

Gerald Cohen

B'kol Rina

(With Joyful Song)

for solo voice, SATB chorus, chamber orchestra and organ

(2025)

PIANO/VOCAL SCORE

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

B'kol Rina (With Joyful Song) was commissioned by Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis, IN, in honor of Cantor Melissa Cohen's 10 years as Cantor of the congregation. Cantor Cohen wished for a celebratory piece for soloist, chorus and orchestra, that would also feature the congregation's excellent organ. Psalm 47 is a joyful psalm that calls on all the world to celebrate God with singing and instruments—specifically trumpet and shofar (a trumpet made of a ram's horn). This psalm is accordingly recited every Rosh Hashana (Jewish New Year) before the sounding of the shofar, with additional verses from other psalms.

The piece is joyful and exuberant from the opening soprano solo, and features many shifting meters in creating its dance-like motion. Focus shifts between soloist and chorus in building the jubilant mood; the trumpet and horn add sounds suggesting the shofar. Towards the end, the soloist sings a more reflective section based on lines from Psalm 119, which then leads to the chorus and orchestra's final exuberant return to the opening lines and melodies.

B'kol Rina had its premiere in November 2025 with Cantor Melissa Cohen as soprano soloist, with the chorus of Beth-El Zedeck and members of the Indianapolis Chamber Orchestra.

—Gerald Cohen

Text (from introductory verses before sounding of Shofar on Rosh Hashana):

Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-9; Psalm 119: 66, 108

כָּל־הָעַמִּים תִּקְעוּ־כַף הַרְיֵעוּ לְאֱלֹהִים בְּקוֹל רִנָּה:
כִּי־יְהִי הַזֶּה עָלֵינוּ נוֹרָא מֶלֶךְ גָּדוֹל עַל־כָּל־הָאָרֶץ:
עֲלֶה אֱלֹהִים בְּתוֹרֵעָה יְהִי הַזֶּה בְּקוֹל שׁוֹפָר:
זַמְרוּ אֱלֹהִים זַמְרוּ זַמְרוּ לְמַלְכֵנוּ זַמְרוּ:
כִּי מֶלֶךְ כָּל־הָאָרֶץ אֱלֹהִים זַמְרוּ מִשְׁכִּיל:
מֶלֶךְ אֱלֹהִים עַל־גּוֹיִם אֱלֹהִים יֹשֵׁב עַל־כִּסֵּא קֹדֶשׁ:

טוֹב טַעַם וְדַעַת לַמִּדְנֵי כִי בְּמִצְוֹתֶיךָ הָאֵמַנְתִּי:
נִדְבֹת פִּי רָצָה־נָא יְהוָה וּמִשְׁפָּטֶיךָ לַמִּדְנֵי:

Transliteration:

Kol ha-amim tiku chaf, hari-u lelohim b'kol rina!
Ki Adonai elyon nora, melech gadol al kol ha-aretz.
Ala elohim bitru-a, Adonai b'kol shofar!
Zam'ru elohim zameru! zam'ru u'halikenu zameru!
Ki melech kol ha-aretz elohim, zam'ru maskil.
Malach elohim al goyim, elohim yashav al kise kodsho.

Tuv ta-am vada-at lam'deni, ki v'mitzvotcha he-emanti.
Nidvot pi r'tze na Adonai, umishpatecha lam'deni.

Translation by Pamela Greenberg, from *The Complete Psalms*

(A more literal running translation is given in the score above the vocal staves.)

Clap your hands, all nations! Trumpet a cry of exultation to God!
For the Exalted One fills us with wonder, from the highest heavens throughout the earth.
You rise with a blast of the trumpet! You are heard in the voice of the shofar!
Sing out to the Holy One, sing out! Sing out to the one who gives us direction, sing out!
For God is sovereign over all the earth; make a melody of your understanding.
God reigns over nations; God sits on a holy throne.

Reason is worthy, so teach me knowledge, for I have believed in Your will.
The offerings of my mouth are freely given; please accept them, Creator, and teach me the ways of your justice.

in honor of Cantor Melissa Cohen's 10 years as Cantor

B'kol Rina

(With Joyful Song)

Music: Gerald Cohen

Text: Psalm 47: 2-3, 6-9

Psalm 119: 66, 108

for Soprano or Tenor solo, SATB chorus, and piano

Joyful, energetic ♩ = 168 (♩ = 112) *mp* All peoples, clap your hands,

Vocal Solo

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Piano

p *leggiero*

7 shout to God with joyful song!

