

NEW YORK



BOYS CHOIR

menagen



A YITZY BALD PRODUCTION

Dear NYBC Fans, Amush

Every rehearsal, every practice, every performance, every recording session, every video & photo shoot, of the New York Boys Choir, is an amazing experience. The boys get to sing, dance, live, and breath Jewish music! They learn about their fascinating history through the songs that they sing. Almost every week, I'll teach them a new nigun and explain to them the richness of the tune, the words, and most of all, the meanings behind the lyrics of that particular song. You have to see the expression on their faces as they connect with the song/songs of the week. It's absolutely awesome. You can feel the energy in the room. It's clear that their neshomos are flying high. As a choir member, they get to travel to different places and see different sights. They get to inspire and be inspired. They have the great privilege and opportunity to perform for many different types of people from various walks of life. It's truly an amazing journey that they take. All their beautiful memories and enriching experiences last forever. They make great friends that stand the test of time. Our choir is not just about preparing for a performance. It's a very personal experience. Every choir member, that joins, is part of our family. He is on a journey to grow in song, dance, musicality, self-expression, self-esteem, self-confidence, inspiration, and fun, all within a Torah framework, filled with Ahavas Hashem, Ahavas Chaverim, Midos Tovos, and Yiras Shamayim. As you will glance through this album jacket, you will get to see the faces of the today's choir, as well as a list, of all our previous choir members, who have been part of this amazing family. Looking back at the past ten years, I can truly say, that it has been a rewarding and humbling experience for me, to fill the role as NYBC's choir leader. I cherish every moment. It is with this thought in mind, that I proudly present to you, dear listeners, New York Boys Choir Volume III: Menagen. I know, that as you listen to this truly incredible album, you will clearly sense and appreciate how much time, how much effort, how much heart, how much soul, how much emotion, and how much energy went into this production, and you too will feel your neshama soaring, as the boys do, when they sing and dance to these songs each and every week. I'm confident, that Be'ezras Hashem, you will enjoy listening to this album, as much as I enjoyed producing it!

Beydidus,

Yitzy Bald



CREDITS

Produced, Composed, Conducted, Recorded,
Directed, and Lyrics Written by
Yitzy Bald

Musical Production & Arrangements by
Aryeh Kunstler,
Doni Gross,
Shloime Kaufman,
Tony Bella, & Yitzy Bald

Music Studios by
Aryeh Kunstler of Roar Recording Studios,
Doni Gross of DEG Studios,
Dani Flam of newyorkbrass.com,
Ed Reed of Lighthouse Recording Studios,
JP of Raw Recording Studios,
Tony Bella Studios,
Avi Avidani Studios,
Yitzy Bald Studios

Choir Vocals Recorded by
Yitzy Bald Studios

Adult Background Vocals Arranged, Sung, & Recorded by
Aryeh Kunstler

Edited, Mixed & Mastered by
Aryeh Kunstler, Doni Gross,
Ed Reed, Shloime Kaufman,
Tony Bella, Tom Waltz,
Ian Freitor & Yitzy Bald

