

Makh Tsi Di Eygelekh (Close Your Eyes)

Lyrics: Isaiah Shpigl
Melody: Dovid Beyglman

Makh tsi di eygelekh
Ot kimen feygelekh
In krayzn do arim
Tsikopns fin dayn vig.
Dus pekl in der hant,
Dus hoyz in ash in brand,
Mir lozn zikh, mayn kind,
Zikhn gliik.

Close your little eyes,
Little birds are coming,
Circling around
The head of your cradle.
Baggage in hand
Our home in ashes
We are setting out, my child
In search of luck.

Di velt hot got farmakht,
In imetim iz nakht –
Zi vart of indz
Mit shoyder in mit shrek.
Mir shteyen bayde du,
In shverer, shverer shu
In veysn nisht vihin
S'firt der veg.

God has closed off the world
And night is all around
Waiting for us,
Full of horror and fear.
The two of us stand here
In this difficult, difficult, moment
Not knowing where
The road leads.

Men hot indz naket, bloyz
Faryugt fin indzer hoyz.
In fintsternish,
Getribn indz in feld,
In shturem, hugl, vint
Hot indz bagleyt, mayn kind,
Bagleyt indz inem opgrint
Fin der velt.

Naked and bare
We were chased from our home
In darkness,
Driven into the fields;
And storm, hail and wind
Have accompanied us, my child
Accompanied us into
The abyss
of the world.

About the Piece

Makh tsi di eygelekh' (Close your eyes) was composed for the ghetto theatre, and performed in the ghetto by the singer Ella Diamant. The song was written by Isaiah Shpigl, a writer-poet-essayist-teacher who survived the Łódź ghetto and Auschwitz (1906-1990) and by the composer-conductor Dovid Beyglman (1887-1944)... Survivors of Łódź could not recall the song is because Rumkowski censored the song, and Isaiah Shpigl was threatened with deportation. The song was not performed again.

The song is a lullaby, which was one of the most popular song genres of Yiddish folk and theatre music. In a typical Jewish lullaby, the mother soothes the child to sleep with promises of pleasant times to come. The father is usually absent, off making money for the child's education; his return, however, is said to be imminent. Shpigl's composition, turns this concept upside down: father will never come home. The child lies down to sleep in an open field at the mercy of the elements, his parents' house been burned to the ground.

This is one of the hopeless songs composed for a public audience in the Łódź ghetto. Nature does not smile, God

has brought night into the little boy's world, and wind and hail accompany the child and the singer into the depths of the earth. The music is a rare form of musical hybrid, a tango-lullaby. Evidently, tango melodies were very popular during the period, and the contrast between the horrifying lyrics and the sweet melody make the song even darker and more frightening.

* Holocaustmusic.ort.org

From the Arranger

As a tango lover I was struck by the melancholy of this tango-lullaby, it's haunting heritage and it's dark lyrics. I found uncanny correlation to many of today's refugees with baggage in hand, home in ashes setting out in search of luck. I wanted to arrange the piece to shed light on the more obscure yet beautiful creation, pay respect to its perished composer and the perished child for whom the lullaby was written (Shpigl's one year old daughter), and to invoke a personal point of view of the past that is so much echoed in our present. May we learn from its pain and be attuned to it returning again in today's events around the world, and may we find hope in music.

About the Arranger

Russian born ('83), Israeli raised and currently based out of Boston (via NYC and Western MA), Asia (ah-sya) Meirovich is a composer, pianist and singer/songwriter. Equally at home in the concert hall and rock club, Asia weaves together elements from classical and contemporary disciplines. Asia is the 2015 winner of the Ben Steinberg Young Composer Award for Jewish choral music and the finalist of the 2017 Stephen Paulus choral composition competition. Currently a freelance artist and educator at the Schechter Day School of Greater Boston and the Brandeis Institute of Music and Arts (BIMA) summer program, Asia holds a B.M in Contemporary Writing and Production from Berklee College of Music and an M.M in Composition from University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