Solo

13

Solo

Kol ha - a - mim tik - u chaf,

Kol ha - a - mim tik - u chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri -

na, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri -

All peoples, clap your hands,

21

Solo

na!

S

A

T

B

mf

Kol ha-a-mim tik-

mf

Kol ha-a-mim tik-

21

mp

mf

Leg.

26

shout to God with joyful song!

S

A

T

B

u — chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol — ri - na!

u — chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol — ri - na!

26

* *Leg.*

* *Leg.*

32 *mf* For Adonai is most high and wondrous,
 S Ki A-do-nai el - yon no - ra,
 A *mf* Ki A-do-nai el - yon no - ra,
 T
 B

32 *mf* *leg.* *

38 *cresc.* a great king over all the earth.
 S me - lech ga - dol al kol ha - a - retz.
 A *cresc.* me - lech ga - dol al kol ha - a - retz.
 T *mf cresc.* al kol ha - a - retz.
 B *mf cresc.* al kol ha - a - retz.

38 *f* *leg.* *

44 *f* God ascends with a trumpet blast,
Solo A - la e - lo - him bit - ru -

44 *f* *8^{va}*

51 Adonai, to the sound of the shofar!
Solo *a*, A - do - nai b' - kol sho -

51 *(8^{va})*

56 far! A - la e - lo -

56 *(8^{va})* *(r.h. sempre legato)*

61 him bit - ru - a, A - do - nai b' -

61 *(8^{va})*

66 Solo

kol sho - far!

(8^{va})

71

mf

mf

76

S

A

T

B

ff All peoples, clap your hands,

Kol ha - a-mim tik -

ff

Kol ha - a-mim tik -

ff

Kol ha - a-mim tik -

ff

Kol ha - a-mim tik -

76

f cresc.

ff

80

shout to God with joyful song!

S
u chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri -

A
u chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri -

T
u chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri -

B
u chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri -

80

Solo

85 *mp* Za - m' -

S na!

A na!

T na!

B na!

85 *ff non legato* *f dim.*

90 *Sing to God, sing!*

Solo

ru e - lo - him _____ za - me - ru!

p

sempre legato

(Allow to blur with pedal)

95 *Sing to our king, sing!*

Solo

za-m' - ru l' - mal - ke - nu _____

mp

100

Solo

ru! _____ za-m' - ru e - lo - him _____ za - me -

mp

105

Solo

ru! za-m' - ru l' - mal - ke - nu, za-m' - ru l' - mal - ke - nu,

105

110 *cresc.* (NB: not triplets) (NB: not triplets)

Solo

za - - - me - ru, za - - - me - ru,

114 *dim.* *mp*

Solo

za - - - me - ru!

118 *mp*

S

A *mp*

T *mp*

B

For God is king of all the earth,

Ki me - lech kol ha - a - retz

Ki me - lech kol ha -

118 *mp* *sempre legato*

S

A *cresc.*
e - lo - him, za - m' - ru mas -

T *cresc.*
a - retz e - lo - him, za - m' -

B

cresc.

S *mf cresc.*
a - m' - ru mas - - -

A kil, a - m' - ru mas - - -

T ru, za - m' - ru, za - m' -

B BASS 1 ONLY: *mf cresc.*
za - m' - ru, za - m' -

129

S kil, za - m' - ru mas - - (C#)

A kil, za - m' - ru, Ma -

T ru, za - m' - ru mas - - (C#)

B ru, za - m' - ru, Ma -

TUTTI:

129

132

f God rules over all nations, *f*

S kil. Ma - lach e - lo-him al go - yim, e - lo -

A lach e-lo-him al go - yim, Ma - lach e - lo-him al go - yim, e - lo -

T kil. Ma - lach e - lo-him al go - yim, e - lo -

B lach e-lo-him al go - yim, Ma - lach e - lo-him al go - yim, e - lo -

132

138 God sits upon a holy throne.

S
A
T
B

him ya - shav e - lo - him ya - shav al ki - se

138

143

S
A
T
B

kod - - sho

kod - - sho.

kod - - sho.

kod - - sho.