Cover Concept & Design by
Yossi Zweig of Intelligent Noise LLC

Album Photos by
Moish Gershbaum of Brilliant Photography

CD Replicator
Aron Spitzer of Print R Us - Audio Zone

Distribution
Mendy Werdyger & Meir Werdyger
of Aderet Distributors

MUSICIANS

Piano & Synthesizers
Aryeh Kunstler, Doni Gross,
Tony Bella, & Yitzy Bald

Drums
Eran Asias, Avi Avidani,
& Gal Gershovsky

Electric & Acoustic Guitar
Aryeh Kunstler, Chaim Bokchin,
& Avi Singolda

Electric Bass Guitar
Teymur Phel

Brass Section, Recorders, & Ethnic Wind Instruments
Dani Flam

CHOIR MEMBERS

Yosef Aboksis			
Moshe Chaim Abtan			
Eleyah Yoav Aburus			
Yehuda Ackerman			
Shimi Ackerman	Yitzchok Diamond	Itamar Harif	Ari Lieberman
Yekusiel Adler	Yehoshua Edelstein	Harel Refael Harif	Danniel Lobel
Avrumi Akerman	Yehuda Egert	Yannai Harif	Aryeh Zev Love
Shruly Akerman	Tzvi Yehuda Ehrman	Dovi Herskovich	Eli Masar
Eliyahu Chaim Amira	Yehuda Aryeh Eisenstein	Moshe Dov Herzberg	Meir Simcha Silverman
Yosef Chaim Aronov	Ariel Eizenberg	Ezriel Hirsch	Dovid Moskovitz
Shmuel Boruch Aryeh	Avi Farbstein	Hoodie Hirsch	Ari Mulgay
Yehuda Auerbach	Aaron Feivelson	Elozor Menachem Jacobs	Boruch Nagelberg
Chaim Avezov	Yakov Feivelson	Ezra Jacobs	Yehudah Nayman
Gedalya Azoulay	Yechezkel Feivelson	Shmuel Jacobs	Moshe Nellin
Moshe Yehuda Banash	Shlomo Feldman	Yaakov Jacobowitz	Motti Neuman
Ari Baranker	Nisan Fetman	Yakov Jacobowitz	Shimon Oppenheimer
Jack Behar	Avi Fine	Dani Jakubowitz	Refael Panigel
Dovid Berlin	Rafi Fishbaum	Yonatan Janashvili	Binyomin Perlstein
Yitzzy Birnhack	Akiva Fishfeld	Shalom Dovid Katz	Avromi Pitterman
Ariel Bobrysh	Yehuda Furman	Shimon Katz	Ushi Polinsky
Daniel Bobrysh	Aaron Simcha Futerman	Yehuda Kirschner	Yitzchok Tanner
Ohad Bornstein	Moshe Galler	Gavriel Klahr	Meir Richter
Nadav Broner	Pinny Garbacz	Binyomin Dovid Klein	Ami Rosenfeld
Oriel Broner	Simcha Garfinkel	Binyomin Klestzick	Eliezer Rosenfeld
Aharon Simcha Bronstein	Eli Gertz	Dovi Kohler	Mordechai Rosenfeld
Rafi Calderon	Mordechai Gifter	Noam Kornwasser	Yisroel Rosenfeld
Sruli Caller	Binyamin Gitnik	Dovid Kriger	Avrohom Yehuda Ross
Yosef Churba	Rafael Yehuda Glazer	Binyamin Kruger	Chaim Rubin
Aharon Cohen	Daniel Greenbaum	Baruch Kunstler	Yosef Ryykin
Tzvikli Cohen	Yaakov Greenberg	Dovid Leshinsky	Yosef Boruch JB Saftlas
Avraham Yaakov Cooper	Yehuda Aryeh Groner	Avraham Yitzchok Levine	Mordechai Samowitz
Eli Deutsch	Chaim Gross	Rami Libkind	Eitan Schaffer
Yoni Deutsch	Yaakov Gross	Eli Libkind	Meir Yaakov Schechter

Michael Schwarcz
 Eliezer Seror
 Shloimy Shalitzky
 Yitzy Shapiro
 Elazar Shimonovich
 Gavriel Shimonovich
 Shimon Shimonovich
 Binyomin Shooob
 Michael Shoshan
 Meir Simcha Silverman
 Shlomo Silverman
 Aryeh Singer
 Gavriel Singer
 Dovid Smulowitz
 Shloime Sobel
 Tuvia Mordechai Spira
 Akiva Spirn
 Yosef Nissim Sosnowik
 Simcha Stender
 Mendy Surkis
 Natan Takhalov
 Yitzchok Tanner
 Moshe Tarlow
 Benjy Thall
 Moshy Uzhansky
 Yaakov Yisroel Uzhansky
 Sammy Wagman
 Gedalia Meir Waisman
 Tzvi Walfish
 Ari Weingarten
 Michael Weingarten
 Yossi Weingarten
 Mordechai Weiss
 Avrumi Yarmish