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Makh Tsi Di Eygelekh

(close your eyes)

Isaiah Shpigl / Dovid Beyglman

arr. Asia Meirovich

The musical score is arranged in two systems. The first system includes staves for Soprano, Alto, and Baritone, all of which are currently empty. Below them is the Piano part, consisting of two staves (treble and bass clef). The second system includes staves for Soprano (S), Alto (A), and Baritone (B), also empty. Below them is the Piano part (Pno.), also consisting of two staves. The key signature is three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and the time signature is 4/4. The piano part features complex chordal textures with many accidentals and some triplets. The vocal parts are marked with dashes, indicating they are to be sung but have no lyrics written on this page.

Makh Tsi Di Eygelekh

2
11

S

A

B

Pno.

16

S

A

B

Pno.

solo

mf makh tsi di ey - ge-lekh ot ki - men fey - ge-lekh

21

S

A

B

Pno.

in kray - zn do a - rim tsi - ko - pns fin dayn vig dus pek - l

26

S

A

B

Pno.

in der hant dus hoyz in ash in brand mir lo - zn zikh mayn kind

Makh Tsi Di Eygelekh

31

S

mf makh tsi di ey - ge-lekh ot ki - men

A

zi - khn glik *tutti* *mf* makh tsi di ey - ge-lekh ot ki - men

B

Pno.

36

S

fey - ge - lekh in kray-zn do a - rim tsi-ko-pns fin dayn vig

A

fey - ge - lekh in kray-zn do a - rim tsi-ko-pns fin dayn vig

B

Pno.

41

S
 dus pek - l in der hant dus hoyz in ash in brand mir lo - zn

A
 — pek - l in der hant dus hoyz in ash in brand mir lo - zn

B

Pno.

46

S
 zikh mayn kind — zi - khn glik *mp* di velt hot got farm-akht

A
 zikh mayn kind — zi - khn glik *mp* ooh

B
mf di velt hot got farm-akht

Pno.

51

S
in im - e - tim iz nakht zi vart _____

A
ooh _____ of indz

B
in im - e - tim iz nakht zi vart _____ of indz

Pno.

55

S
_____ mit shtey-ten ah _____

A
mit shoy-der in mit shrek _____ mit shtey-ten bay - de du ooh _____

B
mit shoy-der in mit shrek _____ mit shtey-ten bay - de du _____ in shve -

Pno.

60

S
shve - rer shu in vey - sn nisht vi - hin s'firt der veg

A
shve - rer shu ³ nisht vi - hin s'firt der da da da da da da

B
shve - rer shu in vey - sn nisht vi - hin s'firt der veg

Pno.

65

S
mm

A
da mm

B
mm

Pno.
(suggested solo, pianist may improvise)

70

S

A

B

Pno.

ooh

ooh

ooh

ooh

3

75

S

A

B

Pno.

80 *p*

S men hot indz na - ket bloyz far - yugt fin indz - er hoyz in fints -

A men hot indz na - ket bloyz far - yugt fin indz - er hoyz in fints -

B men hot indz na - ket bloyz far - yugt fin indz - er hoyz in fints -

Pno.

86

S - ter - nish ——— get - ri - bn indz in feld ——— in shtu - rn hug - l vint

A - ter - nish ah ——— in shtu - rn hug - l vint

B - ter - nish get - ri - bn indz in feld in shtu - rn hug - l vint

Pno.

91

S
hot indz ba - gleyt mayn kind bag - leyt indz in - em op-grint fin der velt

A
hot indz ba - gleyt mayn kind bag - leyt indz in - em op-grint fin der velt

B
hot indz ba - gleyt mayn kind bag - leyt indz in - em op-grint fin der velt

Pno.

Lento

97

S
p
mm

A
p
mm

B
p
mm

Pno.
mm