

The Lord bless you and keep you

Michael Winikoff  
March-June 2009

*To the memory of my father  
Kingsley Winikoff  
(13/4/1941-21/2/2009)*

## Programme and performance notes

This piece is dedicated to my father, who passed away in February 2009.

In writing this piece, I wanted to write a work that was not a lament, but rather, a celebration of life, and in particular, my father's life. Nonetheless, the piece has a definite sadness to it, and a feeling of loss, of a gap in one's heart.

The blessing I selected as text is of particular significance: my father read it every Friday night to bless his children. It brings together two of the most important things in his life: his family, and his Jewish faith. Although traditionally it would be read by a parent to bless his/her children, in this context, the blessing could perhaps also be interpreted in a different way: as a blessing from a child to his departed father, wishing him peace.

My father played violin, and so it was natural to incorporate a violin, representing both his playing, and, in the closing bars of the work, the soul finding peace.

The blessing is in three parts, and the structure of the piece has many “threes” including the three repetitions of the initial motif in the first seven bars (altos unaccompanied, then altos with tenors and sopranos [three parts], and then violin), the three repetitions of “*and give you peace*”, and, at the end of the work, the three repetitions of “*Shalom*” (peace).

Since the blessing is read in Hebrew, I included it in that language, as well as in English. Hebrew text (transliterated) is in *italics*.

I'd like to thank Matthew Jordan for feedback on the violin part, and Leanne Veitch for comments on the piece.

**Performance instructions:** Bars 27-28 give the choir a chance to “re-pitch”, in the remainder of the piece the singers should listen to the violin and tune to it. Bar 54 is the climax of the work (don't climax too early!). In bar 74 the choir (except for the second basses) should gradually close to an “m” sound.

**Pronunciation:** Hebrew vowels are pure (italianate), “r”s are rolled, and the “kh” should be pronounced as a gutural sound (as in “bach” or “loch”, a little harsher, but not long - see <http://www.winikoff.net/music> for pronunciation).

Text: Numbers 6:24-26

24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee;

25 The LORD make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;

26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Transliteration: (capitals indicate the emphasis)

YevaREkhekha adoNAI veyishmeREkha

YaER adoNAI paNAV eLEYkha viykhuNEkha

yiSA adoNAI paNAV eLEYkha veyaseM leKHA shaLOM

Hebrew text:

יְבָרְכֶךָ יְהוָה, וישְׁמְרֶךָ.  
יָאֵר יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, ויחַנֶּנֶךָ.  
ישָׂא יְהוָה פָּנָיו אֵלֶיךָ, וישִׂם לְךָ שְׁלוֹם.

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Duration: approx. 4:40

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*Andante* (♩ = 48)

Violin

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

will bless and keep you the

The Lord will bless you and keep \_ you, the Lord will bless you and keep \_ you

The Lord will bless you and keep \_ you

6

Vln

S

A

T

B

Lord will bless you and keep \_ you

(*tutti*)

the Lord will make his face to

the Lord will make his face to

oo to

the Lord will make his face to shine u-pon you oo to

11

Vln

S

A

T

B

*fervant, bright*

shine u-pon you to shine u-pon you

shine the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the

*fervant, bright*

shine u-pon you to shine u-pon you the Lord will make his

shine the

15

Vln

S

A

T

B

the Lord will make his face, the Lord will make his face to shine u-pon you

Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face to shine to

face, the Lord will make his face, the Lord will make his face make his face to shine to

Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face to shine to

19

Vln

S

A

T

B

shine u-pon you and give you peace and give you peace and give you

shine and give you peace and give you peace and give you

shine and give you peace and give you peace and give you

shine and give you peace give you peace and give you

25

Vln

S

A

T

B

*pp* peace *pp* peace *pp* peace

*pp* peace *pp* peace *pp* peace

*pp* peace *pp* peace *pp* peace

peace peace peace

*dark and rich* ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -

ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -

*P* *V* *3*

*(avoid open strings)*

31 *mp* *espressivo, (play on A string)*

Vln *V*

S

A

T *8*

B

*3* *3* *3*

nai ve-yish-me re - kha, ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do - nai ve - yish - me re - kha, ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e -

nai ve - yish - me - re - kha, ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do - nai ve - yish - me re - kha, ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e -

37 *V*

Vln *3* *3* *3*

S

A

T *8*

B

the Lord will bless you and

ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -

ley - kha — viy - khu - ne - kha — ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom the Lord will bless you and

ley - kha — viy - khu - ne - kha — ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -

42 *V*

Vln *3*

S

A

T *8*

B

keep — you the Lord will bless you and keep — you the Lord will bless you and

nai ve - yish - me - re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav the Lord will bless you and

keep — you the Lord will bless you and keep — you e - le - kha — viy - khu -

nai ve - yish - me - re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e - le - kha — viy - khu -

46

Vln

S

A

T

B

keep — you the Lord the Lord will bless you and keep — you the Lord will make his face, the Lord will

keep — you ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom The Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the

ne - kha — The Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his

ne - kha — ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom The Lord, the Lord will make his face, the

50

Vln

S

A

T

B

make — his — face to shine u-pon you shine u-pon you shine u-pon you

Lord will make his face to shine to shine u - pon you

face make his face to shine to shine u - pon you and

Lord will make his face to shine — to shine — u - pon you

54

Vln

S

A

T

B

and give you peace and give you peace and give you peace and *pp*

and give you — peace and give you peace and give you peace and *pp*

give you peace and give you peace and give you peace and *pp*

and give you peace give you peace and give you peace and

61

Vln

S  
give you and give you oo

A  
give you and give sha - lom sha - lo(m)

T  
8 give you and give you peace ye - va - re - khe - kha a - do - nai ve - yish - me -  
Ah ye - va - re - khe - kha a - do - nai ve - yish - me -

B  
give you Ah

69

Vln

S

A

T  
8 re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e - ley - kha viy - khu ne - kha ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha -  
re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e - ley - kha viy - khu ne - kha ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha -

B

74

Vln

S  
close to 'm' gradually niente

A  
close to 'm' gradually niente

T  
8 lom sha - lom sha - lo - - m  
lom sha - lom sha - lo - - m  
close to 'm' gradually niente

B  
close to 'm' gradually niente

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*Andante* ( $\text{♩} = 48$ ) (avoid open strings)

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 3/4 time signature. It consists of seven staves of music. The first staff begins with a tempo marking of 'Andante' and a metronome marking of 48 quarter notes per minute. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including triplets and sixteenth-note runs. Dynamics range from piano (p) to mezzo-piano (mp). Performance instructions include 'avoid open strings' and 'espressivo, (play on A string)'. The lyrics 'and give you peace peace peace' are placed under the first staff. The second staff has the instruction 'espressivo, (play on A string)'. The third staff continues the melodic line. The fourth staff features a series of triplets. The fifth staff has a 2/4 time signature change. The sixth staff includes the lyrics 've-yish-me - re - kha' and a dynamic marking of 'p'. The seventh staff ends with the word 'niente'.

23 *p* and give you peace peace peace

31 *mp* *espressivo, (play on A string)*

39

46

52

61 *p* ve-yish-me - re - kha

72 *niente*