

Gerald Cohen

*Lighting Our Way/Hanerot Hallalu*

For Solo Voice, SATB Chorus, and Piano

FOR PERUSAL ONLY

**Program note:**

*Lighting Our Way/Hanerot Hallalu* was commissioned by Adath Jeshurun Congregation in partnership with Kantorei Chamber Choir, both of Minneapolis, MN. Cantor Joanna Dulkan of Adath Jeshurun, Music Director Adam Reinwald of Kantorei, and I all wanted to create a choral work for Chanukah exploring the larger importance of the holiday. We found a beautiful poem by Rabbi David Evan Markus which reinterprets a traditional Chanukah text, *Hanerot Hallalu* (These candles that we light). Markus' poem asks us to reflect on the wonders of the world as symbolized by the lights, and how we now need to be partners with the Divine in making the world a better place: "...for the wonders/we will do with You/for our descendants/and for our ailing planet/in these urgent days/for times to come."

The full text is given below in English and Hebrew. In the piece, the first verse is sung in Hebrew as the opening and closing of the piece, with the second verse sung in English as the middle section.

The piece was given its premiere by Kantorei in December 2024, with Cantor Dulkan as mezzo-soprano soloist, and Adam Reinwald conducting.

—Gerard Cohen

Text:

May these candles  
that we kindle  
be for the miracles  
and for the salvations  
and for the wonders  
we will do with You  
for our descendants  
and for our ailing planet  
in these urgent days  
for times to come.

Just as generations of old  
whose audacity rededicated  
their world defiled,  
for all eight days  
of Chanukah,  
may these candles we light  
fill us with holiness.  
We claim no power  
to use them  
except to see them,  
to inspire gratitude  
for Your name,  
for the miracles,  
and for the wonders,  
and for the salvations.

*Ha-neirot hallalu  
anu madlikin  
al ha-nisim  
v'al ha-teshuot  
v'al ha-niflaot  
she-na'aseh imkha  
l'tze'ezza'einu  
v'olam holah shelanu  
ba-yamim d'hofim ha-eileh  
le-atid lavo.*

*K'mo kohanim kedoshim  
nitzhu la-hanokh  
et olamam ha-tamei,  
b'khol shmonat y'mei  
ha-Hanukkah  
ha-neirot hallalu  
kodesh hein,  
V'ei lanu r'shut  
l'hishtameish ba-hein  
ella lirotan bilvad  
k'dei l'hodot  
lish'mekha  
al ha-nisim  
v'al ha-niflaot  
v'al ha-teshuot.*

הַנְרוֹת הַלָלוּ  
אֲנוּ מַדְלִיקִין  
עַל הַנְּסִים  
וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת  
וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת  
שֶׁנַּעֲשֶׂה עִמָּךְ  
לְצַדִּיקֵינוּ  
וְלְעוֹלָם חוֹלָה שֶׁלָנוּ  
בַּיָּמִים דְּחֹפִים הָאֵלֶּה  
לְעַתִּיד לָבוֹא.

כְּמוֹ כוֹהֲנִים קְדוֹשִׁים  
נִצְחוּ לְחַנוּךְ  
אֶת עוֹלָמָם הַטָּמֵא,  
בְּכֹל שְׁמוֹנַת יָמֵי  
הַחֲנֻכָּה  
הַנְרוֹת הַלָלוּ  
קְדֹשׁ הֵינּוּ,  
וְאֵין לָנוּ רְשׁוּת  
לְהִשְׁתַּמֵּשׁ בָּהֶן  
אֶלָּא לְרְאוֹתָן בְּלִבְדָּ  
כְּדֵי לְהוֹדוֹת  
לְשִׁמְךָ  
עַל הַנְּסִים  
וְעַל הַנִּפְלְאוֹת  
וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת.

in partnership with Kantorei Chamber Choir

# Lighting Our Way/ Hanerot Hallalu

Text: David Evan Markus

Music: Gerald Cohen

Moderate, flowing ♩ = 92

for solo voice, SATB chorus and piano

*p cantabile* May these candles

Solo Voice

Moderate, flowing ♩ = 92

Piano

*p*

With Ped.