SPECIAL THANKS

**To my father and mother,
 Rabbi Shaul Bald ב"ר and Rivka Bald ב"ר**

**To my father's wife,
 Leah Bald**

**To my brother and family,
 Zev, Leah, Tzvi, Miriam, Dena, Rivka, & Leba Bald**

**To my father-in-law,
 Rabbi Elchonon Abramchik**

**To my mother-in-law,
 Mrs. Harriet Abramchik ב"ר**

**To the entire Bald, Abramchik, Weinstock, Lopin,
 Schur, Bayer, Jaeger, Gutwirth, Kushner, Litke,
 Binke, Zell, Weinreb, Michael, Jaffa, Tomaszewski,
 & Horowitz families.**

To Aryeh Kunstler,
 YOU ARE AWESOME! I finally got to record an album with you! Besides being an amazing recording artist, engineer, mixer, arranger, composer, musician, vocalist, etc... I got to see what a mentch you are. You have a sterling personality and a talent to match that. When I showed you the songs, you were so excited about doing the the project, as if it were your own baby. You did such a great job on the music and vocals of this album. Your guitar playing is "nasty"! I love it. Your musical sequencing, recording, arranging, mixing, music performance, vocal performance, and hiring of the best musicians, were impeccable. Thanks for introducing me to that awesome, chilled out studio in the boon docks, where we recorded drums with Eran. Again, thanks for everything. I am so honored that we got to work together on this project. It was so much fun. Can't wait to do future ones together.

To Doni Gross,
 Wow. You are amazing! I am so lucky and thrilled that I got to work with you on part of the third NYBC album. You are the epitome of a mentch, a ben torah, a true

friend, an advisor, a confidant, a ben aliya, an optimist, etc... The arrangements, editing ("super editing" that is), the engineering, and the mixing & mastering, etc... of this project were top notch. Most of all, I am lucky to have you as a real friend. I always appreciate your vote of confidence, listening ear, and critique. Your dedication, to all the music video projects online, specifically, and your dedication to this album, as a whole, can not be beat. Thanks for all the great sessions at DEG studios, with the boys of the choir. I, as well as the choir members, enjoyed it immensely. May Hashem grant you and your family loads of nachas, kain ayin hora. I look forward, Be'ezras Hashem, to collaborating on many more projects together.

To Shloime Kaufman,
 You are so talented. I loved working with you on V'nahafoch Hu. It was so refreshing to see your creative juices at work. From beginning to end, you put your whole heart and soul into it. I could feel you dancing at the studio, at all phases, even when I wasn't there at that moment. Thanks so much.
To Moish Gershbaum of Brilliant Photography,
 The pictures were incredible! Thanks for all the extra effort you put in, to make it just right.

To Rabbi Eliezer Feuer and Hillel Adelman
 You are both amazing people in my life. I honestly don't know if I could have gotten this choir off the ground without all your friendship, chizuk, and support. Not only did you give me a physical shell of a building for all my choir tryouts/practices, but you also gave me an emotional and spiritual support support system in more ways than one. Hashem should fulfill your endless dreams and visions for yourselves, your families, and the entire community at large, because your dreams are not just dreams. They are realities!!! Thanks for everything you do for me and the entire Bayswater!

To Yanki and Tammy Fetman,
 Thank you so much for giving us a home for the choir. The building is magnificent and you both are amazing people. What you do for me, and the chizuk you constantly give me, is so genuine, warm, and unparalleled.

SPECIAL THANKS

You are such great friends to me. I can never adequately repay you for what you do. Suffice it to say, Hashem should bench you with every brocha you ever ask for. You truly deserve it.

To Yossi Futerman,

What can I say? Sometimes it's best to leave things unspoken. What is in my heart, as a true friend, you already know. I can never thank you enough for your true friendship and every thing you have done to help me be successful personally, and with regards to the choir. Hashem should repay you many times over for always being there for me. Tremendous nachas, sholom, parnassah, and the whole nine yards!

