

re|connections

כמו פעם

New Jewish Music
with a Taste of Yesteryear

Music. Magic. Manifesto.

Corona hit.

Everyone was trying to find themselves. To find meaning. To stay sane.

It was a time when so much of our regular lives was shuttered. Musicians were among those hard hit by the shutdown, both economically, with concerts and recordings cancelled, and emotionally, from finding their creative outlets stopped in their tracks.

At some point I recalled that over 30 years ago I had written a song to the words of the prayer — recited three times a day — for health and healing.

Refaenu. Heal us.

For some reason, I had never done anything with the song. Even my wife and kids had never heard it.

With the kind sponsorship of my mother (may she live and be well), I decided to give a little work to the musicians, arrangers and studio personnel, and hopefully provide some small inspiration to the public, by recording and releasing Refaenu.

I called on my dear friend **Rabbi Motti Kornfeld**, whose rich and distinctive voice has graced dozens of recordings over the years.

For me, this was the first of many magical **re|connections** which took place in the course of recording. Motti and I partnered on an album 40 years ago — in 1980-81, and it was so special to be back



FEATURED ARTIST:

Rabbi Motti Kornfeld

COMPOSER | SINGER
OPERATOR | INSPIRER

contact: mykornfeld@gmail.com

re|connection

Partnering again musically with Rabbi Motti Kornfeld, 40 years after our last album

FUN FACT:

Rabbi Motti's "day job" is giving guidance, Chizuk and shiurim to our holy soldiers in the IDF.

in the studio with him. His voice has only aged in the manner of a fine wine, and it's even more intoxicating than ever.

Refaenu received an exceptionally warm welcome, and was widely shared on Aish.com, BaltimoreJewishLife.com, WhereWhatWhen.com and other sites. The response encouraged us to take the effort further, and expand the adventure into a full album (if they even call them that anymore!).

My goal — along with giving myself a creative outlet and a way to consider this Covid period as a constructive one — was to give a pick-me-up to listeners, musicians and friends during this slow time.

I found that as the project progressed, more and more of the project involved inclusion of — or tributes to — past personal and musical influences and friendships. So I have been in touch with a variety of people whose paths I had crossed over time.

I hope to list them in the course of these pages, once they are expanded to include the entire album. So please check back in



FEATURED ARTIST:

Jeff Horvitch

ARRANGER | ENGINEER | MUSICIAN

contact: jeffhmusic@gmail.com

For decades I have admired the clean, perfect sound which is the hallmark of music arranged, engineered and produced by Jeff. It was thrilling to work with him, benefit from his musical genius, observe his sincere humility, and work with him to construct magnificent creations from the most basic sketches of ideas.

FUN FACT:

On some of the songs, Jeff played MOST of the instruments!

here as more songs and credits are added, and more of the story gets told.

In the course of the recording, numerous musicians who came into the studio remarked that the music sounds “*K’mo Pa’am*”. It’s a phrase which is hard to translate, but it essentially means “like the good old days.” After a number of musicians used almost the same words, we came to realize that that’s the essence of this album. A throwback to a time where songs were meant to be sung rather than performed. A time when the music was beautiful and sincere and melodic and easy to learn.

And that’s how ***K’mo Pa’am*** became the name.

We hope that just as we have re|connected with man through this journey, it will also help us – and others – re|connect with the One Above.

We hope it will help take you back. And we hope it will help take you forward. We hope it will raise you up and bring a smile to your lips.

That will be our greatest reward.

Jeremy Staiman

album credits

Unless otherwise noted, the following artists lent their talents, inspiration and magic touch to most of the songs on this album (except where noted in the song credits). Contact information is provided for anyone who would like to avail themselves of their formidable talents. I recommend them all heartily!

Brilliantly arranged, patiently recorded, meticulously engineered and impeccably mixed (200+ tracks on some songs!) by **Jeff Horvitch**
jeffhmusic@gmail.com

Vocal Arrangements **Jeff, Jeremy & Motti**

Violin Virtuoso **Ariella Zeitlin-Hoffman**
violinlikethat@gmail.com

Guitars & Banjo by Israel's legendary guitarist **Avi Singolda**
facebook.com/Singolda.music

Piano & Keyboards **Aviah Greenberg**

Keyboards, and all manner of related sorcery **Jeff Horvitch**
jeffhmusic@gmail.com

Drums **Avi Avidani**

Trombone **Moran Barron**

Trumpet **Rafi Davidov**

Sax **Dor Asaraf**

Sax, flute and recorder solos **Doron Mizrachi**

Bassoon **Miriam Levenson**
MiriamLevenson@gmail.com

thank you טוב להודות!

