

# Hillel and Aviva

# MOUNTAIN SO FAIR

## Folk Songs of Israel



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### Folk Songs of Israel

A famous pair of Israeli performers, Hillel and Aviva, combine their unique musical talents in this collection of traditional Israeli folk songs. Aviva accompanies herself on the Miriam drum — made of goat skin stretched over the top of a clay jar. Hillel joins her in song and performs also on the chalil, a pipe which he fashioned from a Jordanian reed.

Their repertoire — sung in Hebrew — comprises a set of fourteen pastoral songs about shepherds and their flocks, cool rivers, night sounds from the hills, and communal rejoicing in honor of the wool shearing and First Harvest Festival. Included are four pipe solos.

Eight of the songs are reproduced below — in English translation and in transliteration.

## Side I

Band 1 — **EL HAMAYAN ("A little white kid . . . ")** 3:48  
Music: Immanuel Amiran

A little white kid came to the spring.  
"Where do you come from, oh kid?"  
Said he: "from Haran."  
"How is Lavan, Betuel's son?"  
How is Yaakov, and Rachel?"  
Said the kid in reply:  
"They're well."

EL HAMAYAN BA GDI KATAN, BA GDI LAVAN.  
EL HAMAYAN BA GDI KATAN, BA GDI LAVAN.  
MEAIN TAVO HAGDI? VAYAAN LI VAYOMAR:  
MECHARAN.  
HASHALOM LELAVAN BEN BETUEL?  
HASHALOM LEYAAKOV ULRACHEL?  
VAYAAN HAGDI VAYOMER:  
SHALOM.

Band 2 — **SHIRAT SADEH ("The shepherd sings . . . ")** 2:21  
Lyrics and music: Nisan Hav-Ron

The shepherd sings of hill and dale  
And rolling open fields,  
Where lambs do dance and  
sing and play,  
So happy and so gay.  
"Li, li, li," the shepherds flute.  
"Me, me, me," reply the lambs.

BEFI ROEH SHIRAT SADEH  
UMERCHAV BAM TALEH MEFAZEZ.  
YIFTSACH TALEH BEKOL YIFEH  
VEYASIS BECHARO KI MA TOV.  
LI LI LI CHALIL ROEH.  
ME ME ME TALEH YIFEH.

Band 3 — **AGADA (A Legend)** 1:45  
Music: Chanina Krichevsky  
Pipe solo

The clock ticks, on weekdays  
and holidays  
It never stops: Tik-tak, Tik-tak.  
An hour passes, two hours pass,  
A day passes, two days pass  
And the clock ticks, on weekdays  
and holidays  
It never stops: Tik-tak, Tik-tak.

SHAON METAKTEK BECHOL UVCHAG  
EINENU POSEK: TIK-TAK, TIK-TAK.  
CHOLEFET SHAAH, CHOLFOT SHEATAYIM  
CHOLEF LO GAM YOM, CHOLFIM GAM  
YOMAYIM  
VESHANON METAKTEK BECHOL  
UVECHAG  
EINENU POSEK: TIK-TAK, TIK-TAK.

Band 5 — **ALI BER ("Oh well, give me cool water . . . ")** 1:38  
Music: Sara Levi  
Pipe solo

I have a quick-footed donkey.  
He doesn't know how to speak.  
All day long he brays:  
Ho - - - - -  
All day long he brays.

LI CHAMOR ZARIZ VAER  
LO YODEA LEDABER  
KOL HAYOM HOO RAK NDER  
HO - - - - -  
KOL HAYOM HOO RAK NDER.

I have a hard-toiling donkey,  
Carrying boxes all day  
From the orange grove to the port.  
Ho - - - - -  
On his neck a bell rings.

LI CHAMOR AMEL AMEL  
MIPARDES EL HANAMEL  
IM TEIVA HOO MITNAHEL  
HO - - - - -  
PAAMON LO METSALTSSEL.

I have a quick-footed donkey  
Rushing now to the grove  
To get a box of oranges.  
Ho - - - - -  
And carrying it to the port.

LI CHAMOR ZARIZ VAER  
LAPARDES HOO MEMAHER  
MECHAKA LO SHAM TEIVA  
HO - - - - -  
LANAMAL OTA YISA.

That's how the donkey lives:  
It works, and it brays.  
It works, and it brays:  
Ho - - - - -  
That's what my donkey does.

ZOT DARKO SHEL HECHAMOR  
LAAMOL VEGAM LINOR  
LAAMOL VEGAM LINOR  
HO - - - - -  
ZOT DARKO SHEL HECHAMOR.

Band 7 — **SHECHORA ANI (Song of Songs)** 2:54  
Music: Immanuel Amiran

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## Side II

Band 1 — **THE OPENING TO THE OMER (FIRST HARVEST) FESTIVAL** 1:18  
Music: Matiyahu Shelem  
Pipe soloBand 2 — **LEYAD HANACHAL (On the River Bank)** 2:20  
Lyrics and music: Nisan Hav-Ron

The shepherds sit on the river bank.  
The flocks come down the hills.  
The sun has set. Night has come.  
A jackal's howl pierces the night.  
"Ha-Ha—night has come," the wind howls.  
"Ha-Ha—night has come," a jackal howls.