To Mrs. Berlin,

Thanks so much for all your help with the myriads of things that needed to be done with the choir. Whether it was your great suggestions, your helping hand, before, after, and during practices, performances, and video shoots, buying nosh for the choir, purchasing props for the shows, etc....you did it with a smile, with patience, and a genuine concern, for myself, and every choir member. I can never ever truly repay you. Thanks for everything! And may Hashem grant you and your entire family loads of nachas.

To Shuie Brick,

Words on a CD jacket will never replace the expression of thanks that I have towards you as a friend! V'hameivin yavin.

To Mendy & Meir Werdyger,

You are such great people to work with. You believe in my projects and you put your whole heart and neshoma into it. You are warm, sincere, & honest. You don't just distribute CD's. You distribute a good dose of chavershaft to everyone!

To Yossi Zweig,

Once again, I can never put down in words, what you do for me as a friend and etc.....etc.....etc..... You are the man who helps me with almost everything in and out of my musical career. On a personal level, you give me sageous

advice. And I'm not kidding. Yossi Zweig, "the man opposite the guy on the couch" (No social working degree... but he's better than many of them). Yossi Zweig the graphic designer. Yossi Zweig, the web designer. Yossi Zweig, the social media guy. Yozzi Zweig, the emcee. Yossi Zweig, the radio personality. Yossi Zweig, the CD designer. Yossi Zweig, the press release writer. Yossi Zweig, the agent who matches up singers and composers, and arrangers, and what not. Yossi Zweig, the director. Yossi Zweig, the script writer. Yossi Zweig, the publicist. Yossi Zweig, the publisher of a successful online magazine entitled Jewish Insights. Yossi Zweig, the hard and loyal worker. And yes, Yossi Zweig, the dedicated father and husband. The list goes on. Need I say more. I feel bad because I probably missed out ten thousand other things! Yossi, you are the man. I am forever grateful for your friendship and sickly talented work on my behalf! Hashem should shower you with every brocha!

To the Parents of the choir,

It is really all because of all your hard work & dedication that you put into the choir, that this album came out so great. Besides the fact that your commitment to the choir is truly appreciated, your commitment has an amazing impact on the chinuch of your children. Be proud of your children. I surely am. My hakoras hatov to you is manifold. Thanks again!

To the Boys of the choir,

You guys did an amazing job! Your middos are great. Your singing is great. So many choir members find ways to help me out in so many ways. I appreciate it and it's a pleasure to have you as part of the choir. Every week, I see how you boys get so into it by the practices and recordings. All in all, you should know that your efforts paid off, and the proof of it is in the album. So sit back, listen to it over and over again, and be proud of how hard you worked to attain such a great accomplishment! I can't thank you enough.

SPECIAL THANKS

To Eli Gerstner & Nachman Seltzer,

Thanks for all your suggestions. It is refreshing to have friends like you who are superstars, yet unassuming. Both on a personal level and a professional level, you guys were, and are constantly there for me. Thanks again.

To Dov & Eli Greenbaum,

Thanks for always letting me borrow your drum props, with a smile, for all the video and photo shoots. You are truly amazing people.

To my dear father,

שאוּל בן צבי ז"ל

Abba, when I think of you, I think of your ahavas torah, your ehrlichkeit, and your love of K'lal yisroel. The list goes on and on. I miss you and your inspiration so much. Please daven for all of us and ask Hashem for the geula!

Love, Yitzy

To my dear mother,

רבקה בת שמואל ז"ל

When will I be zoiche to see you alive and well again together with Moshiach Tzidkeinu? It's twenty years since I last saw you...but your inspiration lives on in me forever. I miss you so much.....

Love, Yitzy

To our dear mother & mother-in-law,

הינדא בת מאיר ז"ל

Losing you just a short four years ago was a shock to us. Everyone loved you. There is no way that you or your love of family, relatives, friends, children, and strangers (yidden or not) can ever, ever, be replaced. The pain of your loss is still so fresh. Plain and simply put.....we want you back now! At this point, all we can do is try to emulate your love of Hashem, your love of all people, your kindness, your patience, your determination, and your endless desire to be a helper to everyone in need. We miss you dearly and can't wait to see you again very soon, beyemos hamashiach.