143

f

sub. mp

ped. *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped. (let pedal blur)*

148 *p* Good insight and knowledge teach me,
 Solo Tuv ta-am va-da-at la-m'-de -

148 *p* *sempre legato*
 * With Ped.

156 for in Your commandments I trust.
 Solo ni, ki v'-mitz-vo-te sha he-e-man -

156

162 *mp* May my words be accepted, Adonai,
 Solo ti. Nid-vot pi-r'-tze na A-do-nai, u -

S *p* ah, ah,

A *p* ah, ah,

T *p* ah, ah,

B *p* ah,

162

168 *and teach me your laws.*

Solo *p*

mish - pa - te - cha _____ la - m' - de - ni. _____

A (Db)
ah, _____ ah _____

T
ah, _____ ah _____

B
ah, _____ ah, _____

168 *p*

174 *poco rit.* Starting a little slower ♩ = 152 (♩ = 100)
All peoples, clap your hands,

S

A *mp*
Kol ha - a - mim tik - u _____

T *mp*
Kol ha - a - mim tik - u _____ chaf,

B *mp*
Kol ha - a - mim tik - u, kol ha - a - mim tik - u

174 *poco rit.* Starting a little slower ♩ = 152 (♩ = 100)

mp

181 *accel.* shout to God with joyful song! *mp*

S ha - ri - u le - lo -

A chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri - na!

T

B chaf; ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol, ha - ri - u le - lo -

181 *accel.*

p

188 *Tempo I* ♩ = 168 (♩. = 112)

S him b' - kol ri - na! *mp cresc.*

A Kol ha - a - mim tik - u *mp cresc.*

T Kol ha - a - mim tik - u *mp cresc.*

B him b' - kol ri - na! Kol ha - a - mim tik - u

188 *Tempo I* ♩ = 168 (♩. = 112)

cresc.

195 *mf cresc.*

S ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri - na! ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' -

A chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - ri - na! ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' -

T chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - kol ri - na! ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' -

B chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' - ri - na! ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' -

199 *f* *ff*

S kol ri - na! b' - kol ri na! A -

A kol ri - na! b' - kol ri - na! A -

T ri - na! b' - kol ri - na!

B ri - na! b' - kol ri - na!

Sop/Alto: God ascends with a trumpet blast, Adonai, to the sound of the shofar!
Ten/Bass: All peoples, clap your hands, shout to God with joyful song!

204

S
la e - lo - him bit - ru - a, A - do - nai b' -

A
la e - lo - him bit - ru - a, A - do - nai b' -

T
8 *ff* Kol ha - a - mim tik - u chaf, Kol ha - a - mim tik - u chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' -

B
ff Kol ha - a - mim tik - u chaf, Kol ha - a - mim tik - u chaf, ha - ri - u le - lo - him b' -

204

209

S
kol sho - far, A - la e - lo - him bit - ru -

A
kol sho - far, A - la e - lo - him bit - ru -

T
8 kol ri - na! kol ri - na! A - la e - lo - him bit - ru - a, A -

B
kol ri - na! b' - kol ri - na! A - la e - lo - him bit - ru - a, A -

209

214

S a, A-do - nai b'-kol sho - far, A-do - nai b'-kol sho -

A a, A-do - nai b'-kol sho - far, A-do - nai b'-kol sho -

T la e-lo-him bit - ru - a, A-do - nai b'-kol sho - far, A-do - nai b'-kol sho -

B la e-lo-him bit - ru - a, A-do - nai b'-kol sho - far, A-do - nai b'-kol sho -

214

Solo *f* A - do - nai b' - kol sho -

S far, *sub. mp* *cresc.* b' - kol sho -

A far, *sub. mp* *cresc.* Ah, b' - kol sho -

T far, *sub. mp* *cresc.* Ah, b' - kol sho -

B far, Ah, b' - kol sho -

220

sub. mp *cresc.*

Adonai, to the sound of the shofar!

Leo. *

225 *ff*

Solo

S *ff* far!

A *ff* far!

T *ff* far!

B *ff* far!

225 *ff* far!

229

Solo

S

A

T

B

229 *rit.*