

GERALD COHEN

*Sea of Reeds*

Five Hebrew songs for piano solo  
(2020)

(originally for two clarinets and piano, 2009)

The composition *Sea of Reeds* is a set of arrangements of five of my Jewish liturgical songs; the original version of these arrangements were written for the Grneta Ensemble, (Vasko Dukovski, clarinet; Ismail Lumanovski, clarinet; Alexandra Joan, piano) with a premiere by them in New York City in November 2009. I work in two musical worlds which frequently intersect—those as a composer and cantor. I often write music for Jewish services, or concert music based on Jewish texts. It was a delight to write these arrangements for clarinet duo and piano, and to see these songs transformed into instrumental chamber music that stand on their own, freed from their original vocal and textual aspects. In 2020 I composed this new version for solo piano.

**Hariu Ladonai** is a setting of the joyous Psalm 100, a psalm of thanksgiving which asks all the earth to give a “shout of joy” in praise of God. **Adonai Ro’i Lo Echsar** is based on Psalm 23, one of the most famous of the Psalms—“The Lord is my Shepherd”—which is often used as a consolation for those in mourning. **Dodi Li Vaani Lo**, originally for chorus, is a setting of selections from the Song of Songs, the Biblical poem celebrating romantic and physical love. **Y’varech’cha** comes from a song—originally written for the birth of our son—using the words said as a blessing from parents to children at the beginning of the Sabbath celebration. **Dayeinu**, also from a choral piece, is based on one of the most famous sections of the Passover Haggadah—a song of thanks to God for deliverance from slavery to freedom.

The piece in its original version has been recorded by the Grneta Ensemble on *SEA OF REEDS* (Navona Records), an album of my chamber music compositions featuring the clarinet. Information on the album can be found on my website, [www.geraldcohenmusic.com](http://www.geraldcohenmusic.com).

–Gerald Cohen

# Sea of Reeds

Duration of entire set ca. 15'

Five Hebrew songs arranged for piano solo

Original vocal version of Hariu Ladonai commissioned by Cantor Lori Corrsin for the 50th Anniversary of Larchmont Temple, Larchmont, N.Y.

## 1. Hariu Ladonai

Gerald Cohen

Lively, joyful ♩ = 184

Piano

*p* lightly

Bring out l.h. as melody

*mp*

6

12

17

*mf*