

JUDITH SHATIN

Birkat Hakohanim

SATB Chorus



Program Notes: *Birkat Hakohanim*

Birkat Hakohanim, 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, a blessing of the Israelites, is recited by male descendents of Aaron. 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. It also forms part of the Christian liturgy. Maestro Slon requested this setting in the original Hebrew, and I was drawn to its spiritual and sonic qualities. There are a variety of translations, with differing interpretations of the Hebrew. The one below the literal meaning of the Hebrew. *Birkat Hakohanim* was commissioned by University Singers at the University of Virginia, and their Artistic Director, 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-khe-kha A-do-nai ve-yish-me-re-kha.
Ya-er A-do-nai pa-nav e-ley-kha vi-chun-ne-kha
Yi-sa A-do-nai pa-nav e-ley-kha ve-ya-sem le-kha shalom.

a	as in far
o	as in score
i	as in free
e	as in get
ai	as in high
ey	as in may
kh	as in German Bach
tz	as in meets
y	as in y
z	as in zoo
h	as in Halleluiah

Birkat Hakohanim

Dedicated to UVA's University Singers
& to Michael Slon, Artistic Director

Judith Shatin

Expansive $\text{♩} = 50$

Score for Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Baritone, and Piano (Rehearsal Piano).

First System:

- Soprano:** *mf* Ye - va - re-khe - kha, — ye - va - re-khe - kha, —
- Alto:** *mf* Ye - va - re-khe - kha, — ye - va - re-khe - kha, —
- Tenor:** *mf* Ye - va - re-khe - kha, — ye - va -
- Baritone:** *mf* Ye - va - re-khe - kha, — ye - va -
- Rehearsal Piano:** *mf*

Second System (Measures 4-8):

- Soprano:** ye - va - re-khe - kha — A - do - nai — *f* — *mf* ve - yish - me-
- Alto:** ye - ve - re-khe - kha — A - do - nai — *f* — *mf* ve - yish - me
- Tenor:** re-khe-kha, — ye - va - re-khe - kha — A - do - nai — *f* — *mf* ve - yish - me-
- Baritone:** re-khe-kha, — ye - va - re-khe - kha — A - do - nai — *f* — *mf* ve - yish - me-
- Piano:** *f* — *mf*

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8

S re - kha, ve - yish - me - re - kha. ve - yish - me -

A re - kha, ve - yish - me - re - kha.

T re - kha, ve - yish - me - re - kha.

B re - kha, ve - yish - me - re - kha.

Pno

11

S *mp* re - kha. *mf* Ye - va - re - khe - kha, —

A *mp* *mf* Ye - va - re - khe - kha, —

T *mp* *mf* Ye - va - re - khe - kha, — ye - va -

B *mp* *mf* Ye - va - rekhe - kha, — ye - va -

Pno

11

mf

3

14

S
ye - va - re - khe - kha, — Ye va - khe - kha — A - do -

A
ye - va - re - khe - kha, — Ye va re - khe - kha — A - do -

T
8 re - khe - kha, — Ye - va - re - khe - kha — A - do -

B
re - khe - kha, — Ye - va - re - khe - kha — A - do -

Pno

17

S
f nai, — ve - yish - me - re - kha, — *mp* ve - yish - me - re - kha. — *mf*

A
f nai — ve - yish - me - re - kha, — *mp* ve - yish - me - re - kha. — *mf*

T
8 *f* nai — ve - yish - me - re - kha, — *mp* ve - yish - me - re - kha. — *mf*

