

Lesson 8:

Hafla! Sephardic and Middle Eastern Music

Appendix B – Piyut: Yismach Hatani

Note to Teacher:

Make copies for each student.

Yismach Hatani

The *Piyut*, *Yismach Hatani*, is sung in many Sephardic and Middle Eastern Jewish communities as the groom is called up to read the torah on the *Shabbat Hatan* (The shabbat after the wedding where it is traditional for the groom to be called up to the Torah). The author of this *piyut* is not known.

Hebrew Text

<i>Yismach chatani / bik'hal amunai</i>	בְּקֵהֶל אַמּוּנַי	יִשְׂמַח חַתָּנִי
<i>Yisa vracha / me'et Adonai</i>	מֵאֵת יי	יִשָּׂא בְרָכָה
<i>Shadai yimaleh ta'avat libo / magen v'-tzina yih'yeh s'vivo</i>	מָגֵן וְצִנָּה יִהְיֶה סְבִיבוֹ	שְׂדֵי יִמְלֵא תַאֲוֹת לְבוֹ
<i>V'-yaer oto v'yasher n'tivo / ligmor v'-lishmor darchei Adonai</i>	לְגַמּוֹ וְלִשְׁמֹר דַּרְכֵי יי	וַיֵּאֵר אוֹתוֹ וַיִּישֹׁר נְתִיבוֹ
<i>Yismach chatani / bik'hal amunai</i>	בְּקֵהֶל אַמּוּנַי	יִשְׂמַח חַתָּנִי
<i>Yisa vracha / me'et Adonai</i>	מֵאֵת יי	יִשָּׂא בְרָכָה
<i>L'-roshe y'tzaveh b'rachot / v'-yisa b'-chol et k'nahar</i>	וַיִּסַּע בְּכָל עֵת בְּנֵהָר	לְרֹאשׁוֹ יִצְוֶה בְּרִנּוֹת
<i>Bo yavo v'-rina noseh / yizkeh v'-yireh y'shuat Adonai</i>	יִזְכֶּה וַיִּרְאֶה יְשׁוּעַת יי	בֹּא יְבֹא בְרִנָּה נוֹשֵׂא
<i>Yismach chatani / bik'hal amunai</i>	בְּקֵהֶל אַמּוּנַי	יִשְׂמַח חַתָּנִי
<i>Yisa vracha / me'et Adonai</i>	מֵאֵת יי	יִשָּׂא בְרָכָה

English Translation

Let my beloved rejoice in the company of believers

Let him receive a blessing from God

May the Almighty fulfill the desires of his heart, be a shield and armor around him

Enlighten him and straighten his path so he will learn and keep the ways of God

Let my beloved rejoice in the company of believers

Let him receive a blessing from God

Let Him command great blessings on his head, letting him travel always as on a peaceful river

He will return joyfully carrying sheaves, he will be worthy of seeing God's salvation

Let my beloved rejoice in the company of believers

Let him receive blessing from God

Translation by Abigail Denmark

What do you think?

1. Do you recognize this piyut?
2. How does the piyut describe a Jewish wedding?
3. What is the message of this piyut? Give examples from the poem.
4. Why do you think Jewish people wrote religious poems about the Shabbat?

Let's Listen and Discuss!

- Who is performing the music?
- What instruments do you hear?
- What is the song's tempo? Why do you think the creator chose this tempo? How does the tempo affect the feeling or mood of the music?
- What other details can you hear?
- How does this musical style affect the feeling or mood of the song?
- Why do you think this music was composed? What might have been the composer's purpose? What evidence supports your theory?
- Who is the audience for this music?
- How does the music make you feel?
- How is the Sarit Hadad rendition different from the traditional rendition?