When people thank **HaKadosh Baruch Hu** on an album, it's a public display of a very private sentiment. In this case, working on this production has been an incredible experience. The thrill of playing a part in creating a thing of beauty is indescribable. Outside of family events, this has been one of the great, joyous highlights of my life. It would be hard to overstate how grateful I am for this opportunity.

I must thank my darling wife, **Chana Staiman**. Not because I'll get into trouble if I don't, but because she has been with me every step of the way. It's one thing when a wife is patient with her husband's mishegas. It's another thing altogether when she is an encouraging, enthusiastic partner. I couldn't have done it without you!

My wonderful mother, **Naomi Staiman**, enabled this project. A legendary baalas chesed, she has always been a staunch believer in me and my siblings, always encouraging our directions. I'm forever grateful for the incredibly special moment she has helped create here, and wish her good health and continued nachas from all of us.

My dear, long-time friend (I dare not say "old friend"!) **Motti Kornfeld**, whose talents, recommendations, compositions and vocals are part and parcel of almost every phase of this entire project.

Continues next page

thank you טוב להודות!

Continued from previous page

I'm awestruck at the massive array of talents (not to mention patience) that **Jeff Horvitch** brings to this production. He clearly not only loves his work, he's unsurpassed in how he does it.

My siblings, **Rabbi Ken & Karen Greene, Dr. Steve & Cathy Schuss, Kal & Dr. Aliza Staiman, Maish & Tziv Staiman** (yeah, yeah the famous L.E.'s parents) provided support for the idea, and had to endure months of me rambling incessantly about it. That's doubly true for my wife, of course, but that's stipulated in the Kesuba.

The composers of our wonderful songs, who generously donated their material for this effort. Jeff remarked along the way that albums generally have "filler songs" which contain weaker material, but are needed to reach the magic number necessary to complete the collection. He said that he was impressed that there's no filler here. Every song is a winner. That's high praise indeed! So thank you songwriters — and I'd better keep this alphabetical — **HaRav Baruch Chait, Rabbi Ephraim Greene, Dr. Yitzy Kaplowitz, Rabbi Motti Kornfeld, Dr. Steve Schuss, Arky Staiman, and L.E. Staiman.**

All the various incredible **various singers and musicians on the album**, who are listed by song. Thank you for giving of your time and talents!

additional (timely) hakaras hatov

Rabbi Danny Myers Yes, recording an album entails halachic questions. "Can we work on it during Sefira" "Or the Three Weeks?" "What do we do if we can't find out who the author of a song is?" Etc. Oh my, I hope I'm not just thanking him because I usually got the answer I was hoping for!

All those who gave advice along the way If I start a list, it may never end, and I don't want to leave anyone out (even you, Goel!), so I'll leave you with this blanket appreciation.

Mike & Yael Portal For too many good reasons to list. (How's that for being lazy?)

The clients of Staiman Design Who are now saying: "Ah...so THAT's why my job was late!"

Nachum Segal Who continues to play our previous album 40 years later, and **Yigal Segal** for the great, thoughtful and caring advice.

really, really overdue hakaras hatov

When Motti and I worked on Shema Kolenu Vol. III 40 years ago, I inadvertently left off two very important credits from the record and cassette (young folks, you can go look up what those words mean). So here goes:

Zale Newman for warm friendship and advice from Toronto.

Rabbi Pesach Wachsman for composing Meheira.

re|connection

My not-yet-brother-in-law, Steve Schuss, played my Bar Mitzvah on his Cordovox. His band, Ruach, was a staple at NCSY events and simchas through my formative years. Along the way, I got to design the cover and sing a bit of backup vocals on one of their albums.

44 years after their first album, it's an incredible privilege to be part of bringing them back together, and reliving the glory days!

Watch for them on other songs on the album.

FUN FACT:

Just past halfway through the song, Steve sings a brief duet with his son-in-law, the multi-talented anesthesiologist, songwriter and performer, Yitzy Kaplowitz



הַנְּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ

הַנְּרוֹת הַלָּלוּ אֶנְחֵנוּ
מְדַלִּיקִין, עַל הַנְּסִים וְעַל
הַנְּפִלְאוֹת וְעַל הַתְּשׁוּעוֹת
וְעַל הַמְּלַחְמוֹת, שֶׁעָשִׂיתָ
לְאֲבוֹתֵינוּ בַּיָּמִים הָהֵם
בְּזַמְנוֹ הַזֶּה

(מסכת סופרים)

I wrote this song in high school in the late 70s. I guess it took this long to ripen!



