

GERALD COHEN

Dayeinu!
(It would have been enough)

for SA Chorus or
Vocal Duet
and Piano

From the Passover Cantata
V'higad'ta L'vincha

PERUSAL SCORE

Program note:

Dayeinu is the central song of joy and gratitude from the Passover Seder celebration. My setting of Dayeinu, an exuberant dance, is from the Passover cantata *V'higad'ta L'vincha* ("And you shall tell your child") that was composed in 1996 for the Syracuse Children's Chorus, Barbara Tagg, founder and director, and was commissioned by the Chorus as part of the "Commissioning Music/USA" program of Meet The Composer and the National Endowment for the Arts, with support from the Helen F. Whitaker Fund. The larger composition is based on selections from the Haggadah, the central text of the Passover celebration. One of the most significant themes of the Haggadah, emphasized in my choices of text for the piece, is that we all must experience the story of the deliverance from slavery as if we ourselves had lived through it; we must then tell our children that story so as to pass it down, vividly, from one generation to the next. A recording of the this original version for treble chorus with the Syracuse Children's Chorus, Barbara Tagg, conductor, appears on the album *Generations: Music of Gerald Cohen* (New World Records NWCRI 879).

—Gerald Cohen

Note: *Dayeinu*, and the entire *V'higad'ta L'vincha*, are also available in a version for SATB chorus. Either version can be performed either in a full score version with clarinet, cello and piano; or in the piano reduction as published here. All versions are available from Gerald Cohen Music: www.geraldcohenmusic.com

Text and translation:

Kama ma-alot tovot lamakom aleinu!
Ilu hotsianu mimitsrayim, Dayeinu!
Ilu kara lanu et hayam, Dayeinu!
Ilu sipeik tsorkeinu bamidbar arba-im shana, Dayeinu!
Ilu keirvanu lifnei har sinai, Dayeinu!
Ilu natan lanu et hatorah, Dayeinu!
Ilu hichnisanu l'erets yisrael, Dayeinu!

How many acts of kindness God has performed for us!
If God had brought us out of Egypt, *Dayeinu!* [it would have been enough for us!]
If God had split the sea for us, *Dayeinu!*
If God had sustained us in the wilderness for forty years, *Dayeinu!*
If God had brought us before Mount Sinai, *Dayeinu!*
If God had given us the Torah, *Dayeinu!*
If God had led us to the land of Israel, *Dayeinu!*

from *V'higad'ta L'vincha*

Text from the
Passover Haggadah

for SA chorus (or vocal duo) and piano

Gerald Cohen

Rather quickly, simply ♩ = 138 *How many acts of kindness God has performed for us!*

Solo (or unison chorus)

p
Ka - ma — ma - a - lot to - vot la - ma - kom — a - lei - nu! —

Piano

Exuberantly, a joyous dance ♩ = 160

(Tutti) *p* *If God had brought us out of Egypt, Dayeinu! [it would have been enough for us!]*

Unis. Chor. 6
I - lu — ho tsi - nu, ho - tsi - a - nu —

Pno. *p*

Unis. Chor. 11
mi - mits - ra - yim, da - yei - nu da - yei - nu! I - lu — ka - ra —

Pno.

If God had split the sea for us, Dayeinu!

Unis. Chor. 16
la - nu, — ka - ra — la - nu et ha - yam, da - yei - nu! Da - yei - nu —

Pno. *mp*

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This movement is part of the Passover cantata, *V'higad'ta L'vincha (And you shall tell your child)*; both this movement and the larger cantata are also available in their original accompaniment for clarinet, cello and piano, and are also available in a version for SATB chorus with either piano or the larger accompaniment. All versions published by Gerald Cohen Music.

20 (4+3) (3+4)

Unis. Chor. — da-yei-nu da-yei-nu da - yei - nu da - yei-nu da-yei - nu! da - yei - nu

Pno.