YASHVOD LEYAD HANACHAL HAROIM.  
HATSON GOLESH LEITO MEHARIM  
HASHEMESH DAACHA, SHACH HALEIL  
VEHEMYAT TAN DARCHA BALEIL  
HA-HA- HALAYIL BA, RUACH TEYABEV  
HA-HA- HALAYIL BA, TAN MEYALEL.

Band 3 — **OD NAGIA (We Will Arrive)** 2:30  
Lyrics: Moshe Dor; Music: Yosef Hadar

Soon we'll arrive at the river's water —  
The sheep were thirsty on the mountains.  
How green is the grass here,  
The Acacia flowering against the  
orange grove.

OD NAGIA EL MEYMEY HANACHAL —  
HAKVASIM TSAMOO BEIN HEHARIM.  
MA YAROK HADESHE KAN,  
PORACHAT HASHITA EL

Your flock has scattered away, maiden,  
I'll gather your sheep for you.  
I wish I could be a little kid  
And you'd caress me on the mountains.

MUL HAHADARIM.  
YAFATI, TSON MARITECH NIFZAR  
ALAKET LACH CHISH HAPZURIM  
LOO EHI KAT GDI BAKAR  
VELITAF OTI BEIN HEAARIM  
CHOOLOO CHOOLOO

Dance and prance and sing a song,  
Sing a song of shearing, O!  
We'll have mountains of wool.  
Every shepherd is full of joy.

CHOLELOO ZEMER  
SHIROO SHIR LAGEZ HO,  
TSEMER YEAREM AD EIN GMAR  
KOL NOKED ALEZ  
YAD BEYAD ROIM RAKDOO  
HEMYAT HATSON BAKAA SHAM  
MA BANOT BAKAR CHAMDOO  
LAROIM NAFSHAN YATSA KVAR.

Hand in hand the shepherds dance,  
The flocks are heard a'coming.  
The maidens in the field approach —  
Their hearts go out to the shepherds.

Band 4 — **ALEY GIVAH (On a Hill)** 1:59  
Music: Menashe Rabina  
Pipe soloBand 5 — **HITBASER ROEH CHAVIV (Shepherd, Good Cheer)** 2:09  
Lyrics and music: Matiyahu Shelem

Shepherd dear, be of good cheer,  
For spring is here at last.  
Come down from the mountain —  
The fields are grassy and wide,  
Your song is loud and strong,  
Your shepherd song of old.  
Sing a song, O flocks,  
Come down from the mountains.  
Sing a song, O flocks, sing.

HITBASER ROEH CHAVIV  
KVAR HIGIA TOR AVIV  
RED MIN NAHAR LABIKAH  
AL PNEY KARIM MIREH TARCHIV  
YIVKA SHIRCHA BEOZ TARHIV  
SHIRAT ROIM ATIKA  
RON RONU ADARIM  
GALOSH GALSHOD MEHARIM  
RON RONU ADARIM RONU.

Be of good cheer, O sheep and goat,  
Shearing time is here at last,  
Happy herds and shepherds too.  
The wheat is ripe upon the fields,  
The flocks are white as snow.  
The shepherds sing their song:  
Shear, the shearers, shear and shear,  
Shear every sheep and goat.  
Shear, the shearers, shear and shear!

HITBASRI KIVSA GAM EZ  
HEN HIGIA TOR HAGEZ  
CHAG LATSON, LARDEH  
AL PNEY SADOT HIVSHIL GARIN  
EDER HATSON MAVHIK, MALBIN  
HEACH MA TOV, MA NAEH  
GOZ GOZU GOZEZIM  
BEN KEVES GDI IZIM  
GOZ GOZU, GOZEZIM GOZU.

Band 6 — **HATSAVOA (The Hyena)** 1:58  
Lyrics and music: Oded BourlaBand 7 — **BOKREY LACHISH (The Cowboys of Lachish)** 2:50  
Lyrics and music: Nisan Hav-Ron

The threshold to the Negev  
Is a region called Lachish.  
An ancient breeze blows there joyously.  
It sings its song and disappears.

MIFTAN LIGVOOL NEGEV YISHKON  
CHEVEL ARETS ATIK: LACHISH.  
SAS BO RUACH KADMON  
YAFIACH BO ZEMER VEYACHISH.

In Lachish the cowboys' song  
Doth please the desert wide.  
An echo answers: the mighty song  
Of desert-conquering youths.  
Give me wool  
And give me a song.  
Ho - - - - - to Lachish.

BELACHISH ZEMER BOKRIM  
YANIM MERCHAVEY HAYSHIMON  
YA'AN LO ZEMER NEODRIM  
KOVSHAY SHMAMOT BEON  
HAV LI TSEMER TSON (HAV LI)  
HAV LI KI BO RON  
HO - - - - - LELACHISH.

A song of a city to you, Dimona,  
Old and new are both in you.  
A song of herds on the river's water —  
Hay! The threshold to the Negev.

DIMONA LACH SHIR IR VAEM  
BACH CHADASH GAM YASHAN SHLOOVIM.  
ZEMER TSON SHOKEK BAAIN  
HAY! ROSH PINA LAMADRIM.

In Lachish - - - - - etc.

BELACHISH ZEMER ZEMER . . . . . etc.

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