Love Yitzy & Nava

To Hashem....

Thanks, for my every fiber, breath, and vivaciousness of life, my day in, day out avoda, my talents, my kochos, my yeshivas, my rebbeim, my love of chinuch, my children, my family, my friends, and most of all my wonderful eishes chayil. Hashem, please continue to shower me, ad v'achar bias goel, with these wonderful brochos and the many other brochos (including those that I fail to recognize)!

To Nava, עמו"ש

You've now evolved. Last album I wrote that you are a superwoman. I have to up the ante. You're not just a superwoman.....but a Super-everything. I'm lucky to have you as the greatest wife & mother of our beautiful children, Rivka, Michael, Shmuel, Chana, Shaul, & Hinda, עמו"ש, bli ayin hora. You continue to patiently endure all the early and late hours of raising our children, to be bnei torah, ba'alei midos tovos, and ba'alei derech erez, in a torahdig way, while at the same time, letting me be involved, in making this, and many other projects. May Hashem bench us, that we only see much yiddishe nachas together from our children and each other.



THANK YOU

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**GEDALIA MEIR
WAISMAN**



**SHLOIME
SOBEL**



**ARIEL
EIZENBERG**



**YOSEF
RYVKIN**



**EZRIEL
HIRSCH**



**AVI
FARBSTEIN**



**NOAM
KORNWASSER**



**ELOZOR
SHIMONOVICH**



**BINYAMIN
SHOOB**

**DOVID
BERLIN**

**YAACOV
UZHANSKY**

**DOVID
KRIGER**



**MOSHE
UZHANSKY**



**MEIR
RICHTER**



**SHIMON
SHIMONOVICH**



**EITAN
SCHAFLER**



**HOODIE
HIRSCH**



**TZVI YEHUDA
EHRMAN**



**BINYAMIN
GITNIK**



**ARIEL
BOBRYSH**



**BINYAMIN
KRUGER**



**YITZY
SHAPIRO**



**YANNAI
HARIF**



**DANIEL
BOBRYSH**



**AVROMI
PITTERMAN**



**MICHOEL
SCHWARCZ**



**MOISHE
TARLOW**



**YEHUDA
KIRSCHNER**



ITAMAR HARIF

HAREL REFAEL HARIF



1 מנגן-מנגן

SOLOISTS: Avi Farbstein, Binyamin Gitnik, Yehuda Kirschner, Meir Richter, Eitan Schaffler, Moishe Tarlow

CHORUS

קחו לי לי מנגן מנגן והיה כנגן המנגן
קחו לי לי מנגן ותהי עליו יד ה'

VERSE

לי לי לי לי מנגן מנגן והיה כנגן מנגן
לי לי לי לי מנגן מנגן מנגן

BRIDGE

אין אדם שר שירה אלא מתוך שמחה מתוך שמחה
אין אדם שר שירה אלא מתוך שמחה

Fetch for me a musician. And when the musician played, the hand (spirit) of Hashem came upon him. A person does not sing song, only amidst joy.

Lyrics based on a Posuk in Melachim 3:15 and a Rashi in Talmud Bavli.

There is a difference of opinion, why Elisha could not receive prophecy at the time....Some say that he was angry and therefore he could not attain prophecy. Some say he was in mourning over the departure of his Master Elyahu Hanavi. In any case, his negative emotions did not let him receive communication from Hashem. To lift his spirits, he called for a musician, so that he would rejoice, and then be able to hear Hashem's prophecy. We learn from this how important it is to be a happy person. Music is one of most effective ways a person can put himself in a great mood and connect with Hashem, even to the level of attaining prophecy.... So listen to this inspiring album. Soak it up. And sing away!!!



2 עת אראה

SOLOISTS: Binyamin Gitnik, Noam Kornwasser, Meir Richter

VERSE

עת אראה יפך אקרא משוררים אקרה בשיר
עת אראה יפך אקרא משוררים בשיר

CHORUS

ולציון גואל תביא אהיל ואשמח בלבבי או בלבבי
ולציון גואל תביא אהיל ואשמח בלבבי בלבבי

When I behold your beauty (Yerushalayim), I will call singers to sing a song.
(Please Hashem), bring a redeemer to Tzion and I will rejoice in my heart.