B
f nai — ve - yish - me re - kha, — *mp* ve - yish - me - re - kha. — *mf*

Pno
f *mp* *mf* *mp*

21 *mp*

S *mp* Ya -

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

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

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

Pno *mf*

25 *mp* *cresc.*

S er A-do-nai, Ya - er, A-do-nai Ya - er, Ya - er A - do-nai pa -

A *mp* *cresc.* Ya - er, ya - er, ya - er A - do - nai pa -

T *mp* *cresc.* Ya - er, ya - er, ya - er A - do - nai pa -

B *mp* *cresc.* Ya - er, ya - er, A-do-nai ya - er A - do - nai pa -

Pno *mp* *cresc.*

29 *f* *mf* *mp*

S nav e - ley - kha, vi - chun - ne - kha

A nav e - ley - kha, vi - chun - ne - kha

T nav e - ley - kha, vi - chun - ne - kha

B nav e - ley - kha, vi - chun - ne - kha

Pno *f* *mf* *mp*

33 *mf* *mp* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp* *p* *mp*

S vi - chun - ne - kha. Yi - sa A - do -

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

T vi - chun - ne - kha. Yi - sa A - do -

B vi - chun - ne - kha. Yi - sa A - do -

Pno *p* *mf* *mp* *p* *mp*

36

S *f* *mp*
nai pa - nav e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha.

A *f* *mp*
nai pa - nav e - ley - kha, e ley - kha.

T *f* *mp* *p*
nai pa - nav e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha.

B *f* *mp* *mf*
nai pa - nav e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha. Yi -

Pno *f* *mf* *mp* *mf*

39

S *mf*
A - do -

A *mf* 3
Yi - sa A-do - nai, A - do -

T *mf* 8
A - do - nai pa - nav, A - do -

B 3
sa A-do - nai, Yi - sa A-do - nai,

Pno 39 3

42 *f* , *mf*

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

A nai pa - nav, A - do - nai pa - nav A - do -

T 8 *f* , *mf* *mf*
nai pa - na, Yi - sa A-do-nai, Yi - sa A-do-nai

B *mf* *mf*
Yi - sa A-do-nai, Yi - sa A-do-nai

Pno *f* *mf*

46 *f* *mp* *mf* *p*

S nai pa - nav e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e -

A nai pa - nva, e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e -

T 8 *f* *mp* *mf* *p*
e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e -

B *f* *mp* *mf* *p*
e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e - ley - kha, e -

Pno *f* *mf* *mp* *mf* *p*

50

S *mf* ley - kha, Ve-ya - sem le - kha,

A *mf* ley - kha, Ve-ya - sem le - kha,

T *mf* ley - kha, Ve-ya - sem le - kha, ve - ya-

B *mf* ley - kha, Ve-ya - sem le - kha, ve - ya-

Pno *mf*

54

S *f* ve - ya - sem le - kha, *mf* ve - ya - sem le - kha

A *f* ve - ya - sem le - kha, *mf* ve - ya - sem le - kha

T *f* sem le - kha, *mf* ve - ya - sem le -

B *f* sem le - kha, *mf* ve - ya - sem le -

Pno *f* *mf*

The musical score is for a piece titled 'Birkat Hakohanim' on page 8. It is written for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts at measure 50 and the second at measure 54. The lyrics are in Hebrew. Dynamics include mezzo-forte (mf) and forte (f). A large, semi-transparent watermark for 'Vendigo Music' is centered over the page.

57 *f* *mf* *mp*

S — sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

A — sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

T 8 kha sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

B kha sha - lom, sha - lom, sha - lom,

Pno

64 *p* *mp* *f*

S sha - lom, ve - ya - sem le - kha sha - lom,

A sha - lom, ve - ya - sem le - kha sha - lom,

T 8 sha - lom, ve - ya - sem le - kha sha - lom,

B sha - lom, ve - ya - sem le - kha sha - lom,

Pno

68 *mf* , *mp*

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

A *mf* , *mp*

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

T *mf* , *mp*

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

B *mf* , *mp*

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

Pno *mf* , *mp*

68

73 *p* , *mf* , *n*

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

A *p* , *mf* , *n*

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

T *p* , *mf* , *n*

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

B *p* , *mf* , *n*

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

Pno *p* , *mf* , *ppp*

73