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FEATURED ARTIST:

Ariella Zeitlin-Hoffman

CROSS-OVER VIOLINIST

contact: violinlikethat@gmail.com

re|connection

Ariella grew up in Baltimore, where we lived for 21 years before making Aliya, and we knew her family.

FUN FACT:

Although she fiddles her way through this song, Ariella's prodigious talent spans the gamut from New Age to Classical.

haneiro halalu song credits

(see album credits for additional contributors)

Composed by **Jeremy Staiman**

USA vocals recorded and engineered by **Hillel Kapnick**
Uptop Studios (Monsey, NY) hillelkaps.com

Gershon Veroba
town6.com/gmajorevents

Yoshie Fruchter
Church Ave Studio, yoshiefruchter@gmail.com

Vocals, including a **Ruach Reunion** (in order of appearance):

Dr. Harold Fruchter
Dr. Steve Schuss
Myron Chaitovsky
Gershon Veroba
Jeremy Staiman
Dr. Yitzy Kaplowitz
Motti Kornfeld

Piano solo **Moshe (Russel) Myers**
russmyers1@gmail.com

Bass..... **Holly Montgomery**
holly@hollymontgomerymusic.com



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FEATURED ARTIST:
Miriam Levenson
 BASOONIST

connection

Originally from London, Miriam, plays for the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva. She studied at the Royal College of Music, and — most importantly — is good friends with my daughter-in-law.

FUN FACT:

How does a nice religious girl end up playing an unusual instrument like the bassoon? As one of the youngest in her family, by the time she got to pick an instrument, all the common ones were taken!

אֵל אָדוֹן

סוֹבִים מְאוֹרוֹת שְׁבָרָא אֱלוֹהֵינוּ
 יִצְרָם בְּכַעַת בְּבִינָה וּבִהְשִׁיבֵנו
 כַּח וְגִבּוֹרָה נָתַן בָּהֶם
 לִהְיוֹת מוֹשְׁלִים בְּהִרְבֵּ תֵבֵל

מְלֵאִים זֵיו וּמְפִיקִים נִגְה
 נֶאֱהָ זֵיוֹם בְּכָל הָעוֹלָם
 שְׁמַחִים בְּצֵאתָם שְׁשִׁים בְּבוֹאֵם
 עוֹשִׂים בְּאֵימָה רְצוֹן קוֹנֵם

אֵל אָדוֹן עַל כָּל הַמַּעֲשִׂים
 בְּרוּךְ וּמְבָרֵךְ בְּפִי כָּל נֹשְׁמָה
 גְּדִלוֹ וְטֹאבוֹ מְלֵא עוֹלָם
 דַּעַת אֲתִבּוֹנָה סוֹבְבִים אוֹתוֹ

הַמִּתְגַּאֵה עַל חֵיוֹת הַקֶּדֶשׁ
 וְנִהְדָּר בְּכַבוֹד עַל הַמְרֻכָּה
 זְכוֹת וּמִישׁוֹר לְפָנָי כְּסֹא
 חֶסֶד וְרַחֲמִים מְלֵא כְבוֹדוֹ

keil adon song credits

Composition.....**Jeremy Staiman**

Vocals..... **Jeremy Staiman, Rabbi Motti Kornfeld**



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Standing alone the world passes by
No time to stop, they don't even try
They seem so strange, so different and old
But inside they're happy
That's what I am told.
We're part of chain, unbroken for years
(And) that's how we withstood an ocean of tears
So tell me your secret, how did you survive?
I yearn to know to grow and to thrive.

Chorus:

Kiru na – call out to reach him
Kiru na – we must beseech him
Kiru na- we're never alone, forever we are one.
כי לא יטוש ה' עמו ונחלתו לא יעזוב
ה' הושיעה המלך יענינו ביום קוראנו

re|connection

This entire epic composition speaks to the bond we need to forge with our Creator – most poignantly during times of trouble. The theme is inspired by a shiur Motti heard early in Corona, about how the very name of the plague reminds us: Kiru Na: now is the time to call out and reconnect with HaShem.