Lyrics by R' Elazar, the son of R' Moshe HaDarshan, Kinah 38 (said on Tisha B'av), & Zemiroi Motzei Shabbos.
Every time I go to Eretz Yisroel, and especially Yerushalayim, I marvel at it's beauty, and break out in song. If only, we could finally stay there forever.



3 שְׁלֵשָׁה חֲסִידֵי-בְּתוֹךְ הַקֶּצֶב

SOLOISTS: Dovid Berlin, Tzvi Yehuda Ehrman, Binyomin Gitnik, Yehuda Kirschner, Meir Richter, Eitan Schaffer



BRIDGE
בְּתוֹךְ הַקֶּצֶב בְּתוֹךְ הַקֶּצֶב בְּתוֹךְ הַקֶּצֶב
אֵי יֵי בְּשִׂמְחָה

VERSE
וְיִי יוֹדֵעַ אֲנִי בְּדוּאֵי שִׂמְצָב שְׁלֵי לֹא בִידֵי
לְעִצְבוֹת אֵין לִי עוֹד פְּנֵאֵי רַק בְּאִלּוּקִים אֲנִי חֵי
(חֵי חֵי חֵי)

CHORUS
בְּתוֹךְ הַקֶּצֶב רְקוֹד בְּשִׂמְחָה נְשִׁיר בִּיחַד בְּאִמּוֹנָה
נֵה נֵה נֵה (נֵה נֵה נֵה)

I know with certainty, that my situation is not in my hand(s), I do not have time to be sad, rather I live with G-d (relying on him). In/with the rhythm, dance with joy, we will sing together with belief/trust/faith/confidence. In/with the rhythm, with joy!

Lyrics by Yitzki Bald.
I love writing songs about joyous faith in Hashem. The idea is, that with the "rhythm" of life going on (the ups and downs), we should dance and sing with lots of joy and faith!

4 חֲסִידוֹתָא-הַנְּצַחֵן

SOLOISTS: Dovid Berlin, Binyamin Gitnik, Meir Richter, Eitan Schaffer, Yitzki Shapir



CHORUS
הַנְּצַחֵן קְרוֹב קְרוֹב לְעַם יִשְׂרָאֵל
וְלֹא רְחוֹק (1X 2X 3X)
עוֹד עוֹד יוֹבֵא (4X)

VERSE
זֶה הַקְּטָן גְּדוֹל קְטָן גְּדוֹל יִהְיֶה
כְּאוֹר לְבָנָה שְׁעוֹד נְרָאָה
כְּאוֹר לְבָנָה שְׁעוֹד נְרָאָה
(1X) כְּאוֹר לְבָנָה שְׁעוֹד נְרָאָה
(2X) כְּאוֹר לְבָנָה עוֹד עוֹד תְּרָאָה תְּרָאָה

This small one (the baby at the bris mila), will become a big one (an adult), just like the moon, that its (small) light (and size) will eventually be seen (on a much larger scale). Victory is very close to Klal Yisroel's hands. It's not far off. It will come very soon!

Lyrics based on words recited by a Bris Mila, and concepts borrowed from the Tefilla of Kiddush Levana.
I thoroughly enjoyed writing this song and creating its lyrics. There were multiple deep messages that I was trying to convey in the writing process of this song. We know, that at the time of creation, there were two suns in the sky. One complained to Hashem, and said, "There can't be two suns (two kings) in the sky". Hashem replied, "Fine, I will make you smaller. You will become the servant in the sky, i.e. the moon". Klal Yisroel, takes on the characteristics of the moon. It gets larger, and smaller throughout the month, symbolizing the ups and downs of the Jewish people, and the concept that Klal Yisroel can renew itself in its service of Hashem. At the same time, the moon will eventually get its kapparah (atonement), and will be victorious once again in the sky. It will be restored to its full size and glory, just like it was originally. So too, we, the Jewish people will soon be victorious and our pride and glory will be fully restored on the world stage. We will once again, take on the position as the leading role model for humanity, never to become small again!

