

O Ir Kleyne Likhtelekh

Arnold Harris has set the Chanukah poem by the well known Yiddish poet, Morris Rosenfeld (1862-1923) in a SATB choral arrangement with piano accompaniment and choral acapella sections. Harris has set the text reflecting the gentleness of the little Chanukah candles with reflections on the many sad and fearful moments in Jewish history. Yiddish was the spoken language and linguistic basis of Eastern European Jewish culture before the holocaust of World War II. It is still thriving and is spoken by many Jews to this very day.

Lyrics & Translation by Theodore Bikel

**O ir kleyne likhtelekh
Ir dertselt geshikhtelekh
Mayselekh on tzol
Ir dertseylt fun blutikeyt
Beryeshaft un mutikeit
Vunder von amol**

**O little lights of mystery
you recall our history
and all that went before
The battles and the bravery
And our release from slavery
Miracles galore**

**O ir kleyne likhtelekh
Ir dertselt geshikhtelekh
Vekn oif mein payn
Tifn harts bevegt es zikh
Un mit trern fegt es zikh
Vos vet itster zein?**

**O little lights of mystery
you recall our history
Our tales are tales of pain
My heart is filled with fears
My eyes are filled with tears
What now? the haunting refrain**

Pronunciation Guide For Yiddish

a	ah
e	bed
i	fit
o	home
u	zoom
ay	mind
ey	say
oy	boy
kh	German <i>buch</i>
sh	shoe
ts	hits

O Ir Kleyne Likhtelekh

Poem by Morris Rosenfeld (1862-1923)

Music by Arnold Harris ©2017

♩ = 38
Gracefully

SOPRANO ALTO

TENOR BASS

Piano

mf

mf

O ir kley - ne likh - te-

8

poco rit.

p

p

lekh, Ir der-tselt ge - shikh - te - lekh, May - se-lekh on tzol,

A

tempo primo

15 *mf* ♩ = 38

mf O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh,

21

B

f

f Ir der-tseylt fun blu-ti-keyt
blu - ti - keyt, blu ti - keyt

27

C

f

f Ber-ye shaft un mu-ti-keit
mu - ti - keit mu - ti - keit,

D

33

mp

O ir kley-ne likh - te - lekh likh - te - lekh

mp

mp

39

poco rit. $\text{♩} = 38$

Vun - der von a mol

mf

44

E *mf*

O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh, Ir der - tselt ge -

mf

4 49

poco rit.

$\text{♩} = 38$
tempo primo

shikh - te - lekh, Ve - kn oif mein payn

p

56

F *mf*

Ti - fn harts be - vezt es zikh ba -
ba - vezt es zikh, ba -

mf *p*

62

vezt es zikh. Un mit trena fregt es zikh

vezt es zikh

mf

69

p

fregt — es zikh.

fregt es zikh fregt — es zikh

p

mf

G

75 *mp*

mp O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh likh - te - lekh

G

79

p

Vos vet it-ster zein.

p

poco rit.

$\text{♩} = 38$
tempo primo

6 **H** tempo primo

84 *mf*

mf O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh,

88 slower *mp*

mp O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh,

92 *p* rit.

p O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh