

PERFORMANCE NOTE

The “Shehecheyanu” is scored for a *cappella* choir. “Psalm 150” is scored for choir and three percussionists (djembe, shekere, and one player alternating between shaker and clave). If only one player is available, cover djembe. If two, cover all parts when not overlapping, and shekere then clave when they are.

COMPOSER’S NOTE

The Shehecheyanu is traditionally recited in order to offer thanks for unusual experiences or special occasions, such as a baby’s first step, the beginning of a new course of study, or the first fruits of a new harvest. It is also recited at the beginning of holidays, such as the first night of Chanukah.

Reuven Hammer, author of *Entering Jewish Prayer: A Guide to Personal Devotion and the Worship Service*, indicates that Psalm 150 is understood as “a call to the soul, to all creatures, to all parts of the universe, to join in the great rondo of joy at the very fact of being part of the creation and thus to acknowledge the author of all” (Schocken Books, New York, 1994).

Shehecheyanu

Baruch atah Adonai, Eloheinu
Melech ha’olam,
shehecheyanu, veki’emanu,
vehigianu lazman hazeh.

*Praised are you Adonai our God,
Ruler of the world,
Who has given us life, sustained us
and enabled us to reach this time.*

Psalm 150 (excerpt)

Haleluyah halelu el bekodsho
Haleluhu birki’u uzo.
Haleluhu vigvurotav
Haleluhu kerov gudlo.
Kol haneshema tehaleil yah
haleluyah.

Translated by Zalman Schachter-Shalomi
*Halelu/Yah! Call out to Yah in Heaven’s holy place!
Boom out to Yah across the firmament!
Shout out for Yah, for all God’s mighty deeds!
Cry out for Yah, as loud as God is great!
Let every living thing Yah’s praises sing,
Halelu/Yah!*

HEBREW TRANSLITERATION GUIDE

a as in ‘papa’ (short) or ‘father’ (long)
e as in ‘get’
eh as in ‘get’ (used only at the end of a
word)
i as in ‘machine’
o as in ‘low’

u as in ‘rule’
ai as in ‘aisle’
ei as in ‘veil’
g as in ‘get’ (hard)
ch as in Scottish ‘loch’ or German ‘ach’

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Andrew Bleckner studied composition with George Crumb at the University of Pennsylvania and received a Ph.D. in composition in 1995. While at Penn, he received the Paul Rochberg Fellowship and the Helen L. Weiss Prize for Vocal Music. He currently serves as resident composer for the Singing City in the Schools program.

Bleckner has been featured on Nation Public Radio's *Sacred Classics* program as a member of the next generation of exciting new composers. His music is published by Boosey and Hawkes, Transcontinental Music and Alliance Music Publications. Mr. Bleckner was a finalist in the VocalEssence (2005), Meistersingers (2004) and Vanguard Premieres (2004) composition contests. His "Psalm 42" is included on the Atlanta Singers CD *Deep River: A Program of American Music*.

I) Shehecheyanu: Prayer of Gratitude

for SATB choir

Andrew Bleckner

♩ = 69 *espressivo* *mp*

Solo Ba - ruch a - tah A - do - nai El - o - hei - nu me - lech ha' - o - lam (m)

rest of section *ppp* < *mp* > *p* (*stagger breath, as smooth as possible*) *poco*

Soprano *ppp* < *mp* > *p* (*stagger breath, as smooth as possible*)

Alto *ppp* < *mp* > *p* (*stagger breath, as smooth as possible*)

Tenor *ppp* < *mp* > *p* (*stagger breath, as smooth as possible*)

for rehearsal only *p* *mp*

7 *poco* **A**

Solo She - he - che - ya - nu, ve - ki' - e - ma - nu ve - hi - gi - a - nu, laz - man ha - zeh

S. *poco* *tutti mp* ah, laz - man ha - zeh Ba - ruch a - tah A - do

A. *poco* *mp* laz - man ha - ha - zeh Ba -

T. *poco* *mp* ah, laz - man ha - zeh a -

B. *mp* ah

poco *mp* **A**

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S. *poco*
nai El - o - hei - nu me-lech ha'-o-lam (m) she-he-che - ya - nu, ve-ki'-e - ma - nu ve-hi-gi-

A. *poco*
ruch a - tah A - do - nai ha' - o - lam (m) a - nu, ve-ki'-e - ma - nu

T. *poco*
- - - - tah she-he-che - ya - nu, ve-ki'-e - ma - nu
a - tah

B. *poco*
Ba - ruch a - tah she-he-che - ya - nu, ve-ki'-e - ma - nu

18

S. **B** *mf*
a - nu, laz - man ha - zeh Oh Praised are you our Cre - a - tor source of all the world

A. *mf*
laz - man ha ha - zeh Praised are you our Cre - a - tor source of all the world

T. *mf*
laz - man ha zeh Oh Praised are you our Cre - a - tor source of all the

B. *mf*
laz - man ha - zeh Oh Praised are you our cre - a - tor of the

II) Psalm 150: Halleluyah!

for SATB choir and percussion

Andrew Bleckner

Performance Note: This movement is scored for three percussionists: djembe, shekere (African shaker - hollow gourd covered with shells), and one player alternating between shaker and clave. If only one player is available, cover djembe. If two, cover all parts when not overlapping, and shekere then clave when overlapping.

