

JUDITH SHATIN

BIRKAT KOHANIM

SATB Chorus Divisi



Program Note: *Birkat Kohanim*

Birkat Kohanim, known in English as *The Priestly Blessing*, is drawn from the Bible, Numbers 6:23-27, of which I have set verses 24-26. In the Orthodox Jewish tradition, this prayer is recited by male descendants of Aaron (the Kohanim). There are varying traditions within Judaism regarding its use, both in the daily liturgy, the Sabbath services, and as a benediction, or at ceremonies such as weddings. Conductor Michael Slon suggested setting this text in the original Hebrew. I was happy to do so, as I was drawn to both its spiritual and sonic qualities. The translation below is based on the literal meaning of the Hebrew. *Birkat Kohanim* was commissioned by University Singers at the University of Virginia with their conductor Michael Slon and is dedicated to them. –JS

Translation

May the Lord bless and keep you
May the Lord shine His face upon you and be gracious to you.
May the Lord lift up His face to you and give you peace.

Hebrew Transliteration

Ye-va-re-ch'-cha A-do-nai v'-yish-m'-re-cha.
Ya-eir A-do-nai pa-nav ei-le-cha vi-chun-ne-ka
Yi-sa A-do-nai pa-nav ei-le-cha V'-ya-seim l'-cha shalom.

a	as in far
o	as in roar
i	as in see
e	as in get
ai	as in high
ei	as in say
ch'	as in German Bach
cha	as in German Bach, with the 'ch' sound at the beginning followed by 'ah'
k	as in key
tz	as in meets
y	as in y
z	as in zoo
h	as in high

Note: Breath marks suggest brief lifts before moving into the next phrase.

World Premiere UVA University Singers Conductor Michael Slon 11/19/12
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Duration 3:00

Birkat Kohanim

Bible, Numbers 6:24 - 6:26

Judith Shatin

Expansive ♩ = 90

mf

Soprano

Y' - va - re - ch' - cha, y' - va - re - ch' - cha,

Alto

Y' - va - re - ch' - cha, y' - va - re - ch' - cha,

Tenor

Y' - va - re - ch' - cha, y' - va -

Bass

Y' - va - re - ch' - cha, y' - va -

Rehearsal Piano

4

S

Y' - va - re - ch' - cha A - do - nai v' -

A

Y' - va - re - ch' - cha A - do - nai v' -

T

re - ch' - cha Y' - va - re - ch' - cha A - do - nai v' -

B

re - ch' - cha Y' - va - re - ch' - cha A - do - nai v' -

Pno

7

S yish - m' - re - cha, v' - yish - m' re - cha. v' - yish - m' -

A yish - m' re - cha, v' - yish - m' - re - cha.

T yish - m' - re - cha, v' - yish - m' - re - cha.

B yish - m' - re - cha, v' - yish - m' - re - cha.

Pno

12 *mp* re - cha. *mf* Ya -

A *mp* *mf* Ya - eir A-do - nai,

T *mp* *mf* Ya - eir A-do - nai

B *mp* *mf* Ya - eir A-do - nai

Pno

12

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

16

S eir A - do - nai, Ya - eir, A - do - nai ya - eir, Ya - *cresc. - -*

A Ya - eir, ya - eir, Ya - *cresc. - -*

T Ya - eir, ya - eir Ya - *cresc. - -*

B Ya - eir, ya eir A - do - nai Ya - *cresc. - -*

Pno

19

S eir A - do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha, vi - chun - ne - ka

A eir A - do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha, vi - chun - ne - ka

T eir A - do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha,

B eir A - do - nai pa - nav ei - le - cha,

Pno

23

S *mf* vi chun - ne - ka. Yi - sa A - do -

A vi - chun - ne - ka. Yi - sa A - do -

T *mf* vi chun - ne - ka. vi chun - ne - ka. Yi - sa A - do -

B *mf* vi chun - ne - ka. vi chun - ne - ka. Yi - sa A - do -

Pno

27

S *f* nai pa - nav ei - le - cha, ei - le - cha. *p*

A *f* nai pa - nav ei - le - cha, ei - le - cha. *p*

T *f* nai pa - nav ei - le - cha, ei - le - cha. *p* *mf* A - do -

B *f* nai pa - nav ei - le - cha, ei - le - cha. *p* *mf* Yi - sa A - do - nai,

Pno

PERUSAL SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE

31 *mf* *f*

S Yi - sa A - do - nai, A - do - nai pa - nav,

A Yi - sa A - do - nai, A - do - nai pa - nav,

T 8 nai pa - nav, Yi - sa A - do - nai A - do - nai pa - nav, Yi -

B *mf* *f* *mf*

Yi - sa A - do - nai, A - do - nai pa - na, Yi -

Pno

34 *mf* *mf*

S A - do - nai pa - nav A - do - nai pa - nav ei -

A A - do - nai pa - nav A - do - nai pa - nva, ei -

T 8 sa A - do - nai, Yi - sa A - do - nai ei -

B sa A - do - nai, Yi - sa A - do - nai ei -

Pno

PERFORMANCE

38

S *p* le - cha, *mf* ei - le - cha, *p* ei - le - cha, ei - le - cha.

A *p* le - cha, *mf* ei - le - cha, *p* ei - le - cha, ei - le - cha.

T *p* le - cha, *mf* ei - le - cha, *p* ei - le - cha, *mf* ei - le - cha. V' - ya -

B *p* le - cha, *mf* ei - le - cha, *p* ei - le - cha, *mf* ei - le - cha. V' - ya -

Pno

42

S *mf* V' - ya - seim l' - cha, *f* v' - ya - seim l' - cha, v' - ya -

A *mf* V' - ya - seim l' - cha, *f* ve - ya - sem le - kha, v' - ya -

T *mf* seim l' - cha, *f* v' - ya - seim l' - cha,

B *mf* seim l' - cha, *f* v' - ya - seim l' - cha,

Pno

46

S seim l' - cha sha - lom, *mf*

A seim l' - cha sha - lom, *mf*

T *mf* v' - ya - seim l' - cha sha - lom, *mf*

B *mf* v' - ya - seim l' - cha sha lom, *mf*

Pno

50

S sha lom, sha - lom, sha - lom, *mp* *p*

A sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom, *mp* *p*

T sha lom, sha - lom, sha - lom, *mp* *p*

B sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom, *mp* *p*

Pno

56 *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

S v' - ya-seim l' - cha sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

A *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

A v' - ya-seim l' - cha sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

T *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

T v' - ya-seim l' - cha sha lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

B *mp* *f* *mf* *mp*

B v' - ya-seim l' - cha sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

Pno

56

60 *p* *mf* *n*

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

A *p* *mf* *n*

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

T *p* *mf* *n*

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

B *p* *mf* *n*

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

Pno

60

PERUSAL SCORE NOT FOR PERFORMANCE