

A HANUKKAH PRAYER OF THANKS

Al Hanissim

Traditional

Arranged by Susan H. Day (ASCAP)

INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score	1
Violin I	8
Violin II	8
Viola	5
Cello	5
String Bass	5

A unique Hanukkah selection, this piece embodies traditional Jewish music with its haunting melodies. In $\frac{4}{4}$ time throughout, this piece uses easy rhythms, lifts, tremolo, a few two-note slurs and ties, along with some cello divisi. The viola part doubles the 2nd violin and the cello doubles the bass. This is an excellent teaching piece for dotted-quarter-note rhythm.

The prayer “Al Hanissim” is sung or read at Hanukkah, expressing thanks for the miracles that have been bestowed upon the people’s ancestors.

NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The piece should be played legato throughout.

The original melody of “Al Hanissim” uses the B \flat to C \sharp interval in the Jewish/Spanish scale. To keep this piece in the grade 1.5 range, the B \flat s have been eliminated, thus simplifying the piece. There is one B \flat , however, which I could not resist, at the very end in the Violin 1 part. It is on a half note going to open A, thereby allowing time to readjust the left hand, so should provide an easy opportunity to learn B \flat on the A string. Violin 1’s will also have a low 1 on E at measures 17 and 31 (followed by open E, so not too difficult). It is suggested for upper strings to use 4th finger instead of open E at measures 10 and 12, as well as other measures in the Violin 1 part as indicated with a 4 over the note, to avoid string crossings.

Violin 2s and Viola have a few F \sharp s, (low 2nd finger on D) starting at m. 24, which will reinforce learning low 2.

A *molto ritard* at the end creates some fun drama, and it all ends on a joyous note with a major chord!

Note from the Editor

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at www.alfred.com/stringeditorial.

X
extended position

-
shift

’
bow lift/reset

(b), (#), (b)
high or low fingerings

▣ ▣ or V V
hooked bowings

I hope you will find these explanations to be helpful. Best wishes with all of your musical endeavors!



Chris M. Bernotas
Director of String Publications



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A Hanukkah Prayer of Thanks

Al Hanissim

Traditional

FULL SCORE
Duration - 1:50

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Moderato (♩ = 120)

Violins I
Violins II
Viola
Cello
String Bass

mf legato

1 2 3 4

Vlns. I
Vlns. II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

div.

5 6 7 8

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

9 10 11 12

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 9 through 12. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measures 9 and 10 show a melodic line in the strings with a four-measure rest in measure 10. Measures 11 and 12 continue the melodic development. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

To Coda ⊕

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

13 14 15 16

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 13 through 16. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 13 begins with a melodic line. Measure 14 contains a long rest for the strings. Measure 15 has a melodic line with a box around the measure number '16' above it. Measure 16 continues the melodic line. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

17 18 19 20

Detailed description: This block contains the first system of a musical score, covering measures 17 through 20. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The Violin I part begins with a first finger fingering (1) and includes several accents (V). The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts provide harmonic support with chords and rhythmic patterns. Measure numbers 17, 18, 19, and 20 are printed below their respective staves.

I
Vlns.
II
Vla.
Cello
Str. Bass

21 22 23 24

Detailed description: This block contains the second system of a musical score, covering measures 21 through 24. It features the same five staves as the first system. The key signature remains one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The Violin I part has a dynamic marking of *f* (forte) starting in measure 23. The Viola, Cello, and String Bass parts continue with their respective parts. Measure 24 includes a first ending bracket with a '2' above it. Measure numbers 21, 22, 23, and 24 are printed below their respective staves.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

mf

f

25 26 27 28

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

29 30 31 32 33

D.S. $\%$ al Coda

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

34 35 36 37

\oplus Coda

molto rit.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

38 39 40 41