3/2 ♩ = 66
 With vigour and rhythmic clarity *shaker on the bright crisp side*
 ♩ = 100
 (option: ad lib) *A medium or low djembe is preferred, with a mellow edge sound - not too bright or sharp*
pp *f* *sf* *mf*

9

Shaker

Djembe

S. *1/2 section mp*
 Ha-le-lu

A. *1/2 section mp*
 Ha-le-lu

T.B. *bass solo mf* *tutti, B & T sf*
 Ha-le-lu el be-kod-sho Ha-le-lu-hu bir - ki - a u-zo Ha - le-lu - yah

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Shaker

Djembe

S. Ha-le-lu

A. Ha-le-lu

T.B. *sf* *T & B soli or small group* *tutti, B & T sf*
 Ha - le-lu - yah Ha-le-lu-hu vig - vu - ro - tav ha-le-lu-hu ke - rov_ gud-lo Ha - le-lu-

23 A

Shaker

Shekere

Djembe

S. *mp* 1/2 section *tutti* *mf*
Ha-le-lu Ha-le-lu Call out to Yah in Hea-vens ho-ly place Boom out to Yah a-

A. *mp* 1/2 section *tutti* *mf*
Ha-le-lu Ha-le-lu Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu -

T.B. *sf* *T section (no B)*
yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu -

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Shaker

Shekere

Djembe

S. *sf*
cross the firm-a-ment Shout out for Yah, for all God's might-y deeds! Cry out for Yah, as loud as God is great!

A. *sf*
yah Shout out for Yah, for all God's might-y deeds! Cry out for Yah, as loud as God is great!

T.B. *T & B*
yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

34 **B**

Shaker

Shekere

Djembe

(bring out)

f 3

etc...

S. *f*

Kol han-she ma te-hal-eil Yah Ha-le-lu- yah!

A. *f*

Kol han-she ma te-hal-eil Yah Ha-le-lu- yah!

T.B. *f*

Kol han-she ma te-hal-eil Yah Ha-le-lu- yah! Ha - le

40 **C**

Shaker

Shekere

Djembe

mf

S. 1 *f*

Ha-le-lu- yah! Kol Han - she - ma te - ha -

S. 2 *f*

Ha-le-lu- yah! Kol han-she-ma te - ha - leil_Yah Ha-le-lu-yah Ha - le - lu - yah

A. *f*

Ha-le-lu- yah! Kol han-she-ma te - ha - leil_Yah Ha-le-lu-yah Ha - le - lu - yah

T.B. *f*

Ha-le-lu- yah! Ha-le-lu Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

46 D

Shaker

Shekere

Djembe

S. 1
leil_ yah Ha - le - lu - yah Kol han Kol han-she-ma

S. 2
Kol han-she-ma te - ha - leil - Yah Ha-le-lu-yah Ha - le - lu - yah Kol han-she-ma

A.
Kol han-she-ma te - ha - leil - Yah Ha-le-lu-yah Ha - le - lu - yah Kol han-she-ma

T.B.
Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Kol han-she-ma

51

Djembe

S.
te-hal-eil Yah te-hal-eil Yah Ha-le-lu- yah!

A.
te-hal-eil Yah te-hal-eil Yah Ha-le-lu- yah!

T.
te-hal-eil Yah te-hal-eil Yah Ha-le-lu- yah!

B.
te-hal-eil Yah te-hal-eil Yah Ha-le-lu- yah!

56 **E**

Shaker

Djembe

S.

A.

T.

B.

cresc. poco a poco

p cresc. poco a poco

Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

64

Shaker

Shekere

Djembe

Choir Clap

S.

A. 1

A. 2

T.

B.

mf

mf

sfz

sfz

(Choir clap optional, but recommended - applies to singers with repeated "Halelu-yah" part)

f

f option: double with part of S2 for balance

f

f

f

Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

Ha - le - lu - yah Kol han-she-ma te - ha - leil - Yah Ha-le-lu-yah Ha - le - lu - yah

Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah

Ha - le - lu - yah Kol han-she-ma te - ha - leil - Yah Ha-le-lu-yah Ha - le - lu - yah

Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah Ha - le - lu - yah