

Abie Rotenberg and Doni Gross Present



JOURNEYS

VOLUME FIVE

1 Chaverim Kol Yisrael featuring BENNY FRIEDMAN

WORDS BY: Abie Rotenberg

MUSIC ADAPTED FROM: A Bobover March

COMPOSED BY: R' Elimelech Aftergut

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross & Abie Rotenberg

I had the most amazing dream last night
It was very thrilling and entrancing
The world became a place so filled with light
And in my dream Jews everywhere were dancing

Because Mashiach had arrived – Peace and love began to thrive
No more war – no more hate – A time to celebrate - Aha - Aha - Aha
And for the first time my oh my – Since long ago at Har Sinai – *Chaverim Kol Yisrael!*

ימ תורחל תודבעמ, סתוא לאגו. וניתובאל מיסנ השעש ימ תופכנ עבראמ וניחנן צבק אוה. ונתוא הדפ אוה. ונתוא לאג לכ מירבח. לארשי לכ מידידי. לארשי לכ מיבוהא. צראה לארשי

Hashem, we beg of You,
Please make this dream come true
By now it's surely known,
We just can't do it on our own
And though for centuries,
We've waited patiently
Our joy will be so strong,
We'll soon forget it took so long
And for the first time my oh my – Since long ago at Har Sinai – *Chaverim Kol Yisrael!*



And in my dream when I turned on the news
All they did was talk about the Jews
They wondered
“How could we have been so wrong?”
I think deep down they knew it all along

Because Mashiach had arrived – Peace and love began to thrive
The whole world came to storm our gates –
But there's no *Geirus*, it's too late - Aha - Aha - Aha
And for the first time Halevai – Since long ago at Har Sinai – *Chaverim Kol Yisrael!*

Hashem, we beg of You,
Please make this dream come true
And let us for Your sake, live in this dream when we're awake
And though for centuries,
We've waited patiently
Now let these days begin,
V'hayinu K'cholmim
And for the first time Halevai – Since long ago at Har Sinai – Our Nation as it's meant to be

Chaverim Kol Yisrael!

2 From the Ashes featuring THE MACCABEATS with ABIE ROTENBERG

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Shiffy (Rotenberg) Ochs

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross & Abie Rotenberg

Piano: Yaron Gershovsky

They staggered to freedom more dead than alive
Flesh barely hiding the bones underneath
Broken and battered their eyes told the tale
– of shattered souls, anguish and grief

But then they started selling sugar cubes - or anything they could find
Making trades, taking chances - at unproven skills
Each penny slowly earned, invested and saved - their form of revenge, to rebuild

CHORUS

They rose from the ashes - and relit their matches
To kindle a fire that somehow grew stronger
They suffered in silence - yet lived in defiance
Never forgetting their mothers and fathers

How did they lift themselves from the dust
And build this world they created for us
With all that was theirs - vanished and gone
Where did they find - the will to go on

We have seen the furrowed brows
Pale sullen faces and numbers on skin
No one but they would ever know – the pain they carried within

Yet they founded our communities and fought to build our land
Scorning the darkness – striving for light
And millions perpetuate - what nearly was lost

Written
לזכר נשמתו
Herz & Kaila Mandelbaum ז"ל

Reawakened – and bursting with life

CHORUS

While some stood in silence - took comfort in blindness
There is no denying the crimes that took place
They were witnessed by millions - forever instilled in
A narrative that can't be erased

And we'll pass this torch from father to son
And through the ages will always live on
Events that occurred will always remain
In our collective memory unchanged

BRIDGE:

How Did they Lift – Lift themselves Up From the Dust?