קִרְאוּ נָא

בונים מגדלים עד השמים
העולם נעצר נעלם מן העין
רבות מחשבות בתוך ליבי, מחר מה יהיה שואל את עצמי
עומד לבד שאוף לקשר, הגיע הזמן להפנים המסר
שהעולם נברא לא רק בשבילי, תמיד לחשוב על עוד יהודי

קראו נא אבא עניני, קראו נא הצילני
קראו נא אני לא לבד, איתך לעולמי עד
כי לא יטוש ה' עמו ונחלתו לא יעזוב
ה' הושיעה המלך יענינו ביום קראנו

kiru na song credits

Composed by **Rabbi Motti Kornfeld**

Vocals..... **Daniel, Shmulli, Shlomo & Motti Kornfeld**

Child vocalist (choir) **Mordechai (Ben David) Lavon**



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FEATURED ARTISTS:

Ruach

ABOUT THE COMPOSITION:

"Last Spring, as Covid was raging, I was searching for comforting words that bring us closer to Hashem and reassure us that there are better times ahead."

re|connection

Growing up with sounds of the band Ruach in our home, one of my dreams was to reunite as many of the original band members as possible on the album. Although not everyone could participate, the result was a thrilling throwback!

FUN FACT:

I liked Ruach so much, I got one of the guys to marry my sister!
[OK, no credit to me!]

כִּי נִחַם

כִּי נִחַם ה' צִיֵּן נִחַם כָּל חֲרִבְתֵּיהּ וַיִּשֹׁם
מִדְּבָרָהּ כִּיעָדוּ וְעַרְבֵתָהּ כִּגְן יְהוָה שֶׁשָּׂוֶן
וַשְׂמִיחָהּ יִמְצֵא בָּהּ תֹּדָה וְקוֹל זְמִירָה
(מוסף לשלוש רגלים)

ki nicham song credits

Composed by**Dr. Steven Schuss**

Lead Vocals & Harmonies **Myron Chaitovsky, Naftali Schuss,
Steve Schuss, Harold Fruchter**

Chalilit parts in memory of founding Ruach member **Ira Silber, a"H**

Additional Harmonies **Jeremy Staiman**

Vocal Arrangements **Steve Schuss, Alan Freishtat,
Jeff Horvitch, Jeremy Staiman**

Guitars **Doron Mizrachi**



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הַנּוֹתָן לַיַּעֲקֹב כֶּחֶם
כֶּחֶם לַיַּעֲקֹב נֹתָן
פּוֹקֵחַ עֲוֹדִים
מִלְּבַיִשׁ עֲדָמִים
מִתִּיד אֲסוּדִים
רוֹקֵעַ הָאָרֶץ עַל הַמַּיִם
שֶׁעָשָׂה לִי כָּל צָרָתִי
(ברכות השחר)

כֶּחֶם

koach song credits

Composed by **Jeremy Staiman**
Vocals..... **Rabbi Colonel Nosson Sachs, Jeremy Staiman**

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מָה רַבּוּ כָּל הַנְּשָׂמָה
(ניגון המפל)
כָּל הַנְּשָׂמָה

מָה רַבּוּ מֵעֲשִׂיָה ה' בְּכֹל בְּחִכְמָה עֲשִׂיָתָ (תהלים ק"ד)
כָּל הַנְּשָׂמָה תְּהִלָּתָהּ הִלְלִיָּהּ (תהלים ק"נ)

ma rabu/kol hanshama song credits

Composed by **Arky Staiman**
facebook.com/israelwitharky
Vocals..... **Arky Staiman, Avi Staiman**
Mordechai (Ben David) Lavon
Dov Frohlich, Yair Frohlich

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FEATURED ARTISTS:
Ephy, Yitzy, L.E.
 COMPOSERS | SINGERS | COUSINS

re|connection

Three first cousins. Three very different styles of music. Each composing one part of a song which melds into a seamless unit. Together in song to honor their Savta. What greater nachas could a grandmother ask for?

FUN FACT:

Although separated by thousands of miles from one another, the cousins' efforts spanned the continents to produce a masterpiece.

עֲטָרַת זְקֵנִים בְּנֵי בָנִים
 וְתִפְאֶרֶת בְּנֵים אֲבוֹתָם
 (משנ"י 17:6)

עֲטָרַת זְקֵנִים

Every single step we take, even when we lost our way. Guided by a love that won't break, 'cuz every road leads home. Even in the darkest nights, and even as the years go by, the smiles and the tears we cry. Every road leads home!

