

GERALD COHEN

Chanukah Lights

for SSA Chorus
and Piano

PERUSAL SCORE

Chanukah Lights was written in 2005 as a piece for SSA choir with optional piano, for the wonderful A Cappella Choir of the PEARLS Hawthorne Elementary School in Yonkers NY, conducted by Emme Kressek. (In addition to being an excellent choir, the school is a block from my home, and our daughter was a 5th grader there at the time.) A serene melody floats over harmonies set up by the other voices, as the choir sings of the warmth of being together for the Chanukah holiday. The refrain concentrates on the key word “light” and builds a gentle rocking figure in the chorus.

Chicago a cappella asked me to compose a new version for their professional chorus, giving me the opportunity to write an SSAATTB a cappella version of the piece that they would perform and record. They gave the premiere in December 2022, and it was included on Chicago a cappella's album *Miracle of Miracles* in 2023.

—Gerald Cohen

Text, by Gerald Cohen:

The candles are gently glowing,
spreading peace, spreading light.
Our family gathers together,
sharing joy this Chanukah night.

Light, light,
bring joy each night!

PERUSAL SCORE

Duration: 3 minutes

Chanukah Lights

music and lyrics by
Gerald Cohen

Moderate, gentle (♩ = 104) *p*

1

Soprano 1 The can - dles are gent-ly glow - ing, spread-ing

2 *p*
Lu, Lu, Lu, Lu,

Alto *p*
u, u, u, u,

Piano

Moderate, gentle (♩ = 104)

Note: in mm. 1-10, piano can double the Soprano 2 and Alto lines if necessary, but having the choir a cappella is preferable.

5

peace, spread-ing light. Our fa - mi - ly ga - thers to - ge - ther, sharing joy this Cha-nu-kah

Lu, Lu, Lu, Lu, Lu,

u, u, u, Lu, u, u,

10 *mp* *mp* *mp*

night. Light, light, bring joy each night!

Lu, Light, light, bring joy each night!

u, light, light, bring joy each night!

A little faster (♩ = 112)

15 *mp gently* *mp gently* *mf*

Lu - - - u, Lu - - - - u, Lu - - -

Lu - - - Lu - - - - u, Lu - - - - u,

The candles are gent-ly glow-ing, spread-ing peace, spread-ing light. Our

A little faster (♩ = 112)

mp

20

u, Lu - - - u, u, lu -
Lu - - - u, Lu - - - lu - Lu - lu, lu, -
fa - mi - ly ga - thers to - ge - ther, shar - ing joy this Cha - nu - kah night. lu - - -

mp
mf
mp gently

(gently separation on all l.h. quarter notes)

25

u, lu - lu - u, lu -
lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu, lu,
lu - lu - lu - lu - lu - lu -

cresc.
cresc.
cresc.
cresc.

31 *f* **2nd time only, rit. and dim.**

u, Light, light, bring joy each night!

lu, Light, light, bring joy each night!

lu - - - light, light, bring joy each night!

f

36 **Tempo I** (♩ = 104)

The can - dles are gent-ly glow - ing, on

Lu, Lu, Lu, Lu, Lu,

u, u, u, u, u,

mp *p*

Tempo I (♩ = 104)

mp *p*

And.

rit.-----

41

Cha - nu-kah we ga-ther to - ge - - ther, bring__ light!

Lu, _____ Lu, _____ Lu, _____ Lu, _____ light!

u, _____ u, _____ u, _____ u, _____ light!

rit. *gva*-----

Leo. *Leo.*

PERUSAL SCORE