Ha-ne - rot hal - la - lu

6 that we kindle *cresc.* be for the miracles and for the salvations and for the wonders

Solo

a - nu mad - li - kin al ha-ni-sim v' - al ha-t'shu-ot v' - al ha-nif - la -

Pno.

*sempre legato* *cresc.*

11 *mf* we will do with You *sub. mp* for our descendants

Solo

ot she-na-a - seh im - cha l' - tze - e - tza -

Pno.

*mf* *sub. mp*

15 *mf* and for our ailing planet

Solo

ei - nu ul - o - lam cho-lah she - la - nu ul-o - lam cho-lah she - la - nu

Pno.

*mf*

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20 *in these urgent days* *for times to come.*

Solo

ba-ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha - ei - leh l'-a-tid la - vo,

Pno.

25 *dim.* *mp* *rit.*

Solo

l'-a - tid la - vo, la - vo. *rit.*

Pno.

*dim.* *mp*

31 *With more motion, urgency* ♩ = 116

S

A

T *mp*

B

Just as ge - ne - ra - tions of old whose au - da - ci - ty re -

Just as ge - ne - ra - tions of old whose au - da - ci - ty re -

31 *With more motion, urgency* ♩ = 116

Pno.

*p* *mp*

*Still with pedal, and with quiet intensity*

38 *mp cresc.*

S for all eight days of

A *mp cresc.* for all eight days of

T *mf* *mp cresc.* de - di - ca - ted their world de - filed, for all eight days of

B *mf* *mp cresc.* de - di - ca - ted their world de - filed, for all eight days of

Pno. *mp cresc.*

47 *f*

S Cha - nu - kah may these can - dles we light fill us with

A *f* Cha - nu - kah may these can - dles we light we light fill us with

T *f* Cha - nu - kah may these can - dles we light fill us with

B *f* Cha - nu - kah may these can - dles we light fill us with

Pno. *f*

54

S ho - li - ness. We claim no pow - er to

A ho - li - ness. We claim no pow - er to

T ho - li - ness.

B ho - li - ness.

*mp*

Pno.

*mf* *fp*

62

S use them no pow - er to use them ex - cept to see them,

A use them no pow - er to use them ex - cept to see them,

T to see them,

B see them,

*mf* *mf* *mf* *mf*

Pno.

*mp* *mf*

69

S *f* to in - spire gra - ti - tude to in - spire

A see them, *f* to in - spire gra - ti - tude to in - spire

T see them, *f* to in - spire gra - ti - tude to in - spire gra - ti -

B *f* to in - spire gra - ti - tude to in - spire gra - ti -

Pno. *f*

(l.h. sempre legato)

(B Natural)

75

S gra - ti - tude for your Name,

A gra - ti - tude for Your Name,

T tude for Your Name,

B tude for Your Name,

Pno. *dim.*

81 *mp cresc.* *mf* ,

S ah *mp* *cresc.* *mf* ah and

A ah and

T *mp* *cresc.* *mf* for the mi-ra-cles and for the won-ders and

B *mp* *cresc.* *mf* for the mi-ra-cles and for the won-ders and

Pno. *mp*

86 *f*

S — for the sal - va tions, the mi - ra-cles, the won - ders.

A — for the sal va - tions, the mi - ra-cles, the won - ders.

T — for the sal va - tions, the won - ders.

B — for the sal - va - tions, the won - ders.

Pno. *f*

May these candles  
Tempo I ♩ = 92

*rit.*

*mp*

Tempo I ♩ = 92

S  
A  
T  
B

Ha - ne - rot.

*rit.*

Tempo I ♩ = 92

Pno.

