Songs of Israel

Yom Ha’atzma’ut 2020/5780
Israel’s 72nd Anniversary

Hatikvah
Words by Naphtali Imber

Kol od balevav p'nimah nefesh Yehudi homiyah
Ulfa'atei mizrach kadimah ayin l'tziyon tzofiyah.
Od lo avdah tikvateinu hatikvah bat shnot alpayim:
L'hiyot am chofshi b'artzeinu - Eretz Tziyon vi’Y’rushalayim (2x)

So long as still within the inmost heart a Jewish spirit sings,
So long as the eye looks eastward, gazing toward Zion,
Our hope is not lost—the hope of two thousand years:
To be a free people in our land, the land of Zion and Jerusalem.

Artzah Alinu (Israeli Pioneer Folk Song)

Artzah alinu (6x)
K’var charashnu v’gam zarunu (2x)
Aval od lo katzarnu (2x)

We have gone up to the land of Israel, we have already plowed and sown,
but we have not yet harvested.

Israel’s First Chalutzim (Pioneers)
Yerushalayim Shel Zahav
By Naomi Shemer

Avir harim tzalul kayayin v'rei'ach oranim,
Nisa b'ru'ach ha'arbayim im kol pa'amonim.
Uv'tardemat ilan va'even shvuyah bachalomah,
Ha'ir asher badad yoshevet uv'libah chomah.

Refrain:
Yerushalayim shel zahavv'shel n’choshet v’shel or
Halo l’chol shirayich ani kinor (2x)

The olive trees that stand in silence upon the hills of time,
To hear the voices of the city as bells of evening chime.
The shofar sounding from the Temple to call the world to prayer,
The shepherd pauses in the valley and peace is everywhere.

Lu Y’hi
By Naomi Shemer

Od yeish mifras lavan ba'ofeik mul anan shachor kaveid
Kol shen’vakeish - Lu Y’hi.
V'im bachalonot ha'erev or neirot hachag ro'eid -
Kol shen’vakeish - Lu Y’hi.

Refrain:
Lu Y’hi, Lu Y’hi, Ana, Lu Y’hi, kol shen’vakeish - Lu Y’hi (2x)

Ma kol anot ani shomei’a kol shofar v’kol tupim
Kol shen’vakeish - Lu Y’hi.
Lu tishama b’toch kol eileh gam t’filah achat mipi
Kol shen’vakeish - Lu Y’hi.

There is a still white sail on the horizon opposite a heavy black cloud.
And in the evening windows is the light of holiday candles flickering.
Lu Y’hi—May all that we ask for come to pass.

What are these sounds I hear, the sound of the shofar, the sound of the drums?
Let one prayer from my lips be heard from among all these.
Lu Y’hi—May all that we ask for come to pass.
Al Kol Eileh
By Naomi Shemer

Al had’vash v’al ha’oketz al hamar v’hamatok
Al biteinu hatinoket sh’mor Eli hatov.
Al ha'ewish ham’vo'eret al hamayim hazakim
Al ha'ish hashav habaitah min hamerchakim

Refrain:
Al kol eileh, al kol eileh sh’mor na li Eli hatov
Al had’vash v’al ha’oketz al hamar v’hamatok.
Al na ta'akor natu'a al tishkach et hatikvah
Hashiveinei v'ashuvah el ha'aretz hatovah.

For the honey and the bee sting, for the bitter and the sweet,
All the things which join as one to make our lives complete.
For the future of our children, for our prayers will never cease,
For the hope that with tomorrow comes a world of peace.

Refrain:
Don't uproot what has been planted so our bounty may increase
Let our dearest wish be granted: Bring us peace, oh bring us peace.
For the sake of all these things, God, let your mercy be complete.
Bless the sting and bless the honey. Bless the bitter and the sweet.

Naomi Shemer Z”L (1930-2004)
Shir LaShalom
Words by Ya’akov Rotblitt/Music by Yair Rosenblum

T’nu la’shemesh la’chador miba’ad lap’rachim
Al tabitu l’achor hanichu la’holchim.
S’u eina’yim b’tikvah lo derech kavanoth shiru shir la’ahavah v’lo la’milchamot
Al tagidu yom yavo havi’u et hayom - ki lo chalom hu -
Uv’chol hakikarot hari’u la’shalom.

Refrain:
Lachen rak shiru shir lashalom al tilhashu t’filah
Mutav tashiru shir lashalom b’tz’akah g’dolah (2x)

Let the sun penetrate through the flowers.
Don’t look backward, forget those who walk away.
Lift your eyes with hope, not through war. Sing a song for love and not for wars.
Don’t say the day will come, bring the day because it is not a dream.
And within all the city squares cheer only for peace.
So sing only a song for peace, do not whisper a prayer.
Better sing a song for peace with a big shout.

Yitzchak Rabin Z”L (1922-1995)

Hal’luyah La’olam
Words by Shimrit Or and Music by Kobi Oshrat

Hal’luyah la’olam. Hal’luyah yashiru kulam.
B’milah achat bodeidah haleiv malei bahamon todah
V’holeim gam hu eizav olam nifla.
Hal’luyah im hasher. Hal’luyah al yom shemei’ir.
Hal’luyah al mah shehayah umah she’od lo hayah, Hal’luyah!

Halleluyah, sing a song. Halleluyah, we’ll follow along
With a simple word, a single word, we bless the sky, the tree, the bird
And we fill our hearts with joy, Halleluyah!
Halleluyah, hand in hand. Halleluyah, all over the land.
Halleluyah, let’s start from the start. And sing it with all our heart, Halleluyah!