

GERALD COHEN

Y'varech'cha
(May the Lord Bless You)

for SA Chorus
or Vocal Duet
and Piano

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-er Adonai panav eilecha vichuneka,
Yisa Adonai panav eilecha v'yasem l'cha shalom.*

*Y'sim'cha Elohim k'Efrayim v'chiM'nashe,
Y'simeich Elohim k'Sara, Rivka, Rachel, v'Leia.*

May the Lord bless you and protect you,
May the Lord cause the light of His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to 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

(May the Lord bless you)

Text: Numbers, Chap. 6; liturgy

for SA treble choir or vocal duet, and piano

Gerald Cohen

1 Gently flowing, like a lullaby ♩ = 96-104 Solo or unison: *p* May the Lord bless you and protect you,

Y' - va-re-ch' - cha — A - do -

p sempre legato

ped. *ped.* simile (pedal each measure)

8 May the Lord cause the light of His face to shine upon you,

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

15 and be gracious to you, May the Lord lift up His face to you,

p

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

22 and grant you peace.

nai pa - nav ei - le - cha v' - ya - sem I' - cha — sha -

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

May God give you the blessings of Ephraim and Menasheh,

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 - mech E-lo - him k'-Sa - ra Riv - ka Ra -
y'-si - mech E-lo - him k'-Sa - ra Riv - ka Ra -

May the Lord bless you and protect you,

55

rit.

a tempo

mf

chel v' - Lei - a Y' - va-re-ch' -
chel v' - Lei - a Y' - va-re-ch' - cha

NOTE: When done by vocal duet, the lower vocal line may sing an octave higher in m. 56-58.

Leg.

Leg.

61

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

simile

6

May the Lord cause the light of His face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you,

67

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

73

May the Lord lift up His face to you,

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

80

and grant you peace.

sem l' - cha sha - lom, sha - lom,
 sem l' - cha sha - lom sha - lom sha -

Note, mm. 74-82: Those Altos should sing the melody in these measures that are able to sing it quietly and gently.

86

mp

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

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

92

rit.

a tempo

dim.

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

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

98

rit.

p

rit.

pp

Lead to end, let final chord blend