*dim.* *p* *mp*

move ahead

a tempo

move ahead

a tempo

that we kindle

S  
A  
T  
B

hal - la - lu a - nu mad - li - kin

move ahead

a tempo

move ahead

a tempo

la - lu a - nu mad - li -

Pno.

*sempre legato*

be for the miracles and for the salvations and for the wonders

we will do with You

108 *cresc.* *sub. mp*

S al ha-ni-sim v' - al ha-t'shu-ot v' - al ha-nif - la - ot oo, *sub. mp*

A al ha - ni - sim al ha - nif - la - ot oo, *mf*

T kin al ha - nif - la - ot she-na-a - seh im - *sub. mp*

B kin al ha - nif - la - ot oo, *sub. mp*

Pno. *cresc.* *sub. mp*

for our descendants

and for our ailing planet

113 *mf* *mf* *mf*

S oo ul - o - lam cho-lah she - la -

A oo ul - o - lam cho-lah she - la -

T cha - tze - e-tza - ei - nu ul - o - lam cho-lah she - la -

B oo

Pno. *mf*

118 *dim.*

S nu o - lam cho-lah she-la - nu

A (Ab) nu o - lam cho-lah cho - lah she - la - nu *dim.*

T nu o - lam cho-lah cho - lah she - la - nu *dim.*

B

118 *dim.*

Pno.

122 *p mp cresc.*

S ba - ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha - ei - leh ba-ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha -

A *p mp cresc.* ba - ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha - ei - leh ba-ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha -

T *p mp cresc.* ya - ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha - ei - leh ba-ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha -

B *mp cresc.* ba - ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha - ei - leh ba-ya - mim d'-cho-fim ha -

*in these urgent days*

122 *p mp cresc.*

Pno.

(Still with pedal)

126 *f* for times to come. *ff*

S  
ei - leh l' - a - tid la - vo, l' - a - tid la - vo.

A  
ei - leh l' - a - tid la - vo, l' - a - tid la - vo.

T  
ei - leh l' - a - tid la - vo, l' - a - tid la - vo.

B  
ei - leh l' - a - tid la - vo, l' - a - tid la - vo.

126 *f* *ff*

Pno.

131

S

A

T

B

131 *dim.* *mp*

Pno.

136 *rit.* A little slower  $\text{♩} = 80$  *mp* May these candles that we kindle

Solo *p* Ha-ne - rot hal - la - lu a - nu mad - li -

S *p* Ha-ne - rot hal - la - lu mad - li -

A *p* Ha-ne - rot hal - la - lu mad - li -

T *p* rot hal - la - lu mad - li -

B *p* rot hal - la - lu mad - li -

136 *rit.* A little slower  $\text{♩} = 80$

Pno. *p* *mm. 136-147: sustain all 8th notes of rh to following chord, do not rearticulate the chord*

*Leg. Leg. Leg. Leg. Leg.*

141 *poco cresc.* be for the miracle and for the salvations

Solo *poco cresc.* kin al ha - ni - sim v' - al ha - t'shu - ot v' -

S *poco cresc.* kin ne - rot v' -

A *poco cresc.* kin ne - rot v' -

T *poco cresc.* kin ne - rot v' -

B *poco cresc.* kin ne - rot v' -

141 *poco cresc.*

Pno. *Leg. Leg. Leg. Leg. Leg.*

146 *mf* and for the wonders. *rit.* *p* *u tempo*

Solo

S

A

T

B

al ha - nif - la - ot

*mf* *p*

146 *mf* *rit.* *a tempo*

Pno.

*mf* *mp*

*ped.* *ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

151 *rit.* *pp* *al fine*

Solo

S

A

T

B

*pp* *pp* *pp* *pp*

151 *rit.* *al fine*

Pno.

*dim.* *p* *pp*

*ped.* *ped.* *ped.*

Bring out final B and D sounded on downbeat, quietly but distinctly, while