5 שְׁמוֹנֵה-אֲחִינוּ

SOLOISTS: Noam Kornwasser, Binyamin Kruger, Meir Richter



VERSE
אֲחִינוּ כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל הַנְּתוּנִים אִם בְּצָרָה
צָרָה וּבִשְׂבִיָּה יִם וּבִיבִשָׁה אֲחִינוּ כָּל בֵּית יִשְׂרָאֵל

CHORUS
הַמְּקוֹם אִם יִי יִרְחַם יִרְחַם עֲלֵיהֶם וְיוֹצִיאֵם מִצָּרָה
אִם יִי לְרוּחָה הַשְּׂתָא בְּעַגְלָא וּבְזִמְן קְרִיב

Our brothers, all of the house of Yisroel, that are in distress or in captivity, whether they be on the sea or on dry land, Hashem, please have mercy on them, and remove them from distress to relief, now, speedily, and close at hand.

Lyrics were most likely composed in the days of the Geonim. We mention these heartfelt words after Krias HaTorah on Mondays and Thursdays, and at various other occasions.

This song, a haunting tune, with powerful words, was composed in Camp Agudah, and was made specifically for the Cantata production, right before Tisha B'av. It really hit the spot that summer. The message of this song, is to never ever forget our brothers and sisters, who are in deep pain, distress, or captivity. We ask Hashem to remove them immediately from their predicament. We hope this song inspires you and moves you, as much as it inspired and moved us, in camp.

6 חוֹמְסַנְטָה-סוֹ סוּמִין

SOLOISTS: Dovid Berlin, Yehuda Kirschner, Noam Kornwasser, Eitan Schaffer



CHORUS
עַד עַד שִׁבְאָה הַקְּדוֹשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא
מֵאִיר אֶת עֵינָיו עֵינָיו שֶׁל אָדָם אָדָם

VERSE
אֲמַר אֲמַר רַבִּי בְּנִימִין סוֹ סוּמִין סוֹ סוּמִין
הַכֵּל בְּחִזְקַת סוֹ סוּמִין
אֲמַר אֲמַר רַבִּי בְּנִימִין סוֹ סוּמִין סוֹ סוּמִין
(בְּחִזְקַת סוֹ סוּמִין)

Rabi Binyamin said, everyone is in an assumed state, of being a blind person, (by default, one can not really see things clearly), until Hashem comes and lights up his eyes (his way), the eyes of a person.

Lyrics adapted from a Midrash Rabbah 53:14, Bereishis, with some of Yitzki Bald's poetic license.
I absolutely love this catchy and fun song. What a gift. The tune, the words, the concept, the message. It's really awesome. I was first introduced to these words many years ago, when I lost something valuable. I was told, that saying the correct version, as quoted in the Midrash Rabbah, (not my adaption!), is a time tested segula (treasure) to find lost objects. Just say it three times and wallah!!! I've used it many times for myself and for other people and it really works (barring a cheshbon from Hashem why it should not work...). Some people have even said this quote from Rabi Binyamin, with the hope of finding their basherte (marriage match made in heaven). Hey you never know. It might actually work!

7 אה אה - אה אה

SOLOISTS: Noam Kornwasser, Meir Richter, Moishe Tarlow

VERSE I

share it the pain of one another
 feel it and love your brother
 reach out give him your hand
 and show him that you understand
 understand ah ah ah

VERSE II

dance now let's gather all together
 sing now well pray forever
 lift our voices in song
 and show Hashem that we together
 belong ah ah ah

Lyrics by Yitzy Bald.

I made up this song in Camp Agudah a few summers ago, inspired by the achdus (unity) felt there. Thus the song emphasizes the word "Agudah", "A Bundle". I recalled the story of a Rav, who once brought his Rebbitzen to the doctor and said, "Our foot hurts...". I thought, if someone has pain in one part of his body, it affects the whole body. We must act the same way when it comes to our people. Each member of the Jewish nation has to care and feel for one another, as if they are "one body" ("one bundle"). We must never ever lose sight of that important ideal.



