

AHM 231

\$2.00

SATB

M'at Ohr

“A Little Light”

Music by Arnold Harris

A Hebrew Song for the Chanukah Season



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M'at Ohr

Arnold Harris has set to music the words of Rabbi Bachya Ibn Pakuda (c1050-1120), one of the great Jewish philosophers of the Golden Age of Judaism in medieval Spain. Ibn Pakuda is well known for his book "Duties of the Heart". The lyrics of this song, "M'at ohr docheh harbei min ha-choshech", "A little light can dispel much darkness." (translation by Rabbi Carl Perkins), are very appropriate for Chanukah, the "Festival of Lights." Every day during Chanukah an additional candle is lit, signifying the beauty and power of increasing light.

Chanukah celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after it was recaptured from the Syrian Greeks in 165 BCE. The miracle referred to is the fact that when the priests returned to the Temple, they found only enough oil to last for one day, but it lasted for eight. Thus, holiday candles are lit on all eight days. The menorah, with its eight branches, one for each candle, has become the symbol of Chanukah.

Translation by Rabbi Carl Perkins

M'at ohr docheh– A little light can dispel

harbei min ha-choshech – much darkness

Pronunciation Guide For Hebrew

a	as in <i>ah</i>
e	as in <i>lei</i>
i	as in <i>ski</i>
o	as in French <i>beau</i>
u	as in <i>zoo</i> (no diphthong)
ei	as in French <i>blasé</i>
ch	as in German <i>buch</i>
g	as in <i>good</i>
h	as in <i>house</i>
k	as in <i>kites</i> as in <i>sound</i>
sh	as in <i>shoe</i>
ts	as in <i>hits</i>

M'at Ohr

Docheh Harbei Min Ha Choshech

Words by Bachya Ibn Pakuda (c.1050 - 1120)

Music by Arnold Harris ©2025

$\text{♩} = 120$

p

Soprano

M' - at ohr, m' - at ohr, do - cheh do -

p

Alto

M' - at ohr, m' - at ohr, do - cheh do -

p

Tenor

M' - at ohr, m' - at ohr, do - cheh do -

p

Bass

M' - at ohr, m' - at ohr, do - cheh do -

f *mf*

ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr

f *mf*

ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech m' - at

f

ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech

f

ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech

do - cheh har - bei min ha -

ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

mf m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

mf m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

13 *p*

cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei

p

cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei

p

cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei

p

cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei

18 *mf* *p*

min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

mf *p*

min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

mf *p*

min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

mf *p*

min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

25

cho-shech m' - at__ ohr do-
 cho-shech m' - at__ ohr do-
 cho-shech m' - at__ ohr do-
 cho-shech m' - at__ ohr do-

mf

29

cheh har-bei min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr
 cheh har-bei min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr
 cheh har-bei min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr
 cheh har-bei miin ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr

pp

34

do - cheh har - bei min ha cho - shech
 do - cheh har - bei min ha - cho - shech
 do - cheh har - bei min ha - cho - shech
 do - cheh har - bei min ha - cho - shech

