

AHM 183

\$2.00

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# Ikh Bin A Kleyner Dreydl

Original Yiddish lyrics for  
“I Have a Little Dreydl

With a new melody  
by Arnold Harris

*A Yiddish Song for the Chanukah Season*



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# ***Ikh Bin A Kleyner Dreydl***

The original Yiddish lyrics for “I Have A Little Dreydl” by Michl Gelbart (pseudonym, Ben Arn, 1889-1962), find a new meaning with a new melody in this fun and lively setting by Arnold Harris. The song refers to the traditional game of “Dreydl”, a spinning top, played by children during Chanukah.

Yiddish was the spoken language and linguistic basis of Eastern European Jewish culture before the holocaust of World War II. It is still thriving and is spoken by many Jews to this very day.

## ***Lyrics & Translation***

<b>Ikh bin a kleyner dreydl</b>	<b>I am a little dreydl</b>
<b>Gemakht bin ikh fun blay</b>	<b>I am made out of lead,</b>
<b>Toi lomir ale shpiln</b>	<b>Come let's all play</b>
<b>In dreydl eyns, tsvey, dray!</b>	<b>At dreydl one, two three!</b>
<b>Oy dreydl, dreydl, dreydl</b>	<b>O dreydl, dreydl, dreydl</b>
<b>Oy drey zikhk dreydl drey</b>	<b>Oh spin dreydl spin,</b>
<b>Toi lomir ale shpiln</b>	<b>Come let's all play</b>
<b>In dreydl eyns, tsvey, dray!</b>	<b>At dreydl one, two three!</b>
<b>Un ikh hob lib tsu tantsn</b>	<b>And I love to dance</b>
<b>Zikh dreyen in a rod</b>	<b>To spin in a circle</b>
<b>Toi lomir ale tantsn</b>	<b>Come let's all dance</b>
<b>A dreydl karahod</b>	<b>A dreydl round dance</b>

## ***Pronunciation Guide For Yiddish***

<b>a</b>	<b>ah</b>
<b>e</b>	<b>bed</b>
<b>i</b>	<b>fit</b>
<b>o</b>	<b>home</b>
<b>u</b>	<b>zoom</b>
<b>ay</b>	<b>mind</b>
<b>ey</b>	<b>say</b>
<b>oy</b>	<b>boy</b>
<b>kh</b>	<b>German <i>buch</i></b>
<b>sh</b>	<b>shoe</b>
<b>ts</b>	<b>hits</b>

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# Ikh Bin A Kleyner Dreydl

Yiddish Lyrics by Ben Arn (1889-1962)

Music by Arnold Harris ©2007

**Lively** ♩ = 75

*mf*

SOPRANO  
Ikh bin! Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

ALTO  
*mf*  
Bin ikh! Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

TENOR  
*mf*  
Ikh bin! Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

BASS  
*mf*  
Bin ikh! Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

Piano

7

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay. To lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay. shpi\_ ln

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay. shpi\_ ln

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay. To lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln

14 A

in drey dl eyns tsvey dray. Oy! drey-dl,  
 in drey dl eyns tsvey dray. Oy! drey-dl,  
 in drey dl eyns tsvey dray. Oy! drey-dl,  
 in drey dl eyns tsvey dray. Oy! drey-dl,

20

drey dl, drey-dl Oy! drey zikh drey dl drey, to lo-mir a-le shpi ln,  
 drey dl, drey-dl Oy! drey zikh drey dl drey, to lo-mir a-le shpi ln,  
 drey dl, drey-dl Oy! drey zikh drey dl drey, to lo-mir a-le shpi ln,  
 drey dl, drey-dl Oy! drey zikh drey dl drey, to lo-mir a-le shpi ln,

25

*p* *mf*

in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns un tsvey. Un

*p* *mf*

in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns un tsvey. Un

*p* *mf*

in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns un tsvey. Un

*p* *mf*

in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns un tsvey. Un

32 **B**

ikh\_ hob lib\_ tsu\_ tan-tsn to

ikh\_ hob lib\_ tsu\_ tan-tsn to

ikh\_ hob lib\_ tsu\_ tan-tsn zikh drey-en in a rod\_ to

ikh\_ hob lib\_ tsu\_ tan-tsn zikh drey-en in a rod\_ to

38

lo-mir a - le tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn a drey-dl - ka - ra

lo-mir a - le tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn a drey-dl - ka - ra

lo-mir a - le tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn a drey-dl - ka - ra

lo-mir a - le tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn, tan\_tsn a drey-dl - ka - ra

**C**

44

hod\_ Oy! drey-dl, drey\_dl, drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh

hod Oy! drey-dl, drey\_dl, drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh

hod Oy! drey-dl, drey\_dl, drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh

hod\_ Oy! drey-dl, drey\_dl, drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh

50

*p*

drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln, in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns\_ un

*p*

drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln, in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns\_ un

*p*

drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln, in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns\_ un

*p*

drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln, in drey-dl eyns\_ eyns\_ eyns\_ un

*p*

57

**D**

*mf*

tsvey. Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

*mf*

tsvey. Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

*mf*

tsvey. Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

*mf*

tsvey. Ikh bin\_ a\_ kley\_ ner\_ drey-dl

*mf*

63

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay. To lo-mir a-le shpi\_\_\_ ln\_\_\_

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay.

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay.

ge-makht bin ikh fun blay. To lo-mir a-le shpi\_\_\_ ln\_\_\_

69

$\text{♩} = 110$   
**E** Faster!

in drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray,

shpi\_\_\_ ln in drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray,

shpi\_\_\_ ln in drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray,

in drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray,

in drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray,

in drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray,

Faster!  $\text{♩} = 110$



75

*f* *p*

drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl drey - zikh drey - dl eyns,

*f* *p*

drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl drey - zikh drey - dl eyns,

*f* *p*

drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl drey - zikh drey - dl eyns,

*f* *p*

drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns tsvey, dray, drey - dl drey - zikh drey - dl eyns,

Faster!

*f* *p*

82

*f* Tempo 1

tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey-dl eyns, tsvey, dray!

*f*

tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey-dl eyns, tsvey, dray!

*f*

tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey-dl eyns, tsvey, dray!

*f*

tsvey, dray, drey - dl eyns, tsvey, dray, drey-dl eyns, tsvey, dray!

*f*

88 **F**

Oy! drey-dl drey\_ dl drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln,  
 Oy! drey-dl drey\_ dl drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln,  
 Oy! drey-dl drey\_ dl drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln,  
 Oy! drey-dl drey\_ dl drey-dl Oy!\_ drey zikh drey\_ dl drey, to lo-mir a - le shpi\_ ln,

*f*

94

To lo - mir a - le tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn  
 To lo - mir a - le tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn  
 To lo - mir a - le tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn  
 To lo - mir a - le tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn, tan\_ tsn

*f* *p*

in drey\_ dl eyns\_\_\_\_\_ un tsvey!

in drey\_ dl eyns\_\_\_\_\_ un tsvey!

in drey\_ dl eyns\_\_\_\_\_ un tsvey!

in drey\_ dl eyns\_\_\_\_\_ un tsvey!

The musical score consists of five staves. The top four staves are vocal parts, each with the lyrics "in drey\_ dl eyns\_\_\_\_\_ un tsvey!". The bottom staff is a piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features a rhythmic pattern of eighth and sixteenth notes in the bass line and chords in the treble line.

