

Program Notes for *Maoz tzur*

The text for *Maoz tzur* used here is the first of six Hebrew verses. Only the fifth verse is specific to the events surrounding Chanukah. The verses detail instances wherein the Jewish people were subjected to and released from oppression: the slavery in Egypt and the Exodus, the Babylonian exile for seventy years, the oppressive edicts of Haman and his eventual downfall and, finally, the defilement of the temple by the Greeks and its eventual rededication. The first letters of the words of the verses give a clue to the author of the text, spelling out the name “Mordechai.”

The Text

Maoz tzur, y'shuati,
l'cha naeh l'shabeiach.
Tikon beit t'filati
v'sham todah n'zabeiach.
Leit tachin matbeiach mitzor hamnabeiach,
az egmor b'shir mizmor
chanukat hamizbeiach.

Transliteration by Robert Applebaum

*O, mighty Rock of my deliverance,
How right it is to praise You,
You will restore my House of Prayer,
And there I will offer thanks to You.
When You will have defeated the forces of evil,
Gratefully, in song and psalm,
I will rededicate the Altar.*

English translation by Robert Applebaum

Pronunciation Guide

The system employed in this setting is as follows:

“a”	as in “papa”
“ah”	(at the ends of words) as in “father”
“ai”	as in “aisle”
“e”	as in “get”
“eh”	(at the ends of words) as in “get”
“lei”	as in “vein”
“i”	as in “machine”
“o”	as in “pole”
“oi”	as in “boil”
“u”	as in “rule”
“g”	as in “get” (hard “g”)
“ch”	as in the Scottish “loch” or German “ach”

Available Editions

SATB Chorus

1. Oh, Chanukah/Y'mei hachanukah	5902
2. Maoz tzur	5903
3. Funky Dreidl (I Had a Little Dreidl)	5904

SSAA Chorus

1. Oh, Chanukah/Y'mei hachanukah	8437
2. Maoz tzur	8438
3. Funky Dreidl (I Had a Little Dreidl) (with Piano)	8439

Robert Applebaum (b. 1941)

For biographical information visit:

www.bobapplebaum.com

The set *Three Pieces for Chanukah* was composed for Greg Skalinder and the Coriolis Ensemble, Evanston, IL.

Three Pieces for Chanukah

2. Maoz tzur

for SATB Chorus unaccompanied

Robert Applebaum, arr.

Traditional Hebrew folk song

Maestoso e legato ♩ = 108

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Keyboard
(for
rehearsal
only)

Maestoso e legato ♩ = 108

Ma-oz tzur, _____

mf *> mp*

mf

Ma - oz tzur, _____

> mp

Ma - - - oz tzur, _____

ma - - - oz - - - tzur, _____

Maestoso e legato ♩ = 108

ma - oz tzur, y' - shu - a - ti. _____

mf

> mp

> p

mf

p

L'cha na - eh - - l' - sha - bei - - ach. _____

Ti - kon - _____

> mp

p

Ti - kon - _____

lightly

L'cha na - eh - - l' - sha - bei - - ach. _____

Ti - kon - _____

11

mf Ti-kon beit t' - fi - la - ti _____ *(mf)* v'sham to - dah n' - za - bei - ach.

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

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

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

16

mp Ma - oz tzur. . . *p* Ah, _____ *mf* mi-tzor ham - na - bei - ach, *p*

mp Ma - oz tzur. . . *mf* L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach mi-tzor ham - na - bei - ach, *p*

mp Ma - oz tzur. . . *mf* L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach, ham - na - bei - ach, *p*

mp Ma - oz tzur. . . *mf* L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach, ham - na - bei - ach, *p*

21

In tempo

Ah, _____ az, _____ b'-
 Ah, _____ az eg - mor
 Ah, _____ az eg - mor
 az eg - mor _____ b'-shir miz - mor _____ cha - nu - kat ha - miz - bei - ach, az, _____

In tempo

26

shir miz - mor cha - nu - kat _____ ha - miz - bei - ach, ha - miz - bei - ach.
 ...shir miz - mor, _____ ha miz - bei - ach, ha - miz - bei - ach.
 ...shir miz - mor, _____ ha - miz - bei - ach, ha - miz - bei - ach.
 ...shir miz - mor, _____ ha - miz - bei - ach, ha - miz - bei - ach.

31 **In tempo**

L' - cha na - eh, _____

L' - cha na - eh l' - sha - bei - ach. Ma - oz tzur.

Ma - oz tzur, y' - shu - a - ti, l' - cha na - eh l' - sha - bei - ach. Ma - oz tzur. Ti - kon beit t' -

Ma - oz tzur, y' - shu - a - ti, ah, _____ Ti - kon beit t' -

36

t' - fi - la - ti v' - sham. Ma - oz _____ tzur. _____

t' - fi - la - ti v' - sham to - dah n' - za - bei - ach. _____ Ma - oz tzur, ma - oz tzur, _____ ma - oz

fi - la - ti, ...sham, Ma - oz _____ tzur, _____ ma - oz

fi - la - ti, ...sham, Ma - oz _____ tzur, _____ ma - oz

41 *mp*, **In tempo** *mf*

L'eit ta-chin mat - bei - ach mi-tzor ham-na -

mp, *mf*

tzur. Mat - bei - ach mi - tzor ham - na -

mp, *mf*

tzur. L'eit ta - chin mat - bei - ach, ah, ham - na -

mp, *mf*

tzur. L'eit ta - chin mat - bei - ach, ah, ham - na -

In tempo

46 *poco rit.* *p*, *mp* **Slower** ♩ = 100 *mf*

bei - ach, ah, ah, ah, cha - nu - kat ha - miz -

mp, *p*, *mp* *mf*

bei - ach, ham - na - bei - ach, ah, ah, cha - nu - kat ha - miz -

mp, *p*, *mp* *mf*

bei - ach, ham - na - bei - ach, ah, ah, cha - nu - kat ha - miz -

mp, *p*, *mf* (*mf*)

bei - ach, ah, az eg - mor - b' shir miz - mor - cha - nu -

Slower ♩ = 100 *poco rit.*

51

f bei - ach, az eg - mor b'shir miz - mor, ah, *p*

f bei - ach, az — eg - mor, eg - mor b'shir *mp* miz - mor — cha - nu - kat ha - miz -

f bei - ach, az eg - mor — b'shir *mp* miz - mor cha - nu - kat ha - miz -

f kat, — az eg - mor — b'shir *p* miz - mor, ah, —

55 **Tranquillo**

mp ah, *p* ah. Ma - oz tzur. *rit.*

p bei - ach. Ah, *mp* ah. *p* Ma - oz tzur.

p bei - ach. Ah, *mp* ah. *p* Ma - oz tzur.

ah, — ah. — Ma - oz tzur. *div.*

Tranquillo

rit.

1999
3:45