

הַשְּׂפִיבְנוּ Hashkiveinu

music: Craig Taubman text: evening liturgy

Jay O'Brien- vocals and acoustic guitar, David Strickland, piano

<i>Hashkiveinu, Adonai Eloheinu, l'shalom, v'hamideinu shomreinu l'chayim.</i>	הַשְּׂפִיבְנוּ יְיָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, לְשָׁלוֹם וְהַעֲמִידֵנוּ שׁוֹמְרֵינוּ לְחַיִּים.
<i>Ushmor tzeiteinu uvo-einu l'chayim ul'shalom mei-atah v'ad olam.</i>	וְשָׁמֵר צִיָּאתֵנוּ וּבֹאֵנוּ לְחַיִּים וּלְשָׁלוֹם מֵעַתָּה וְעַד עוֹלָם.

Grant that we may lie down in peace, Eternal God, and awaken us to life. Guard our going forth and coming in and bless us with life and peace.

The ***Hashkiveinu*** is a prayer in which we ask God for the ability to lie down in peace at night and to return to life the following day. We pray the *Hashkiveinu* every evening after we say the *Shema*. This setting by Craig Taubman is one of my favorite synagogue melodies because of its emphasis on hope and meditateness.

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ Avinu Malkeinu

music: Max Janowski text: High Holyday liturgy
Jay O'Brien- vocals, David Stickland- piano

*Avinu Malkeinu, sh'ma koleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu, chatanu
l'fanecha.
Avinu Malkeinu, chamol aleinu
v'tapeinu, ve'al olaleinu v'tapeinu.
Avinu Malkeinu, kaleh dever
v'cherev v'ra'av m'aleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu, kaleh chol tzar
u'mastin m'aleinu.
Avinu Malkeinu, kotveinu b'seifer
chayim tovim.
Avinu Malkeinu, chadeish aleinu
shannah tovah.*

אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, שְׁמַע קוֹלֵנוּ
אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חָטְאנוּ לְפָנֶיךָ
אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חָמוּל עָלֵינוּ וְעַל עוֹלָלֵינוּ
וְטַפֵּינוּ
אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כֹּלֵה דָבָר וְחָרֵב וְרָעַב
מֵעָלֵינוּ
אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כֹּלֵה כָּל צָר וּמִשְׁטֵיץ
מֵעָלֵינוּ
אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, כֹּתְבֵינוּ בְּסֵפֶר חַיִּים
טוֹבִים
אָבִינוּ מַלְכֵנוּ, חֲדָשׁ עָלֵינוּ שָׁנָה טוֹבָה

Our Parent, Our Sovereign, hear our voice.
Our Parent, Our Sovereign, we have sinned before You.
Our Parent, Our Sovereign, be merciful to us and to our children.
Our Parent, Our Sovereign, make an end to sickness, war, and famine.
Our Parent, Our Sovereign, make an end to all oppression.
Our Parent, Our Sovereign, renew us for a good year.

Avinu Malkeinu (Our Parent and Sovereign), is a prayer that recurs throughout our Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services. This prayer highlights the merciful side of God's judgment and expresses a hope for individual and collective redemption. This setting by Max Janowski is a modern classic of synagogue music.

מי כמוכה *Mi Chamocha*

music: Debbie Friedman, text: daily liturgy

Jay O'Brien- acoustic guitar and vocals, David Strickland- piano

<i>Mi chamocha ba-eilim Adonai</i> <i>Mi kamocha ne-edar ba-Kodesh</i> <i>Norah t'hilot, oseh feleh</i>	מי כמוכה בְּאֵלִים יי מי כמוכה נְעֻדָּר בְּקֹדֶשׁ נֹרָה תְהִילֹת עֹשֶׂה פֶלֶה
<i>Shira chadashah shib'chu ge'ulim</i> <i>L'shimcha al s'fat hayam</i> <i>Yachad kulam hodu v'himlichu</i> <i>v'am'ru</i>	שִׁירָה חֲדָשָׁה שְׁבַחוּ גְאוּלִים לְשִׁמְךָ עַל שְׂפַת הַיָּם, יחד כֻּלָּם הוֹדוּ וְהִמְלִיכוּ וְאָמְרוּ
<i>Adonai yimloch l'olam va'ed</i>	יי ימלך לעולם ועד.

Who is like you, Adonai, among the gods that are worshipped? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, working wonders?

With new song, inspired, at the shore of the Sea, redeemed sang Your praise. In unison they all offered thanks. Acknowledging Your Sovereignty, that said "Adonai will reign forever."

Mi Chamocha (Who is Like You) is the song that our ancestors sang when they crossed the Sea of Reeds. Today we sing *Mi Chamocha* every day to recall our miraculous exodus from slavery in Egypt. I love Debbie Friedman's musical setting of this text because it wonderfully captures the joy and exhilaration our ancestors felt at the moment of deliverance.