Our Father, our King, fill our hands (efforts) with your blessings. With love for your nation, grant (us) a blessing.

Lyrics based on the 27th Avinu Malkeinu, after Shmoneh Esrei, with a twist of Yitzy Bald.

We ask Hashem for plenty of blessings in our life. But ideally, we also want the blessings given with a smile and with love.....not reluctantly, just because we beg for it. That's why we start off with "Avinu" ("Our Father") first, (the loving relationship), and then we mention "Malkeinu" ("Our King"), which is the more stern relationship between us and Hashem. Hashem, Please first treat us with love!

CHORUS

ah ah agudah agudah ay agudah echas ay
 ah ah agudah agudah agudah echas ay yoy
 ah ah agudah agudah ay agudah echas ay
 ah ah agudah agudah agudah echas



8 אהבה - אהבה

SOLOISTS: Avi Farbstein, Binyamin Kruger, Meir Richter, Yitzy Shapiro, Moishe Tarlow

CHORUS

באהבה תן ברכה או יו לעמך ישראל
 מלא מלא ידי ידי ישראל מברכותיך

VERSE

או אבינו או מלכנו מלא מלא ידינו
 או ידינו מלא ידינו מלא מלא
 או אבינו או מלכנו מלא מלא ידינו
 או ידינו מלא ידינו מלא מלא מברכותיך

9 קלי ו-והוא קלי

SOLOISTS: Noam Kornwasser, Meir Richter, Eitan Schafner

CHORUS

ביד ידו אפקיד אפקיד רוחי בעת אישן ואעיר
 ואם רוחי רוחי גויתי ה' לי לא אירא (ולא אירא)

He is my G-d, my living Redeemer, Rock of my pain in time of distress. He is my banner, a refuge for me, the portion in my cup, on the day I call. Into his hand, I shall entrust my spirit, when I go to sleep, and I shall awaken. With my spirit, shall my body remain. Hashem is with me, I shall not fear.

Lyrics from the Adon Olam tefilla at the beginning of shacharis.

I wrote this song in Camp Agudah. What powerful words they are. Through the daily grind, we take the many brachos that Hashem grants us, for granted. He is our redeemer, our refuge, our "go to" in times of pain. Let's count our blessings, and exclaim to Hashem, that the ultimate decision of whether we live or not each day, is totally in his hands. And we trust him fully, and appreciate the fact, that even though, we "leave" our Neshoma with him every night, he happily returns our neshoma back to us, each and every day. To top it off... once we reach the level of understanding that our life is totally in Hashem's control, we really won't fear anything at all. As we proclaim, "Hashem is with me, I shall not fear." We should all merit such true serenity!



10 אהבה ואתה קדוש

SOLOISTS: Tzvi Yehuda Ehrman, Binyamin Gitnik, Meir Richter, Eitan Schafner, Yitzy Shapiro, Moishe Tarlow

VERSE

ואתם תהיו לי ממלכת ממלכת כהנים
 גו קדוש גו קדוש

CHORUS

ואתה קדוש ושומר קדוש וקדושים בכל יום יהללך

BRIDGE

ממלכת כהנים גו קדוש

And you (the Jewish people) will be for me a kingdom of kohanim and a holy nation. And you (Hashem) are holy and your name is holy, and holy ones praise you every day.

Lyrics from Shemos 19:6 connected with the fourth bracha of Shmoneh Esrei.

Actually, the translation "holy" has non-Jewish sources. The more accurate translation of Kadosh, is unique, special, or separate. The Jewish people are being told by Hashem to elevate themselves and make themselves a unique and special example for the whole world to learn from. While it is clearly understood that we are being asked by Hashem to act special when it comes to spiritual matters, we are also, very much being taught, to eat, drink, sleep, work, and take care of all our physical needs, in an elevated, dignified manner. Not like a typical layman. We are declaring that Hashem is so special and unique....And at the same time, we should emulate Hashem's kedusha, and also be special and unique, in every facet of our life.