We stood by a mountain as our nation was founded
Faith etched in our hearts by a voice from on high
It was witnessed by millions - forever instilled in
Our narrative - to last for all time

And this torch was passed from father to son
And through the ages has always lived on
In the face of despair - confusion and doubt
The flame that defines us – has never gone out

The flame that defines us – will never go out

3 Baruch Hashem - It's Shabbos

featuring
SHLOIME GERTNER
with **ABIE ROTENBERG**

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Abie Rotenberg

CONCEPT BY: Motty Landau

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross

CHILDREN: David Gross, Bella & Shimon Rotenberg

B'zeas apecha is the fate of all mankind
No one can avoid - the bustle and the grind
Rushing to meetings - closing the deal
On the phone on the road - buying, selling,
spinning wheels

It's easy to lose balance - chasing money and success
But there is a special treasure - with which we
have been blessed
And as each day passes - joy fills the air
Waiting for the moment - to stand up and declare

Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos - heiliger, tayerer Shabbos
In the candle's glow - our *neshomas* grow - *BHIS*
Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos - heiliger, tayerer Shabbos
Once the wine is poured - we become
restored - *Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos*

Sheishes yomim ta'avoid - for six days every week
We work hard and struggle - just to make ends meet
But once out of seven - we all become kings
Who greet *Shabbos hamalka* - by rising up to sing

Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos - heiliger, tayerer Shabbos
As we learn and pray - tension melts away -
Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos
Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos - heiliger, tayerer Shabbos
Home from shul we stride - with *malachim* at
our side - *baruch Hashem it's Shabbos*

I'm so stressed out at work - when I hear the

boss I jump
To shop or go to shul - I'm always parking by a pump
But all of the worry - goes down the drain
When my wife and children join me - in singing
the refrain

Boruch Hashem zis Shabbos - heiliger, tayerer Shabbos
Mir shteigen hecher - nenter tzum bashefer -
Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos
Baruch Hashem Shabbat higiyah - yom m'rarna
nein u'margia
Matanah tovah - mayain olam habah - Baruch
Hashem Shabbat higiyah

Shabbos is the day - we get to catch our breath
Making sure our lives have purpose - with
meaning and with depth
Hashem loves us - knows just what we need
So let these words be on the lips - of every single *Yid*

Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos - heiliger, tayerer Shabbos
We were placed on earth - for eternal worth - *BHIS*
Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos - heiliger, tayerer Shabbos
As much as all of the above - we get to bond
with those we love

*And there's one more plus - our parents spend
more time with us!*

Baruch Hashem it's Shabbos

4 Journey At Sea

featuring
LEV TAHOR with **ABIE & CHANANYA ROTENBERG**

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Chananya Rotenberg

ARRANGED BY: Nochum Levitan &

Leib Yaakov Rigler

The ship left the port at the peak of high tide
- on a course for a land far away
Seagulls escorted the tall gleaming masts -
as the hull bore through the waves
The sailors aboard have all been there
before - a proud weathered sea-loving crew
No landlubbers welcome to steer her across
- the silk mirror sapphire blue

Their bellies are tight from the galley's delights
And there's more than enough rum to drink
Their spirits are high and towards the clear
skies
They raise up their mugs and they sing

Its Our Life A Journey At Sea - A Voyage Of
Fate And Destiny
The Waters Will Challenge The Fortitude And
Courage Of Every Man
The Stars That Light Up The Night They'll Be
Our Map Our Compass Our Guide
Follow Them True, Follow Them Faithfully -
Till We Find Land

She gathers the might of the wind in her
sails - behind her a proud wake of foam
Forging ahead, through the still of the night -
o'er sea monsters fathoms below
But a red sky at dawn foretells of a storm -
sending chills down the old captain's spine
Darkening clouds amass high above - It is
only a matter of time

They scurry and flail, pulling ropes tying sails
As the violent waves dance and leap
And they offer a prayer, being fully aware
That no mortal can conquer the deep

CHORUS

The salt stings their eyes and they fear for
their lives - yet they fight off their feelings
of dread
For they know and believe there's a path
through the sea - that will lead to clear
sailing ahead

CHORUS



5 Nothing In Your Life

featuring
MORDECHAI SHAPIRO

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Abie Rotenberg

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross

BG VOCALS: Kevin Osborne & John James

You might compose the sweetest song
Scale the highest mountain - don't get me wrong
These are wonderful things - even significant things

You can strive for wealth, fame & success
And trust I'll think of you no less
These are wonderful things - even significant things

But Nothing In Your Life Will Ever Be More
Meaningful
Than Giving Of Yourself To Help Another
Nothing In Your Life Will Ever Bring More Joy To You
Than Finding A Way To Share - A Little Piece
Of Your Heart