L'dor Vador לְדוֹר וָדוֹר

music: Meir Finkelstein text: daily liturgy
Jay O'Brien- vocals, David Strickland- piano

<i>L'dor vador nagid godlecha ul'netzach netzachim kedushat-cha nakdish,</i>	לְדוֹר וָדוֹר נָגִיד גְּדֹלָה וְלִנְצַח נְצַחִים קְדוּשַׁתְּךָ נְקַדִּישׁ,
<i>v'shivchacha Eloheinu, mipinu lo yamush l'olam vaed.</i>	וְשִׁבְחָךָ אֱלֹהֵינוּ, מִיָּפִינוּ לֹא יִמוּשׁ לְעוֹלָם וָעֶד.
<i>Ki Eil Melech gadol v'kadosh Atah</i>	כִּי אֵל מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל וְקָדוֹשׁ אַתָּה.
<i>Baruch Atah Adonai, Ha-El hakadosh</i>	בְּרוּךְ אַתָּה יי, הָאֵל הַקָּדוֹשׁ

From generation to generation we will declare Your greatness, and for all eternity proclaim Your holiness. Your praise, O God, shall never depart from our lips, for You are the great and holy sovereign. Blessed are You, Adonai, the Holy God.

Our Jewish faith is a chain of tradition that stretches back countless generations. The prayer **L'dor Vador** (From Generation to Generation) appears in our daily liturgy and expresses our commitment to passing Judaism to the next generation. This musical setting was written by Cantor Meir Finkelstein, and combines traditional style cantorial passages with an easy-to-sing congregational refrain.

עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם Oseh Shalom

music: Paul Simon and Art Garfunkel text: daily liturgy
Jay O'Brien- vocals, Cantor Dan Singer- acoustic guitar and vocals

<i>Oseh shalom bimromav hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yisrael, v'al kol yoshvei teiveil v'imru Amen.</i>	עֲשֵׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרְוֹמָיו הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל, וְעַל כָּל יוֹשְׁבֵי תֵבֵל, וְאָמְרוּ אָמֵן.
<i>Yih'yu l'ratzon imrei fi v'hegyon libi lefanecha Adonai tzuri v'go-ali</i>	יְהִיו לְרָצוֹן אִמְרֵי פִי וְהִגְיוֹן לִבִּי לְפָנֶיךָ, יְיָ צוּרִי וְגוֹאֲלִי.

May the one who makes peace in the high heavens make peace for us,
all Israel and all who inhabit the Earth. Let us say, Amen.

May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable to You, Adonai, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Oseh Shalom and *Yih'yu L'ratzon* both appear in our prayerbook as closing meditations to our daily prayer services. This particular musical setting is an adaptation of the popular Simon and Garfunkel tune "Sounds of Silence." Over the past four years I have been a part of many creative musical adaptations of our Jewish prayers in collaboration with my mentor Cantor Dan Singer of Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, NYC.

The Prestly Blessings בְּרַכַּת כֹּהֲנִים

Music: Jay O'Brien Text: adapted from Numbers 6:23-27
Jay O'Brien- acoustic guitar and vocals, David Strickland- piano

כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן (*kein y'hi ratzon*), may it be Your will.
Grant to us the blessing of light within our lives
כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן (*kein y'hi ratzon*), may it be Your will
כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן (*kein y'hi ratzon*).

(<i>Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha</i>)	יְבָרְכֶךָ יי וַיְשַׁמְרֶךָ
(<i>Ya'eir Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka</i>)	יֵאֵר יי פָּנָיִב אֱלֹהֶיךָ וַיְחַנְּנֶךָ
(<i>Yisa Adonai panav eleicha v'yasiem lecha shalom</i>)	יִשָּׂא יי פָּנָיו אֱלֹהֶיךָ וַיִּשֶׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם

כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן (*kein y'hi ratzon*), may it be Your will.
Grant to us the blessing of light within our lives
כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן (*kein y'hi ratzon*), may it be Your will
כֵּן יְהִי רָצוֹן (*kein y'hi ratzon*).

May God bless you and keep you.
May God's radiance shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God's presence be upon you and grant you peace.

The words of *Birkat Kohanim* (Priestly Blessings) are from the book of Numbers 6:23-27. Archeologists have also recently discovered ancient amulets containing these verses from the First Temple period, making them among the oldest known Biblical texts. I chose to set these timeless words to music for the wedding of my two close friends and HUC classmates, Cantor Vladimir Lapin and Rabbi Elle Mulbaum.

Niggun for Shabbat נִיגּוּן לְשַׁבָּת

music: Shlomo Carlebach

Jay O'Brien- vocals

Niggunim, or wordless melodies, are an important component of synagogue music because they enable all participants of Jewish services to sing and pray together, regardless of their Jewish affiliation, knowledge, or practice. This joyous melody by Shlomo Carlebach begins as a soft meditation and builds into an ecstatic dance for the arrival of Shabbat.