With the approach of my mother's 90th birthday in 2017, we decided it should be up to the next generation to compose and perform a new song in her honor. They knocked it out of the park!

refaenu song credits

- Composed by **Rabbi Ephy Greene, Dr. Yitzy Kaplowity, L.E. Staiman**
- Vocals..... **Ephy, Yitzy, L.E. and Jeremy**
- English Lyrics **L.E.**
- Riffing off of his sister Rachael Lavon's lyrics from "Every Road Leads Home"*
- Instrumentation, engineering and mixing **L.E.**
- Israel vocals recording **Freddie Fabian**
dubfredmusic@gmail.com

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 ATERES ZEKEINM VIDEO NOW! 



FEATURED ARTIST:

Rabbi Ephy Greene

re|connection

Ephy's sterling character, stirring music and inspirational teachings at the Aish Geshet program have helped countless people connect and reconnect with the beauty of HaShem's Torah.

FUN FACT:

Although he's my nephew, I would listen to his music even if he wasn't!

This niggun was first played publicly on the Piacezna Rebbe's yahrzeit in the Aish Kodesh shul in Ramat Beit Shemesh, it was written with the composer's powerful memories of his trips to Poland in mind.

ניגון איש קודש

Before naming it, he first requested and received the blessings of the Aish Kodesh Rebbe, Rav Kalman Menachem Shapira, shlita, in Ramat Beit Shemesh, as well as Rav Moshe Weinberger, shlita, of Congregation Aish Kodesh in Woodmere.

niggun aish kodesh song credits

Composed by **Rabbi Ephraim Greene**

Vocals & Harmonies **Jeremy Staiman, Harold Fruchter, Ephy Greene**

Additional Harmonies **Motti Kornfeld**

For more of Ephy's stirring music, visit:

ephygreene.wixsite.com/website or on Amazon by clicking **[here](#)**.



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FEATURED ARTISTS:

The Kornfelds

FATHER & SONS



re|connection

The Kornfelds put out a fabulous album in 2001. While they are a close family who have shared many musical adventures, it was magic to get most of them back together in the studio for this song, as well as Kiru Na.

FUN FACT:

Motti's music video with his son Daniel (right), ECHAD (click here), has over 50,000 views.

וְהָרֵאנוּ!

וְהָרֵאנוּ בְּבִנֵינוּ וְשִׁמְחָנוּ בְּתִקְוָנוּ
וְהָשִׁיב נְהַיִים לְעַבֹּדְתֶם
וְלוֹיִם לְשִׁירָם וְלִזְמֶרָם
וְהָשִׁיב יִשְׂרָאֵל לְנֵיִהֶם
(מוסף לשלוש רגלים)

v'hareinu song credits

Composed by **Rabbi Motti Kornfeld**

Vocals..... **Daniel, Shmulli & Motti Kornfeld**



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FEATURED ARTIST:

Amit Yitzchak
GUITARIST



new|connection

I didn't know what to expect when Amit walked into the studio in his sandals and flowing peiyos. He delved into Refaenu until he deeply felt it, and then gave us his emotive, beautiful rendition.

FUN FACT:

If Amit looks familiar, it's because he's often pounding away on the electric guitar onstage at Ishay Ribo concerts.

רֵפְאֵנוּ ה'

רֵפְאֵנוּ ה' וְנִרְפָּא, הוֹשִׁיעֵנוּ וְנוֹשְׁעָה,
כִּי תִהְלֹתֵנוּ אֲתָה

(שמונה עשרה)

לִתֵּת רְפָאוֹת... לְחַבְשָׁה לְחִזְקָה

(יחזקאל 30:21)

*The story of Refaenu is retold in the video,
so please feel free to use the link below.*

