

# LESHNOFF

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JONATHAN LESHNOFF

*HaMelekh*  
for High Voice and Piano

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JONATHAN  
LESHNOFF  
PUBLISHING

# HaMelekh

Commissioned by the Jewish Theological Seminary through the Dellheim Endowment  
and by Hazzan Matthew Klein  
Dedicated to Hazzan Matthew Klein

*HaMelekh* is a setting of two chapters from *Heichalos Rabasi*, an ancient Jewish mystical text almost two thousand years old, that gives instructions on navigating the different spaces that an initiate uses to reach G-d's presence. Each "space" is a different "room" (*heychal*). The first movement set by the composer, "Oso Odom," expresses both the fear and trembling of entering the final room. The cantorial style of this first movement is drawn from the Eastern European style. The second, "*HaMelekh*," portrays the effusive joy that comes from standing in the presence of G-d. This second movement is based on motives from Western European *nusach* (Jewish chant), but has a distinctly modern character. Mr. Leshnoff worked closely with Hazzan Matthew Klein to capture the cantorial style for these two movements, weaving them both together with his signature harmonic palate and 21st-century neo-romantic lyricism. This work was commissioned by the John Leopold and Martha Dellheim Endowment Fund at the Jewish Theological Seminary and by Hazzan Matthew Klein.

## Text:

### Movement 1: Vehoyo ósó odom

Vehoyo ósó odom zéa umizdazéa umartía umisbahél venívhal umís'aléf venofél la'akhorov.  
Ve'ómrim al tíro bén zera ohuv hikanés ur'éh melekh beyófyó  
Ve'én otoh nishkhos ve'én otoh nísrof.

### Movement 2: Melekh

Melekh...

...adír ...borukh ...godól ...da'as ...hodur ...voéd ...zókhér ...khai ...tów ...yoshor ...kabír ...lév ...mévín ...noe ...sód ...oluv ...peér  
...tsadik ...kodósh ...koróv ...kílus ...rino ...rakhum ...rakh ...shóméa' ...sha'anon ...tó'ar ...tom ...tómékh borukh hu.

### Translation (from *Heichalos Rabasi*, Chapter 24):

translation by Jonathan Leshnoff

### Section 3

And the man sweats, and shakes and is frightened, confused and terrified and faints... And the ministering angels say to him, "Don't fear, son of the most beloved [Abraham], enter and you will see the King in his splendor. And you will not be destroyed nor

### Section 4

[א] Mighty King! [ב] Giving King! [ג] Great King! [ד] All-Knowing King! [ה] Splendid King! [ו] Eternal King!  
[ז] All-Remembering King! [ח] Living King! [ט] King who desires only good! [י] Upright King! [כ] Mighty King! [ל] Wise King!  
[מ] Understanding King! [נ] Wonderful King! [ס] Knower of all Secrets are You, King! [ע] Humble King! [פ] Glorified King!  
[צ] Righteous King! [ק] Holy King! [ך] King, close at hand! [ר] Praised King! [ש] Merciful King! [ת] Compassionate King!  
[יח] King who listens! [יט] King, slow to anger! [כ] Patient King! [כא] Formless King! [כב] Perfect King! [כג] Supporter of the universe, may He be praised.

### Pronunciation Guide for Singing in Hebrew

Follow the general rules for Italian diction, with the following exceptions:

ay	as in <i>rye</i>	i	as in <i>hit</i>	ó	as in the French <i>beau</i>
e	as in <i>red</i>	í	as in <i>greet</i>	oy	as in <i>boy</i>
é	as in <i>passé</i>	k	as in <i>kid</i>	s	unvoiced, as in <i>said</i> *
g	as in <i>gold</i>	kh	as in the German <i>Bach</i>	sh	as in <i>shall</i>
h	as in <i>head</i>	o	as in <i>smog</i>	z	as in <i>zoo</i>

Pronunciation Guide used with permission from Dr. Joshua Jacobson.

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Composed by Jonathan Leshnoff for Leshnoff Publishing, administered by Theodore Presser Company (ASCAP)

491-00669

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## Movement 1: "Vehoyo oso odom"

Slow ♩ = 70

Voice

Piano

*rubato*

*p* *haunted, pensively* *subito p*

Ve -

V

Pno.

*subito p*

ho - - yo Ve - ho - - yo Ve -

V

Pno.

*molto rubato*

ho - yo ósó o-dom Zé - - - a Zé -

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Score and Parts by Hamilton Engraving  
www.hamiltonengraving.com

*a tempo* (cantorial improvisation)

V *11*  
a u-míz-da - zé -

Pno. *11*  
*p* *mp* *p*

V *16*  
a u-míz-da - zé - a u - mar - tí - a u-mis-ba - hél - ve-nív-hal

Pno. *16*

V *20* *rit.* *a tempo*  
u-mís-'a - léf ve - no - fêl la - 'a - kho - rov

Pno. *20*  
*mf* *subito p*

V *24*  
Ve'óm - rím al tí - ro bén ze - ra

Pno. *24*  
*subito pp*

29

V

o - huv hi - ka - nés \_\_\_\_\_ hi - ka - nés ur - 'éh, \_\_\_\_\_ ur - 'éh

Pno.

34

V

me - lekh \_\_\_\_\_ be - yó - fyó

Pno.

*mp*

39

V

Ve'én o - toh \_\_\_\_\_ nish - khos Ve' - én o - toh \_\_\_\_\_ nis - rof, nis -

Pno.

*p*

44

V

rof \_\_\_\_\_

Pno.

*pp* \_\_\_\_\_ *ppp*

*attacca*

Movement 2: "Melekh"

$\text{♩} = 70$

V *f*

46 Me - lekh a - dir Me - lekh bo - rukh Me - lekh go - dól Ha -

Pno. *mf*

V

49 me - - - - - lekh

Pno. *f*

subito *mp*

V

51 Me-lekh da' - as Me-lekh ho - dur Me-lekh vo - éd Ha -

Pno.

V

53 me - - - - - lekh Ha - me - - - - - lekh

Pno. *mf*

*f*