

Gerald Cohen

Y'varech'cha

(May the Lord bless you)
(1997)

version for SATB chorus and piano
(2020)

PERUSAL SCORE

Gerald Cohen Music
www.geraldcohenmusic.com

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.

—Gerald Cohen

Text and translation:

*Y'varech'cha Adonai v'yishm'recha,
Ya-eir Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka,
Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yasim 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.

Y'varech'cha

Text: Numbers, Chap. 6; liturgy

(Blessing for Children)
arrangement for SATB chorus and piano

Music: Gerald Cohen

Gently flowing, like a lullaby ♩ = 96-104

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

p *sempre legato*

smile

With Ped. (pedal each measure)

8

S

A

T

B

Pno.

8

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

15

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

A
yi - sa A - do -

T
8

B
nai y' - chu - ne - ka, ah,

Pno.

22

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

A
nai pa - nav ei - le - cha v' - ya - seim l' - cha

T
8
ah,

B
ah,

22

Pno.

29

S
lom — sha - lom — sha - lom, sha - lom — sha - lom.

A
sha - lom sha - lom sha - lom.

T
sha - lom sha - lom sha - lom.

B
sha - lom sha - lom sha - lom.

Pno.

36

S
— — — — —

A
— — — — —

T
mp
— — — — — Y' - si - m' - cha E - lo - him — — — — — k'-ef-

B
mp
— — — — — Y' - si - m' - cha E - lo - him — — — — — k'-ef-

Pno.

Principal melody in bass:
mp

p

43

S
A
T
B

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

Pno.

Principal melody in soprano
mp

49

S
A
T
B

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

Pno.

Note: in mm. 59-74, and 82-99, the melody in the alto can be augmented by adding some 2nd sopranos to the alto line.

55 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

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

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

T
8 A - do -

B
mf A - do -

55 *rit.* *a tempo* *mf*

Pno.

61

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

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

T
8 nai yish - m' - re - cha,

B
nai yish - m' - re - cha,

61

Pno.

simile

67

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

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

T
8 A - do - nai chu - ne - - -

B
A - do - nai chu - ne - - -

Pno.

73

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

A
ka, ah, ah,

T
8 ka, ah,

B
ka, ah,

Pno.

92 *rit.* *a tempo* *dim.*

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

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

T
8 lom, sha - lom, sha - lom.

B
lom, sha - lom, sha - lom.

Pno.
rit. *a tempo* *dim.* *p*

98 *p* *rit.*

S

A

T
8

B
p

98 *rit.* *pp*

Pno.

Red. (to end, let final chord blend)