Nothing In Your Life Will Ever Please The
Heavens More
Than Showing Compassion And Love
Nothing In Your Life Will Ever Be More
Beautiful
Nothing In Your Life, No Nothing In Your Life

Sail the seven seas, drink the finest wine
Paint a masterpiece, why I think that's fine
These are wonderful things - even significant things

You can study life's deepest mysteries
Turn simple words into poetry
These are wonderful things - even significant things

CHORUS

BRIDGE

*Nothing in your life will bring more joy to you
All the good you do will last forever
Nothing in your life will bring you more fulfillment
Than to give your heart, give your love, give
of yourself*

CHORUS

6 My Little Town

featuring
SHULEM LEMMER

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Chananya Rotenberg

ARRANGED BY: Leib Yaakov Rigler

There were six hundred people in my little town when they came on that cold winter day
I remember the crying, the running, the smoke, and the boxcars that took us away
We held on to each other and spoke words of hope, hiding the terror inside
There were six hundred people in my little town, but I, only I, would survive

I can still smell the fresh morning bread that I'd buy for Mama each day
Henyak, the baker, would first pinch my cheek, then hand me a *keichel* and say *Mach a Brocha mein kindt*, we owe it to Him.
He made our world so very sweet
And wherever life leads you, never forget *siz gut -tzu zayn a Yid*

Mutek and I were two of a kind, like brothers the very best of friends
Playing all day in the streets of the *Shtetl*, growing from boys into men
We would carry water to all of the shops, for only five *groschen* a pail
But first, we'd learn Torah in our little shul, an hour or two without fail

I'll never forget when the *Shidduch* was *Redt*.

Papa came home with the news
Mutek to my sister, Roizah, in no time, the match was approved
Blessed by the *Heilige Rebbe* himself, a date for the wedding was set
And whoever I met for the next week or two said to me, *soon you'll be next*

The tables were set, Henyak baked the sweets, Shneiderman finished the gown
Laughter and joy could be felt in the air, with music heard all through the town
What a radiant bride, my dear Roizah was, the groom looking handsome and strong
And after his shoe came down on the glass, the townfolk all burst out in song

לוק מילטורי תצוהבו הדוהי ירעב עמשי דוע
הלכ לוקו ותח לוק החמש לוקו נושט

And there face to face, in joyous embrace, in the center of the crowd
Mutek and I danced into the night, round and round, round and round.....

There were six hundred people in my little town - but I, only I, would survive

7 The Secret featuring EIGHTH DAY

WORDS BY: Bella (Rotenberg) Levitan

MUSIC BY: Bella and Nochum Levitan

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross

CHILDREN: Yonina Levine, Esther Malka & Meira Sapirman

My grandmother whispered a secret to me -
and placed something soft in my hands
I crafted this scarf for you my dear child -
and my love for you's in every strand
But setting each stitch and knitting the rows -
with patterns to form a design
Takes passion and skill, the will to create -
and hours and hours of time

ורצקי הנרב העמדב סיערוזה

My grandfather whispered a secret to me -
and showed me his old violin
As you would with a feather, pick up the bow
- place the instrument under your chin
If you wish to bring forth its heavenly sound
- play music both haunting and sweet
Be ready to give it your heart and your soul -
and the crowd will rise up on its feet

ורצקי הנרב העמדב סיערוזה

My Rebbe whispered a secret to me - as he
looked deep in my eyes
Whenever you learn always search for the
truth - don't ever compromise
If you roll up your sleeves and focus your
mind - review it again and again
I promise you after the sweat and the tears -

you'll be dancing with joy in the end

INSTRUMENTAL

With summer approaching my kids said to
me - *There's so little to do in the yard*
Can we have a treehouse? Just order and click.
You see Daddy it won't be hard
Let's do it ourselves, we have enough wood -
now go get my tools from the drawer
We'll measure and plan, then we'll saw and we'll
bang - and tomorrow we'll do it once more