24 (4+3) (3+4)

Unis. Chor. — da-yei-nu da-yei-nu da - yei - nu da - yei-nu da-yei - nu!

Pno.

29

Pno.

33 *mp* *If God had sustained us in the wilderness* (3+4)

S I - lu si-peik tsor - kei - nu — ba - mid - bar,

A I - lu si-peik tsor - kei - nu — ba - mid - bar

Pno. *mp*

Half Led. (through m. 44)

37 *for forty years, Dayeinu!*

S
ba - mid-bar — ar - ba - im sha - na, ar-ba im — sha - na, da - yei -

A
ar - ba - im sha - na, da -

Pno.

41

S
nu — da - yei - nu! *mf* I - lu keir -

A
yei - nu! *mf* I - lu

Pno.

45 *If God had brought us before Mount Sinai, Dayeinu!*

S
va - nu — lif - nei har si - nai, *f* Da - yei - nu da - yei - nu

A
keir - va - nu lif - nei har si - nai, *f* Da - yei - nu da - yei - nu

Pno.

49 *mf*

S da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu *mf* Da - yei - nu —

A da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu *mf* Da -

Pno. *mf subito*

53 (4+3) (3+4)

S — da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu! Da -

A yei - nu da yei - nu da yei - nu da - yei - nu! Da - yei - nu —

Pno.

57 (4+3) (3+4)

S yei - nu da yei - nu da - yei - nu! *mf*

A — da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu!

Pno. *mf*

60

S

A

Pno.

f boisterous

64

S

A

Pno.

(3+2+3)

ff

68

S

A

Pno.

(3+2+3) (4+3+3)

dim.

73 *p* *If God had given us the Torah, Dayeinu!*

S I - lu na - tan la - nu et ha - to - rah,

A I - lu na - tan la - nu et ha - to - rah,

Pno. *p* *sonorous but delicate*

78

S na - tan la - nu et ha - to - rah, — da - yei - nu da - yei - nu!

A to rah, da yei -

Pno. *p* *8^{vb}-1*

84 *cresc.* *If God had led us to the land of Israel, Dayeinu!*

S I - lu — hich - ni - sa - nu l' -

A nu! I - lu — hich - ni - sa - nu l' -

Pno. *cresc.*

led.

88

S e - rets — Yis - ra - el, l' - e - rets — Yis - ra - el,

A e - rets — Yis - ra - el, l' - e - rets — Yis - ra - el, Yis - ra -

Pno.

93

S Da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da

A el, Da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da -

Pno.

97

S yei - nu da - yei - nu! Da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da -

A yei - nu da - yei - nu! Da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da -

Pno.

101 (3+4) *p subito* brought us out of Egypt, split the sea for us,

S yei-nu da-yei - nu! Ho - tsi - a - nu mi-mits-ra-yim, si -

A yei-nu da-yei - nu! Ka - ra la-nu et ha-yam,

Pno. *p subito*

105 *cresc.* sustained us in the wilderness, brought us before Mount Sinai, given us the Torah, led us to the land of Israel,

S peik — tsor-kei-nu ba-mid bar, na-tan la-nu et ha - to rah,

A keir - va - re - lif - ne - har si - nai, hich - ni - sa - nu l' -

Pno. *cresc.*

109 *f* Dayeinu!

S Da - yei - nu — da - yei - nu da-yei - nu da - yei - nu — da -

A e - rets Yis - ra - el, Da - yei - nu — da - yei - nu — da -

Pno. *f*

113 *ff*

S yei - nu da - yei - nu! da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da -

A yei - nu! da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da - yei - nu da -

Pno. *ff*

117 *sempre ff* (3+4) (3+2) (3+4) (3+2)

S yei - nu da - yei - nu! Da - yei - nu!

A yei nu! Da - yei - nu!

Pno. *sempre ff*

122 *ff* *allarg.*

S Da - yei - nu!

A Da - yei - nu!

Pno. *f* *ff* *fff* *sfz* *allarg.*