

GERALD COHEN

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

for SATB Chorus
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.

—Gerald Cohen

Text and translation:

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

*Y'sim'cha Elohim k'Efrayim v'chiM'nashe,
Y'simech Elohim k'Sarah, 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.

Y'varech'cha

Text: Numbers, Chap. 6; liturgy

(May the Lord bless you)
arrangement for SATB chorus and piano

Music: Gerald Cohen

Gently flowing, like a lullaby ♩ = 96-104 May the Lord bless you and protect you,

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

p sempre legato

With Ped. (pedal each measure)

simi

8

S

A

T

B

Pno.

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

ya - er A - do - nai pa -

nai v' - yish - m' - re - cha,

yish - m' - re - cha,

A - do -

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

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

A *p* yi - sa A - do -

T *p* ah,

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

Pno. *p*

22 *and grant you peace.*

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

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

T ah,

B ah,

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:
p

43

S
A
T
B

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

Pno.

May God give you the blessings of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

Principal melody in soprano

mp

S
A
T
B

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

Pno.

May the Lord bless you and protect you,

55

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

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

T A - do -

B A - do -

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

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

A
er 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 *May the Lord lift up His face to you,*

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.

Rit. to end, let final chord blend