

**Gerald Cohen**

*Y'varech'cha*

(May the Lord bless you)

version for SA chorus

(or duet or mixed chorus) and piano

(1998)

PERUSAL SCORE

## Y'varech'cha

The text of *Y'varech'cha* really consists of two parts: the first three lines, from the book of Numbers (Bamidbar), is known as the Priestly Blessing, and is perhaps the earliest extant blessing we have in Jewish texts. It is a part of all Jewish and Christian liturgies. The last two lines are additional blessings traditionally said by parents to their children at the beginning of the Sabbath.

The core melody of *Y'varech'cha*, with the mood of a lullaby, was originally written in 1995 on the joyous occasion of the birth of our child, Cass. I first composed it in a version for two-part chorus (or solo duet) and piano, and have since made many different arrangements, with accompaniments available for an obbligato instrument with piano, for string quartet and orchestra, as well as various purely instrumental arrangements. This version, for SATB chorus and piano, was written in 2020.

In addition to its use for the Sabbath, the piece is appropriate for any setting of blessing, including interfaith services.

### Text and translation:

*Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha,  
Ya-eir Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka,  
Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yaseim l'cha shalom.  
Y'sim'cha Elohim k'Efrayim v'chiM'nashe,  
Y'simeich Elohim k'Sara, Rivka, Racheil, v'Leia*

May the Lord bless you and guard you,  
May the Lord cause the light of His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you,  
May the Lord lift up His face to you, and grant you peace.  
May God give you the blessings of Ephraim and Menasheh,  
May God give you the blessings of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

on the birth of our child Cassandra

# Y'varech'cha

(Blessing for Children)

Text: Numbers, Chap. 6; liturgy

for treble choir, mixed choir, or vocal duet and piano

Gerald Cohen

1 Gently flowing, like a lullaby ♩ = 96-104 Solo or unison: *p*

Y' - va-re-ch' - cha — A - do -

8 nai — v' - yish - m' - re - cha, ya - eir — A-do - nai — pa -

15 nav ei - le - cha vi - chu - ne - ka, yi - sa A-do -

22 nai pa - nav ei - le - cha v' - ya - seim l' - cha — sha -

*Ad.* *Ad.* *simile*

*p*

*p*

*p*

lom sha - lom sha - lom, sha - lom sha - lom.

Soprano: *mp* Principal melody in lower voice:

Alto: *mp*

Y' - si - m' - cha E - lo - him k' - ef -

Y' - si - m' - cha E - lo - him k' - ef -

ra - yim v' - chi - m' - na - she,

ra - yim v' - chi - m' - na - she,

Principal melody in upper voice:

49

*p*

*p* y'-si - meich E-lo - him k' - sa - ra riv - ka ra -  
 y'-si - meich E-lo - him k' - sa - ra riv - ka ra -

55

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*mf*

cheil v' - lei - a Y' - va-re-ch' -  
 cheil v' - lei - a Y' - va-re-ch' - cha

*mf* *mf*

*rit.* *a tempo*

*Ped.* *Ped.*

NOTE: The lower vocal line may sing an octave higher in m. 56-58.

61

cha A - do - nai v' - yish - m' - re - cha,  
 A - do - nai v' - yish - m' - re - cha, ya -

*simile*

6

67

ya - eir A-do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha vi - chu -  
 eir A-do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha vi - chu - ne -

73

ne - ka, *p* yi - sa A-do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha v' - ya -  
 ka, *p* yi - sa - A-do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha v' - ya -

80

seim l' - cha *mf* sha - lom, sha - lom,  
 seim l' - cha *mf* sha - lom sha - lom sha -

86

*mp*

sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom. *mp* sha -

lom, sha - lom sha - lom. sha - lom sha -

92

*rit.*

*a tempo*

*dim.*

lom, sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom.

lom sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom.

*rit.* *a tempo* *p*

98

*rit.*

*p*

*p*

*rit.* *pp*

*Red.*