ורצקי הנרב העמדב סיערוזה

8 Al Hatzadikim featuring AVRAHAM FRIED

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Abie Rotenberg

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross & Abie Rotenberg

PIANO: Yaron Gershovsky

The war had seemed so endless, yet some-
how, they survived
Free at last but spiritless and frail
When a Rebbe showed them love, and they
began to mend
But that's just one part of this precious little tale

It was to be the first *Pesach*, after years
devoid of light
When the Rebbe of Skulene stood with his son
And they announced, *There will be Matzos* for
the Seder Night
But enough to only give each person one

Al Hatzadikim the righteous and devout
With love in their hearts they lift us up when
we stumble and fall
V'Al Hachasidim the saintly and the pure
Only *Hashem* knows the burden - the
burden they bear for us all

With two large sacks of flour, a small oven
made of brick
The Rebbe baked as tears streamed from his eyes
Measured oh so carefully, neither thin nor thick
Each round *Matza*, a *Kezayis* in size

Along with the aroma that drifted through the air
One could sense that hope and healing had begun
Again, the Rebbe sent out word, *Yiddelech* be fair
Please come and take, but take no more than one

CHORUS

The line may have been long, but it never



stopped or stalled
A tapestry of Jews from far and near
But suddenly one young man, brought it to a crawl
When he bent down and whispered in the Rebbe's ear

I beg of you dear Rebbe, who is our last resort
Though a single *Matza* will suffice for me
My father is an *Admor*, and Vizhnitz is his court
And as such he must be given three

INSTRUMENTAL

A deep and aching sadness, gripped the Rebbe's soul
As he wondered to himself, can it be true
After all our pain and sorrow, could one yet be so bold
And deem himself to be a better Jew?

But then he thought who am I, to judge
what's right or best
Only God in heaven knows for sure
He's a great and pious Rebbe, I will comply
with his request
And discretely he gave the young man four

CHORUS

Shortly before *Yom Tov* the *Admor's* son returned
And said *may I ask the Rebbe and his son as well?*
Was my holy father, right to be concerned
That you would keep no *Matzos* for yourselves?

Yes indeed, they answered, we gave them all away
With Jews in need *what else was there to do?*
The *Admor's* son replied, that's what my
father thought you'd say
So I brought back the two *Matzos*...he took for you

CHORUS

9 Baruch Hashem - You Just Can't Say It Enough featuring **JOEY NEWCOMB**

WORDS BY: Henye Meyer & Abie Rotenberg

MUSIC BY: Abie Rotenberg

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross

Growing up I watched my mama, doing
laundry in the sink
And my brothers' clothes and mine were
kind of tattered
But we had love and we had faith, and there
was laughter in our home
So I guess we had the only things that
mattered

Boruch Hashem - Boruch Hashem
Boruch Hashem - Boruch Hashem
Be it smooth, be it rough - You just can't say
it enough
Boruch Hashem - Boruch Hashem

Nothing much has changed as the days and
years flew by
If it wasn't sad you'd say it's kinda funny
Though I surely can proclaim that I've tried
my very best
Just like my folks I'm not too good at making
money

But *Hashem* knows what He's doing, it's His
world after all

Why waste time in useless second-guessing
All the trials and tribulations are but means
to help us grow
So instead of counting money count your
blessings

CHORUS

There was a time not long ago, I'm not too
proud to say
When I resented the good fortune of my
friends
How I wish I could take back the envy and
the pain
As it brought me less than nothing in the end

But I've cast aside that burden, I'm happy
and I'm free
Growing up taught me a thing or two
Now I go around with my guitar and sing for
all to hear
The grass is mighty green on my side too!

CHORUS

10 Lucky Fingers Max featuring **GERSHON VEROBA**

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Abie Rotenberg

ARRANGED BY: Yaron Gershovsky

BG VOCALS: Kevin Osborne

Let me tell you a story, it may even be true
'Bout a fella who fell through the cracks
He was a hustler a gambler who lived on the edge
And they called him Lucky Fingers Max

He'd wager and win at the track and the fights
Rolled sevens when he threw the dice
But if you asked him for a dime, he'd laugh
in your face
He was lucky but he wasn't too nice

Lucky, Lucky Fingers Max - had a heart as
black as coal
Lucky, Lucky Fingers Max - would he ever
find, would he ever find his lost Jewish soul

One day he got a tip from some friends of
his in Jersey
Bout a fighter named Tiger Malone
His opponent's gonna lay down in the
seventh round
You oughta bet everything that you own

Lucky bet his money, his house, and his Caddy
Sat down to watch the fight with a snack
Things were going fine 'til the end of the sixth
When Tiger dropped dead from a heart attack!

