

AHM 195

\$2.00

SATB

O Ir Kleyne Likhtelekh

“O Little Lights of Mystery”

Music by Arnold Harris

A Yiddish Song for the Chanukah Season



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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 dertselet geshikhtelekh
Mayselekh on tzol
Ir dertseylt fun blutikeyt
Beryeshaft un mutikeit
Vunder von amol**

**O ir kleyne likhtelekh
Ir dertselet 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
and all that went before
The battles and the bravery
And our release from slavery
Miracles galore**

**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

J. = 38
Gracefully

SOPRANO ALTO

TENOR BASS

Piano

The musical score consists of four staves. The top two staves are for vocal parts: Soprano/Alto (treble clef) and Tenor/Bass (bass clef). The bottom two staves are for the piano: Treble clef for the right hand and Bass clef for the left hand. The music is in common time (indicated by '3'). Dynamics include 'mf' (mezzo-forte) for both vocal parts and the piano. The lyrics 'O ir kley - ne likh - te-' are written below the vocal parts. Various musical markings such as grace notes, slurs, and dynamic changes are present throughout the score.

8

poco rit.

p

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

p

2

A

tempo primo

mf $\text{J.} = 38$

15

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

21

B

f

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

C

f

Ber-ye shaft un mu - ti - keit
mu - ti - keit
f mu - ti - keyt, *p* mu - ti - keyt

D

33

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

39

poco rit.

♩ = 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*

p

mf Ti - fn harts be - vegt es zikh
ba -
mf ba - vegt es zikh, ba -

62

mf

vegt es zikh.
Un mit trern fregt es zikh
vegt es zikh

mf

69

fregt es zikh.
fregt es zikh.

G

75 *mp*

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

G

poco rit.

79 *p*

d. = 38
tempo primo

Vos vet it-ster zein.

6 **H** tempo primo

84 *mf*

O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh,

88 slower *mp*

O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh,

rit.

92 *p*

O ir kley - ne likh - te - lekh