mf

ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

ohr do - cheh har - bei min ha -

cho-shech ohr do - cheh har - bei

cho-shech ohr do - cheh har - bei

cho-shech ohr do - cheh har - bei

cho-shech ohr do - cheh har - bei

min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr

min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr

min ha - cho-shech m' - at ohr

min ha - cho-shech m' -

50

do - cheh har - bei min

do - cheh har - bei min

do - cheh har - bei min

at ohr do - cheh har - bei min

54

ha cho - shech m' - at ohr do -

ha cho - shech m' - at ohr

ha cho - shech m' - at ohr

ha cho - shech m' - at ohr do -

57

cheh har - bei do - cheh har - bei do - cheh har - bei min ha -

m' - at ohr min ha -

m' - at ohr min ha -

cheh har - bei do - cheh har - bei do - cheh har - bei min ha -

6
61

p

cho-shech m' - at ohr m' - at

p

cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei do - cheh har -

p

cho-shech m' - at ohr do - cheh har - bei do - cheh har -

p

cho-shech m' - at ohr m' - at

64

// *mp*

ohr min ha - - cho - shech m' -

// *mp*

bei do - cheh har - bei min ha - - cho - shech m' -

// *mp*

bei do - cheh har - bei min ha - - cho - shech m' -

// *mp*

ohr min ha - - cho - shech m' -

68

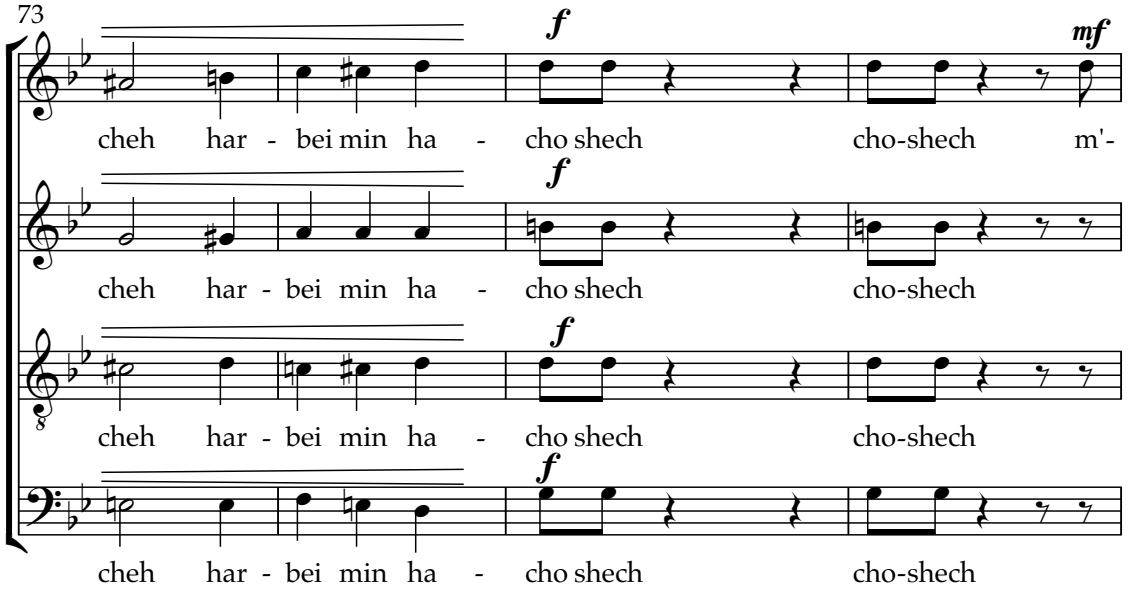
at ohr, m' at ohr, do - cheh do -

at ohr, m' at ohr,, do - cheh do -

at ohr, m' at ohr, do - cheh do -

at ohr, m' at ohr, do - cheh do -

73



f *mf*

cheh har - bei min ha - cho shech cho-shech m' -

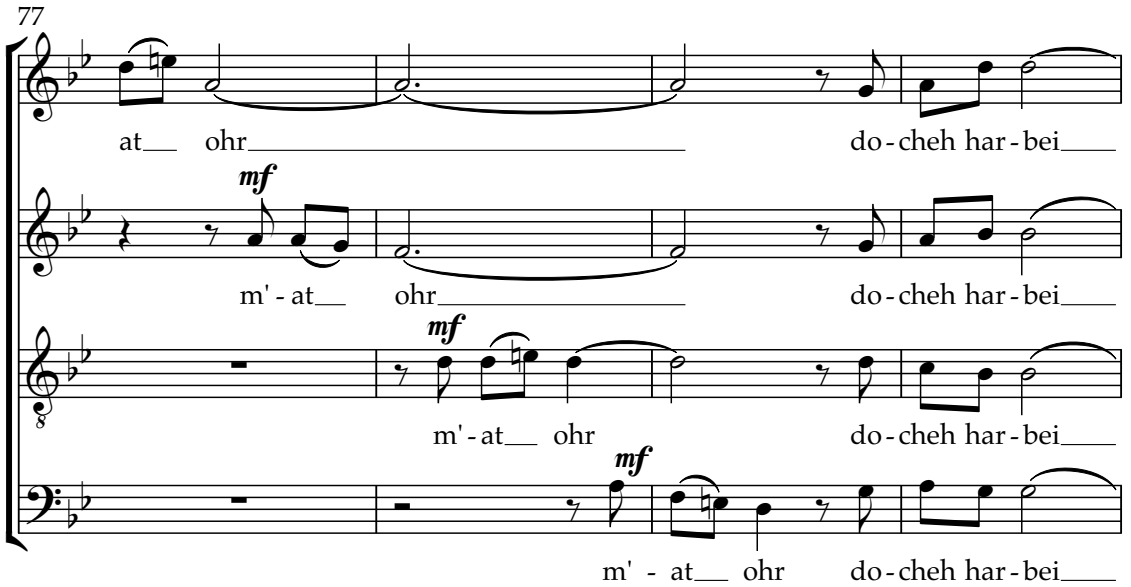
cheh har - bei min ha - cho shech cho-shech

f

8 cheh har - bei min ha - cho shech cho-shech

cheh har - bei min ha - cho shech cho-shech

77



at_ ohr_ do-cheh har-bei_

mf

m' - at_ ohr_ do-cheh har-bei_

mf

8 m' - at_ ohr_ do-cheh har-bei_

mf

m' - at_ ohr_ do-cheh har-bei_

81



p

min ha - cho-shech min ha - cho-shech m' -

p

min ha - cho-shech min ha - cho-shech m' -

p

8 min ha - cho-shech min ha - cho-shech m' -

p

min ha - cho-shech min ha - cho-shech m' -

8

84

rit.

a tempo primo

♩ = 120

mf

at ohr m' - at ohr m' -
 at - - ohr m' - at - ohr
 at ohr m' - at - ohr
 at ohr m' - at - ohr

88

at ohr do -
 m' - at ohr do -
 m' - at ohr do -
 m' - at ohr do -

91

ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech
 ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech
 ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech
 ch eh har - bei min ha - cho-shech