No more Lucky Fingers Max - now desti-
tute and broke
No more Lucky Fingers Max - his lucky life,
his lucky life had gone up in smoke

Piano, Organ: Yaron Gershovsky
Bass: Conrad Korsch
Drums: Gal Gershovsky
Electric Guitar: Ira Siegel

He was hiding from the cold in a worn-out Shul
When the Rabbi came over and said
Let me lend you some money from the
Synagogue fund
You can buy yourself a coat and some
bread

Rabbi, Lucky said, you don't understand
I'm a gambler a hustler a cheat
All I see is a Jew the old Rabbi replied
Who needs to get back on - who needs to
get back on his feet

INTERLUDE

Lucky took the money and went to the track
Put it all on *Teapot Kelly* to win
In a photo-finish, he won by a nose
Lucky Fingers was in business again

Now somewhere in Brooklyn, there's a
brand new Shul
Three stories of precious stained glass
All it says on the plaque is the *money came*
from heaven
An anonymous gift - of cold cash

Lucky, Lucky Fingers Max - still has a long,
long way to go
But Lucky, Lucky Fingers Max - got lucky
Got lucky and found out - he has a Jewish soul

11 The Ring featuring ABIE ROTENBERG

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Shiffy (Rotenberg) Ochs

ARRANGED BY: LEIB YAAKOV RIGLER

Piano: Yaron Gershovsky

For more than forty years - Our lives were intertwined
And that is why what happened always - Lingers in my mind
On the day we were engaged - The ring that I received
Had a diamond far more beautiful - Than any jewel I'd seen

Your parents said that I deserved - The most they could provide
But little did I know how this - Would quickly change our lives
With the wedding just behind us - A week of music, dance and song
I looked down at my hand and found - My diamond ring was gone

Your parents did not take it well - Found it quite hard to accept
We searched in every corner - Of each room in which we stepped
How careless could I be - To lose their priceless gift
And slowly but still visibly - Our ties began to drift

Months later we were walking - In a chill quite cold for spring
When from deep in your coat's pocket - You pulled out my diamond ring

Look what I found you cried out - My dear you did no wrong
I'm so foolish and forgetful - It was my fault all along

You were teased for quite a while - Were the source of many laughs
But years flew by and it became - A story from the past
Then I wished you were still here - To see our children grown
And to comfort my unyielding ache - Of facing life alone

One morning I'd arranged - To clean out some old things
When hidden in an old valise - lay a dusty diamond ring
I felt my body tremble - As I viewed the stone and band
It was a perfect copy - Of the ring worn on my hand

Now not a day goes by - That I'm not thinking of
The life we shared together - and your sweet and boundless love
Not only was I blessed - by the kindness you had shown
If what I'd lost not been found - I never would have known

12 In Memory of Moshe Yess ע"ה

Hello, this is Abie Rotenberg. I hope you will indulge me a moment to pay tribute to the great R' Moshe Yess עליו השלום. Moshe was a brilliant song-writer, a superb guitarist, but most of all, an amazing Yid. Moshe grew up disconnected from Torah and Mitzvos, and passionately chased his dream of a career in country music. He played with various bands, doing stage work and appearing in honkytonks all across the country. How he ended up traveling to Eretz Yisrael and discovering God and Torah is an extraordinary story of its own. We are, however, so fortunate that he did. He left us with a remarkable legacy of words and music that continue to inspire Jews around the world - to strengthen their connection to the Almighty and a Torah way of life. He also was a major contributor to Journeys, with performances on the first three albums. We have chosen to honor Moshe by including as the next track on this album, an adaptation of one of his lesser known compositions. It has been modified slightly for both artistic and halachic purposes, but regardless, it highlights Moshe's creative eye and whimsical heart. It was also an honor for me to sing it with his talented son Tali. We hope you enjoy.

