

AHM 184

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SATB

# Nun Gimel Heh Shin

(the Hebrew letters on the dreidl)

Music by Arnold Harris

*A Hebrew Song for the Chanukah Season*



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## ***Nun Gimel Heh Shin***

*The dreydl, a spinning top, is the traditional children's toy during Chanukah. There are four letters on the dreydl: "nun, gimel, heh and shin". These are the first letters of the words "neis gadol haya sham" which mean "a great miracle happened there, in those olden days in this season", summarizing the events of this holiday.*

*Arnold Harris' arrangement is a fun setting interchanging both the letters and the words of this phrase. Changes of key, meter and dynamics with much interaction between the choral sections gives this arrangement the feeling of a spinning dreydl.*

*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*

***Neis gadol haya sham, bayamim haheim bazman hazeh.***

***A great miracle happened there, in those olden days in this season.***

### ***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>

# Nun, Gimel, Heh, Shin

(The letters on the Dreydl)

music by Arnold Harris ©2022

traditional Chanukah lyrics

**A**

*♩* = 80

**SOPRANO**  
Nun *mp*

**ALTO**  
Nun *mp*

**TENOR**  
Nun *mp*

**BASS**  
Nun *mp*

**PIANO**  
*mf* *mp*

7

**S.**  
gi mel heh shin nun gi-mel heh *mf*

**A.**  
gi mel heh shin nun gi-mel heh *mf*

**T.**  
gi mel heh shin nun gi-mel heh *mf*

**B.**  
gi mel heh shin nun gi-mel heh *mf*

**PNO.**  
*mf*

13

S. shin Neis ga-dol ha-ya sham

A. shin Neis ga-dol ha-ya sham

T. shin sham

B. shin sham

PNO.

19

S.

A.

T.

B.

PNO.

25 **B**

S. *Sub p*  
Nun gi - mel\_ heh\_ shin

A. *Sub p*  
Nun gi - mel\_ heh\_ shin

T. *Sub p*  
8 heh nun\_ gi - mel heh\_ shin

B. *Sub p*  
shin\_ nun\_ gi - mel heh\_ shin

PNO. *Sub p*

31 *mf*

S. *mf*  
ha - ya sham\_ ha - ya sham\_

A. *mf*  
ha - ya sham\_ ha - ya sham\_

T. *mf*  
8 Neis ga - dol\_ neis ga - dol\_ ha - ya sham\_

B. *mf*  
Neis ga - dol\_ neis ga - dol\_ ha - ya sham\_

PNO. *mf*

36 *p*

S. gi-mel shin\_ gi-mel shin\_ gi-mel shin\_ gi-mel

A. gi-mel shin gi-mel shin gi-mel shin gi-mel

T. *p* nun heh\_ nun heh\_ nun heh\_ nun

B. *p* nun\_ heh nun\_ heh nun\_ heh nun\_

PNO. *p*

43 *f* Sub *p* *mf*

S. heh shin. Neis ga-dol ha - ya sham.\_\_\_\_\_

A. *f* Sub *p* *mf* heh shin. Neis ga-dol ha - ya sham.\_\_\_\_\_

T. *f* Sub *p* *mf* heh shin. sham.\_\_\_\_\_

B. *f* Sub *p* *mf* heh shin. sham

PNO. *f* Sub *p* *mf*

heh\_

49 **C**

S. Nun gi-mel\_ heh\_ shin Sub *p*

A. Nun gi-mel\_ heh\_ shin Sub *p*

T. heh nun\_ gi - mel heh\_ shin. Sub *p*

B. shin\_ nun\_ gi - mel heh\_ shin Sub *p*

PNO. Sub *p*

55 **D**

S. gi - mel heh shin

A. gi - mel heh shin

T. nun heh\_ shin

B. nun heh\_ shin

PNO.

59

S. gi - mel heh shin

A. gi - mel heh shin

T. nun heh shin

B. nun heh shin

PNO.

63

S. Nun gi-mel heh shin Sub *p*

A. Nun gi-mel heh shin Sub *p*

T. heh nun gi-mel heh shin Sub *p*

B. shin nun gi-mel heh shin Sub *p*

PNO. Sub *p*



69 **E** ♩ = 120 *f*

S. *f* Nun gi - mel heh shin

A. *f* Nun gi - mel heh shin

T. *f* Nun gi - mel heh shin

B. *f* Nun gi - mel heh shin

PNO. *f*

75

S. nun gi - mel heh shin

A. nun gi - mel heh shin

T. nun gi - mel heh shin

B. nun gi - mel heh shin

PNO.

79 **F** Tempo 1 Sub *p*

S. nun gi mel heh shin, nun gi mel heh shin. Sub *p*

A. nun gi mel heh shin, nun gi mel heh shin. Sub *p*

T. nun gi mel heh shin, nun gi mel heh shin. Sub *p*

B. nun gi mel heh shin, nun gi mel heh shin. Sub *p*

PNO. Sub *p*

88 *mf* , *mp*

S. Neis ga-dol ha-ya sham. Nun gi mel

A. *mf* , *mp*  
Neis ga-dol ha-ya sham. Nun gi mel

T. *mf* , *mp*  
sham. Nun gi mel

B. *mf* , *mp*  
sham. Nun gi mel

PNO. *mp*

95 *mf*

S. *mf*  
heh shin nun gi-mel heh shin\_\_ Neis ga-dol ha-ya sham.\_\_\_\_\_

A. *mf*  
heh shin nun gi-mel heh shin\_\_ Neis ga-dol ha-ya sham.

T. *mf*  
heh shin nun gi-mel heh shin\_\_ sham.\_\_\_\_\_

B. *mf*  
heh shin nun gi-mel heh shin\_\_ sham

PNO. *mf*

102 *f* *p* *f*

S. *f* *p* *f*  
Neis\_\_ Nun gi mel heh shin

A. *f* *p* *f*  
Neis\_\_ Nun gi mel heh shin

T. *f* *p* *f*  
Neis\_\_ Nun gi mel heh shin.

B. *f* *p* *f*  
Neis Nun gi mel heh shin

PNO. *p* *f*