

VOCALESSENCE  Music Press

Shehecheyanu

Jonathan Miller

SSAA (divisi), *a cappella*

Shehecheyanu

PROGRAM NOTE:

In our tradition, one says or sings the Shehecheyanu prayer when one does something for the first time—it could be a prayer on the first night of a festival, such as Rosh Hashanah, Passover, or Chanukah, or something as mundane as wearing a new shirt for or eating a fruit in season for the first time that year. In 2000, Congregation Rodfei Zedek, in Chicago’s Hyde Park neighborhood, was in the middle of renovating its historic building that year, part of which was repurposing some of the original stained glass to use in a smaller sanctuary. The fall of 2000 was the occasion for a joyous rededication of the building, and the rabbi asked me if I would write a piece for the choir to mark the occasion.

I remember thinking how nice it would be if I could write a version of “Shehecheyanu” for the rededication ceremony. I found myself walking down city streets one day, with the pulse of my feet on the ground beating out a steady rhythm. That pulse turned into the quarter-note tempo of the melody, and in about three minutes the shape of the tune was there. Somehow I wrote it down shortly thereafter, and a bit later the harmony parts came into being. (Being a bass, I wanted to make sure that my voice part got the tune at least a little.) I want to express my gratitude to Rabbi Elliot Gertel for the inspiration to write the piece, to the late Cantor Julius Solomon for his ongoing musicality and buoyant spirit, and to the many wonderful people in the congregation at CRZ for supporting my work as a synagogue musician for the past 25 years.

The piece should be sung with buoyant joy, as if one is walking down the street with the wonder of having just done something for the first time. If being performed in the Conservative synagogue tradition, instead of singing “Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu” all three times, one may simply sing “Baruch atah, Baruch atah” the first two times with the same rhythms to avoid “overpraising” with a repeated blessing.

- Jonathan Miller

TEXT:

Baruch atah Adonai Eloheinu melech ha’olam,
Shehecheyanu v’kiy’manu v’higianu laz’man hazeh.

TRANSLATION:

Blessed are you, Lord our God, Ruler [literally, King] of the Universe, for giving us life, for sustaining us, and for enabling us to reach this season.

IPA:

ba rux a ta a do naj ε lo hej nu
mɛlɛx ha'o lam
ʃɛ hɛ xɛ ja nu vi ki ji ma nu
vi hi gi a nu la zman ha zɛ

VOCALESSENCE Music Press

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Original SATB arrangement commissioned for the dedication of the new sanctuary at Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Chicago, Illinois, September 2000

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Shehecheyanu

Jonathan M. Miller (ASCAP)
(2025)

Joyously (♩=c. 108)

mf *f*

Soprano 1
Hm hm hm hm hm Ba - ruch a - tah A - do -

Soprano 2
Hm hm hm hm hm Ba - ruch a - tah A - do -

Alto 1
Hm hm hm hm hm Ba - ruch a - tah A - do -

Alto 2
Hm hm hm hm hm Ba - ruch a - tah A - do -

Piano
(for rehearsal only)
mf *f*

Joyously (♩=c. 108)

S1
nai E - lo - hei - nu me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She -

S2
nai E - lo - hei - nu me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She -

A1
nai E - lo - hei - nu me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She -

A2
nai E - lo - hei - nu me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She -

Piano

7

S1 he - che - ya - nu v' - ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la -

S2 he - che - ya - nu v' - ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la -

A1 he - che - ya - nu v' - ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la -

A2 he - che - ya - nu v' - ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la -

10

S1 z'man ha - zeh. La - z'man ha - zeh, la - z'man ha - zeh.

S2 z'man ha - zeh. La - z'man ha - zeh, la - z'man ha - zeh.

A1 z'man ha - zeh. La - z'man ha - zeh, la - z'man ha - zeh. *(Als sneak a breath here)*

A2 z'man ha - zeh. La - z'man ha - zeh, la - z'man ha - zeh.

10

Shehecheyanu

13

S1 me - lech, me - lech,

S2 me - lech

A1 Ba - ruch a - tah A - do - nai E - lo - hei - nu

A2 Ba - ruch a - tah A - do - nai E - lo - hei - nu

13

16

S1 me-lech ha - 'o - lam, She - he - che - ya - nu v' - ki - y' -

S2 ha - 'o - lam, She - he - che - ya - nu v' -

A1 me - lech, me - lech, me-lech ha - 'o - lam, She - he - che - ya - nu v' -

A2 me - lech, me - lech, me-lech ha - 'o - lam, She -

16

Shehecheyanu

19

S1 *mp*
 ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la - z'man ha - - -

S2 *mp*
 ki - y' - ma - nu la - z'man ha - - -

A1 *mp*
 ki - y' - ma - nu v' - la - z'man ha - - -

A2 *f*
 he - che - ya - nu v' - ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la -

19 *mp*
f

22 *f*
 zeh. Oo Ba - ruch a - tah A - do - nai E - lo - hei - nu

S2 *f*
 zeh. Oo Ba - ruch a - tah A - do - nai E - lo - hei - nu

A1 *f*
 zeh. Oo Ba - ruch a - tah A - do - nai E - lo - hei - nu

A2 *f*
 z'man ha - zeh. Oo Ba - ruch a - tah A - do - nai E - lo - hei - nu

22 *f*

Shehecheyanu

25

S1
me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She - he - che - ya - nu v' -

S2
me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She - he - che - ya - nu v' -

A1
me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She - he - che - ya - nu v' -

A2
me - lech, me - lech, me - lech ha - 'o - lam, She - he - che - ya - nu v' -

28

S1
ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la - z'man ha - zeh.

S2
ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la - z'man ha - zeh.

A1
ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la - z'man ha - zeh.

A2
ki - y' - ma - nu v' - hi - gi - a - nu la - z'man ha - zeh.

Shehecheyanu

31

S1 *mf* A - - - - meyn, *sfz p*

S2 *mf* A - meyn, *div.* *sfz p*

A1 *mf* A - meyn, *div.* *sfz p*

A2 *mf* A - meyn, *sfz p* A - meyn,

31 *mf* *sfz p*

34

S1 *f* *ff* A - meyn. Hey!

S2 *f* *ff* A - meyn. Hey!

A1 *f unis.* *ff* A - meyn, A - meyn. Hey!

A2 *f* *ff* Ah, A - meyn. Hey!

34 *f* *ff*