יהי זכרו ברוך

13 Ain't No Bishul

featuring TALI YESS with ABIE ROTENBERG

ADAPTED BY: Abie Rotenberg from the
MOSHE YESS COMPOSITION OF THE SAME NAME

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross

I'm confident and resolute – not much in
life is absolute
How the future will unfold – who will win
the Super Bowl
But in the *Igros Moshe's* view – one thing
you can be sure is true
And he wrote it unequivocally – there ain't
no *bishul* in a *kli shlishi*

Ain't no *bishul* in a *kli shlishi*, ain't no *bishul*
in a *kli shlishi*
You can try for all eternity, ain't no *bishul* in
a *kli shlishi*
Kli rishon, kli sheni, them's a different case
you see
But I can say with positivity, there ain't no
bishul in a *kli shlishi*

It don't take much to conclude – this world
has little certitude
In years past hi-fat could kill – now it's a
diet pill
There're at least two sides in each debate –
and stocks will always fluctuate
But he wrote that it's guaranteed – there
ain't no *bishul* in a *kli shlishi*

Ain't no *bishul* in a *kli shlishi*, ain't no *bishul*
in a *kli shlishi*
You can try for all eternity, ain't no *bishul* in
a *kli shlishi*
Kli rishon, kli sheni, them's a different case
you see
It's an inescapability, there ain't no *bishul* in
a *kli shlishi*

Why this is so, I know not – the food in that
bowl sure seems hot
But that's no cause to make a fuss – it's all
about in whom you trust
Rav Moshe said that it's a fact – not the
Farmer's Almanac
And that's sure good enough for me –
there ain't no *bishul* in a *kli shlishi*

Ain't no *bishul* in a *kli shlishi*, ain't no *bishul*
in a *kli shlishi*
You can try for all eternity, ain't no *bishul* in
a *kli shlishi*
Kli rishon, kli sheni, them's a different case
you see
It's an inevitability, there ain't no *bishul* in
a *kli shlishi*

14 Ushpizin

featuring BARUCH LEVINE & SHLOMO SIMCHA
(An adaptation of Seven Shepherds)
with ABIE ROTENBERG

WORDS BY: Chaim David Saracik & Abie Rotenberg

MUSIC BY: Chaim David Saracik

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross

As we go on this journey - that our fathers
walked before us
Searching for ancient wisdom - in the
secrets of the Torah
Its ways are sweet and pleasant - and all its
paths are peace
*D'racheha Darchei Noam - V'chol Nesivoseiha
Shalom*

*Avraham Avinu - Ay Yay Yay - Ish Chesed
Yitzchak Avinu - Ne'zar Big'vurah
Yaakov Avinu - Ay Yay Yay - K'lil Tiferes
Moshe Rabbeinu - Raya M'hemna
Aaron Hakoken - Ohev Shalom
Yosef Hatzadik - Tzadik Yesod Olam
Dovid Melech Yisrael - Malka Meshicha*

We leave the comfort of our homes - to
dwell in the holy *Succah*

Enveloped by the *Shechinah* - just as when
we left *Mitzrayim*
Heilige' Ushpizin - we call out to you
Give honor to this *Mitzvah* - come and sit
down with your children

CHORUS

Yehi Ratzon Milfanecha – we ask of you
Hashem
That by this very time next year – after
Binyan Bayis Shlishi
You bring back our holy guests – to join us
in the *Succah*
At Seudas Leviyan - after *Techiyas Ha'mei-
sim*

CHORUS



15 We've Got The Music

featuring
SHMUEL BURSTEIN, ELI KRANZLER, RIVIE SCHWEBEL & YUSSI SONNENBLICK
with **ABIE ROTENBERG**

WORDS & MUSIC BY: Abie Rotenberg

ARRANGED BY: Doni Gross

Horns: Dani Flam

From Williger, Dachs & Wald - To Dedi, Flam and Yitzy Bald
From Shwekey, Lipa and Levine - To Ohad and Yehuda Green
We've all heard Shlomo Simcha soar - And Eli Schwebel's Lev Tahor
Forever will these songs resound - On data sticks and in the cloud

