' - cha na - eh l' sha-

bei _____ ach Ma _____ oz _____ tzur _____ y' - shu _____ a - ti l' - cha na - eh l' sha-

13 *mp*

bei-ach _____ ti _____ kon _____ beit _____ t' - fi _____ la - ti v' - sham to dah n' - za-

mp

bei-ach _____ ti _____ kon _____ beit _____ t' - fi _____ la - ti v' - sham to dah n' - za-

17

f

bei - ach Ma-oz tzur y'-shu a - ti l' - cha

Ma-oz tzur y'-shu a - ti l' - cha

f Ma-oz tzur y'-shu a - ti l-

21

mp *mf*

na-eh l' sha - bei-ach ti-kon beit t'-fi-la-ti v' - sham to-dah n'-za-

mp *mf*

cha na-eh l' sha - bei-ach ti kon beit ti-kon beit t'-fi-la-ti v' - sham to-dah n'-za-

26

subito *p* *mp*

bei ach, n'-za - bei-ach. l' - eit ta-chin mat - bei ach

subito *p* *mp*

bei ach, n'-za - bei-ach, mi - tzar ha-m'na-

31

mf

az eg-mor b' - shir miz- mor Cha-nu-kat

mf

bei - ach, az eg-mor b' - shir miz-mor, Cha-nu - kat Cha-nu-

35

Cha-nu-kat ha - miz - bei ach mi-
 kat, Cha-nu-kat ha - miz - bei ach l' - eit ta-chin mat - bei ach mi-

40

tzar ha - m'na - bei - ach, az eg-mor b' - shir miz-mor
 tzar ha - m'na - bei - ach, az eg-mor b' - shir miz-mor, Cha-nu-

44

Cha-nu kat Cha-nu-kat ha-miz -bei-ach Ma oz tzur Ma-oz
 Ma-oz tzur
 kat Cha-nu-kat, Cha-nu kat ha-miz -bei-ach Ma oz tzur.

49

1. *f* tzur ma-oz tzur, ma-oz tzur Ma-oz ma - oz tzur.
 2. *mp* Ma-oz tzur ma-oz tzur ma-oz tzur ma - oz tzur.
 Ma-oz tzur ma-oz tzur ma-oz tzur ma - oz tzur.