refaenu song credits

Composed by **Jeremy**

Vocals..... **Motti, Jeremy & Rabbi Col. Nossou Sachs**

Guitars **Amit Yitzchak**

All other instrumentation..... **Jeff**

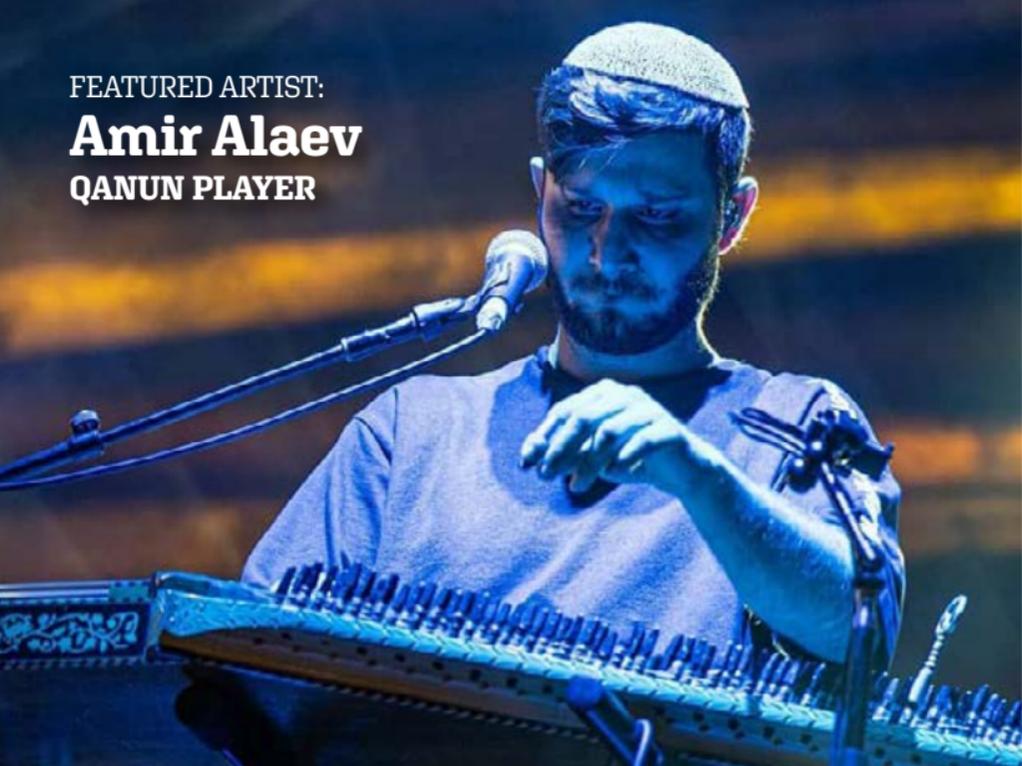


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REFAENU VIDEO NOW!



FEATURED ARTIST:
Amir Alaev
QANUN PLAYER



connection

If you've ever watched Ishay Ribbo's band play, you couldn't have helped being swept away by Amir Alaev's majestic qanun solos. It was an honor and pleasure to have him lend his formidable talents to this song.

FUN FACT:

When asked what it was like to tune the qanun's 78 strings, Amir replied in Hebrew: "it atones for all of one's sins!"

צלם: שלומי פינטו

אֵל מִסְתַּתֵּר

מָרוֹם נֶאֱדָר בְּכֹחַ אֲבֹהָהּ
מוֹצִיא אוֹרָה מֵאֵין תְּמוּדָה
פֶּחַד יִצְחָק מְשַׁפְּטֵנוּ הָאֵיךָ
אֶתְהָ גְבוּר לְעוֹלָם ה'

מִי אֵל כְּמוֹהַ עוֹשֶׂה גְדוּלוֹת
אֲבִיר יַעֲקֹב נוֹרָא תְהִלּוֹת
תְּפִאֶרֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל שִׁמְעַת תְּפִלוֹת
כִּי שִׁמְעַת אֵל אֲבִינּוּיִם ה'

(זמירות לסעודה שלישית)

רְחוּבוֹת הַנְּהַר נִחְלִי אֲמוּנָה
מִיָּם עֲמֻקִּים יְדֹלֵם אִישׁ תְּבִיאָה
תּוֹצְאוֹתֶיהָ חֲמֻשִׁים שְׁעָרֵי בֵינָה
אֲמוּנִים נוֹצֵר ה'

אֵלֶּהי אֲבֹרָהֶם זָכַר דְּבַר לְעַבְדְּךָ
חֲסִדֵּי ה' אֲזַכִּיר תְהִלּוֹת ה'

אֵל מִסְתַּתֵּר בְּשִׁפְרֵי־חַבּוּן
הַשֹּׁכֵל הַנְּעֻלָּם מְכַל רַעֲיוֹן
עַל־תְּ הַעֲלּוֹת מִכְתָּר בְּכֶתֶר עֲלִיוֹן
כְּתֵר יִתְּנוּ לָךְ ה'

בְּרֵאשִׁית תּוֹרַתְךָ הִקְדַּמְתָּ
לְשׂוּמָה חֲכָמְתְּךָ הִשְׁתַּוְּמָה
מֵאֵין תִּמְצָא וְהִיא נִעְלָמָה
בְּרֵאשִׁית חֲכָמָה יִרְאֵת ה'

keil mistater song credits

Composition..... **Sitanaya Chassidus**

Vocals..... **Jeremy Staiman, Rabbi Motti Kornfeld,
Rabbi Colonel Nosson Sachs, Rabbi Yerachmiel Milstein**

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