Chaim David *Ya Ma Ma* - No key for Leiner is too high
Shalshelas old Shalshelas young - My Helfgot's got a set of lungs!
Eli Gertsner innovates - Yeshiva Boys gesticulate
Kol Zimra and The Maccabeats - Not only for the 3 Weeks

CHORUS

Yes we've got the music - songs both new and old
There's nothing like a *niggun* - it's music for your soul

Eighth Day brings its groovin' style - Shloime Gertner makes us smile
Benny Friedman on the go - Life is great, Charasho!
Shulem Lemmer's wide appeal - A standing O at Citi Field
We know now thanks to Nissim Black - A *Krepele's* not the only wrap

Joey Newcomb *Mit A Bren* - Reminding us to thank Hashem
Mordy's voice defies all rules - It seems to run on rocket fuel
Ungar, Weber in their Frocks - *Heimish* superstars that rock
Yishai Ribo stirring souls - *Emunah* across the globe

CHORUS

It simply cannot be foretold - How music's future will unfold
Though some would see it stay the same - Its nature is to grow and change
But one thing we must keep in mind - a Jewish song of any kind
Is only precious if and when - It brings us closer to Hashem

Yitzy Waldner, Nochi Krohn - Flying high with Meilech Kohn
Kempeh, Dadya and Gabay - Gershovsky sure knows how to play
Rechnitz songs to please the ear - Yoeli and YeshivaShir
And if it's something new you seek - A song's uploading as we speak

CHORUS

Singing brothers harmonize - Katz, Razel and Kol Achai
Gad Elbaz, Chaim Yisrael - Steinmetz what a nightingale
And rising like the morning star - The ladies only repertoire
Climbing scales with little stress - Goldwag, Daskal, Tali Yess

Guitar licks played by Lanzbom C - Miriam Israeli
Rigler's talent is insane - Children Kumsitz in the Rain
Yiddish Nachas light a spark - Yehuda! Exclamation Mark
Dudu Fisher, Shuli Rand - Eli Marcus, Moshav Band

Pumpidisa, Yoni Z - That's it alphabetically
Wait! What about Yaakov Zeines and Zusha! and Yossi Zweig

It was an honor and privilege for us to work on Journeys V with some of Jewish Music's most talented vocalists. They each devoted hours of time both in preparation and for their actual performances. In addition to adding their own personalities to the compositions, they enthusiastically suggested ideas and ways to improve the message of the songs they represented. We take this opportunity to thank them and look forward to working with them again someday in the future. Thanks as well to the chevra in the various choirs who added much color and beauty to the product you hear.

With Respect & Gratitude
Abie Rotenberg & Doni Gross

By order of songs:

BENNY FRIEDMAN for Chaverim Kol Yisrael.

THE MACCABEATS (Chanina Abramowitz, Julian "Chaim" Horowitz, Noah "Noey" Jacobson, Josh Jay, Nachum Joel, Ari Lewis, Mordechai Prus, Meir Shapiro) for From the Ashes.

SHLOIME GERTNER for Baruch Hashem It's Shabbos!

LEV TAHOR (Ari Cukier, Gadi Fuchs & Eli Schwebel) for Journey At Sea.

MORDECHAI SHAPIRO for Nothing In Your Life

SHULEM LEMMER for My Little Town

EIGHTH DAY (Bentzi & Shmuli

Marcus) for The Secret

AVRAHAM FRIED for Al Hatzadikim

JOEY NEWCOMB for Baruch Hashem - You Just Can't Say It Enough

GERSHON VEROBA for Lucky Fingers Max

TALI YESS for Ain't No Bishul
BARUCH LEVINE & SHLOMO SIMCHA for Ushpizin

SHMUEL BURSTEIN, DOVID GINSBERG, ELI KRANZLER, AARON SAPIRMAN, RIVIE SCHWEBEL YUSSI SONNENBLICK & MOISH SONNENSCHIN for We've Got the Music II

An Open Letter

DEAR AUDIENCE,

Journeys IV made its debut in 2004. Although I surely tried, I could not find the words to craft an eloquent song in the fourteen years that followed. During a visit to Toronto for *Pesach* 2018, my granddaughter related an incredible story involving the *Skulene* and *Vizhnitzer* Rebbes. It struck a chord, and *B'ezras Hashem*, a way to present their tale, followed in short order. It became *Al HaTzadikim*, the eighth track of this album.

Not long after, two of my children sent me a pair of musical works of their own. *The Ring*, *Journey at Sea*, *From the Ashes*, and *My Little Town* were compositions of such caliber that *Journeys V* was no longer a dream to pursue. It became imperative. Subsequently, another one of my children, together with her son, collaborated to write *The Secret*. The gauntlet had been laid. Not to be outside looking in, I would have to get to work.

At that point, I reached out to Doni Gross, asking him to collaborate with me in producing *Journeys V*. With his encouragement, I succeeded in writing and collecting enough additional material. *Chaverim Kol Yisrael* is new lyrically but has a melody familiar to many. It is an adaptation of a well-known Bobover classic. I am grateful to Motty Landau for conceiving the theme of *Baruch Hashem It's Shabbos* and to Henye Meyer for initiating the rural road trip taken by *Baruch Hashem – You Can't Say it Enough*. The last track, *We've Got the Music II* is a remake of its counterpart from *Journeys III*, looking back at the past twenty-five years of Jewish Music

Nothing In Your Life and *Lucky Fingers Max* are songs that have sat on my back burner for quite some time. The latter was recorded years ago by Gershon Veroba

on *Turn it Around*, and he graciously agreed to sing its *Journeys* version as well. The former and its universal theme of achieving a meaningful life was a perfect match for the dynamic voice of Mordechai Shapiro. Without him, it likely would still be collecting dust in obscurity.

I also adapted several wonderful songs written by others that I've admired for years. Chaim David's classic *Seven Shepherds* is well known and beloved to many. I thank him for allowing me to add perspective with additional verses and renaming it *Ushpizin*. Hopefully, it will take root, and the *Yom Tov* of *Succos* will have another *niggun* in its limited repertoire. *Ain't No Bishul* exemplifies the imaginative and whimsical eye that no one but the great Moshe Yess possessed. However, the new verses clarify that it is not a unanimous view but rather the position of the great *Gadol B'Yisrael*, Rav Moshe Feinstein.

In a departure from the previous recordings in this series, *Journeys V* features many of Jewish Music's most dynamic vocalists. They brim with amazing talent and are true ambassadors of *Hashem*, uplifting our people worldwide. I am deeply grateful to them for further sharing themselves through the songs on this album.

At the genesis of this project, Doni and I resolved that there would be no deadlines. We were determined to infuse every song with our very best effort. We hope the audience will judge us to have been successful. Doing so, however, placed a strain on our wives and families for more than two years. We extend to them our deepest gratitude for their patience and support. There is no doubt that if *Journeys V* achieves its goal of provoking thought and providing inspiration across the globe, they share any merit.

WITH APPRECIATION AND BLESSINGS,

ABIE ROTENBERG

TORONTO, CANADA

SHEVAT 5782 / FEBRUARY 2022

CREDITS

RECORDED AND MIXED AT

DEG Studios Brooklyn, NY

Doni Gross Engineer

ADDITIONAL RECORDING & ENGINEERING

Gal Kol Studios Bnei Brak

Aviv Yerimi Engineer

COVER & BOOKLET DESIGN

Yocheved Herzog

COVER ART (FROM THE ASHES)

Masoumeh Tavakoli

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

Rabbi Mordechai Grunberg

ADDITIONAL POST PRODUCTION

Chesky Ifrah

YEDIDIM CHOIR ISRAEL

Chezky Glick

Shmulik Goldshtein

Yaakov Rotblatt

Sinai Bermatz

Gil Yisraelov

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Mayer Yehuda Kaplan

Yeshaya Levin

Dov Salamon

Nosson Tzvi Zlotowitz

ADULT CHOIR BROOKLYN

Ayal Brown

Dovid Ginsberg

Aaron Sapirman

Moish Sonnenschein

Avigdor Weiss

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