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Hashem Shekhinah

For SATB Voices and Piano or Accordion

Malcolm Dalglish

Jewish prayers often invoke more than one name of God, mostly because many of those names evolved as a way to avoid the mention of God's name, something that mere mortals are incapable of doing. Traditional Jews use the name "**Hashem**" (which means "the name", masculine) to show their respect to God by not taking His name lightly. **"Shekhinah"** (feminine) is a concept representing Divine presence. It is through the *Shekhinah* that humans can experience the divine. The *Shekhinah* is often portrayed as a bride or princess.

The Seven Blessings (Sheva Brachot), of Talmudic origin are usually chanted in the second half of a traditional Jewish wedding. The number seven is a very special number in the Jewish faith. These blessings have specific Jewish significance but I found that their collective meaning resonates universally. The first is a blessing on wine, the symbol of joy. The next three celebrate the creation, our human presence here, and the notion that we have been given divine qualities. The last three blessings celebrate a return to Eden, the creative and procreative force of the couple within their community, and all the expressions of joy that their community shares in their new bond. Many people over the years have paraphrased and written substitute wordings of these sentiments and this song is no exception.

I wrote this song on the occasion of my daughter's wedding. She and her new husband are both potters. The references to clay are both literal and metaphorical. The verses can be sung in unison or by soloist(s), while a larger gathering should sing the chorus.

-Malcolm Dalglish
May 7, 2005

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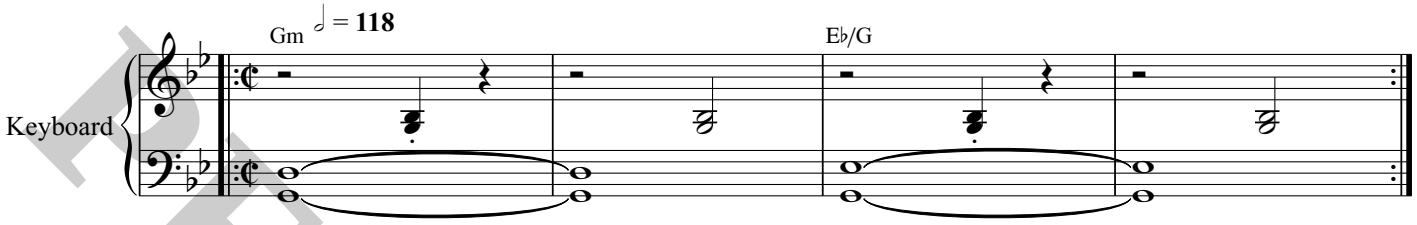
On the occasion of our daughter Naomi's marriage to Michael Hunt, May 7, 2005

Hashem Shekhinah

for SATB Chorus and Keyboard*

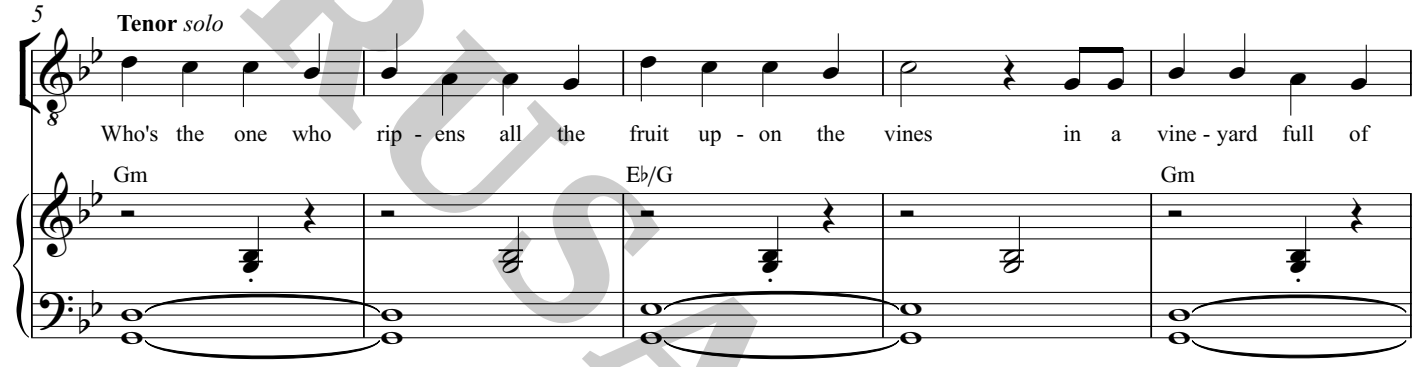
Words inspired by and adapted from
the *Sheva Brachot,* the seven blessings
recited at a traditional Jewish wedding ceremony

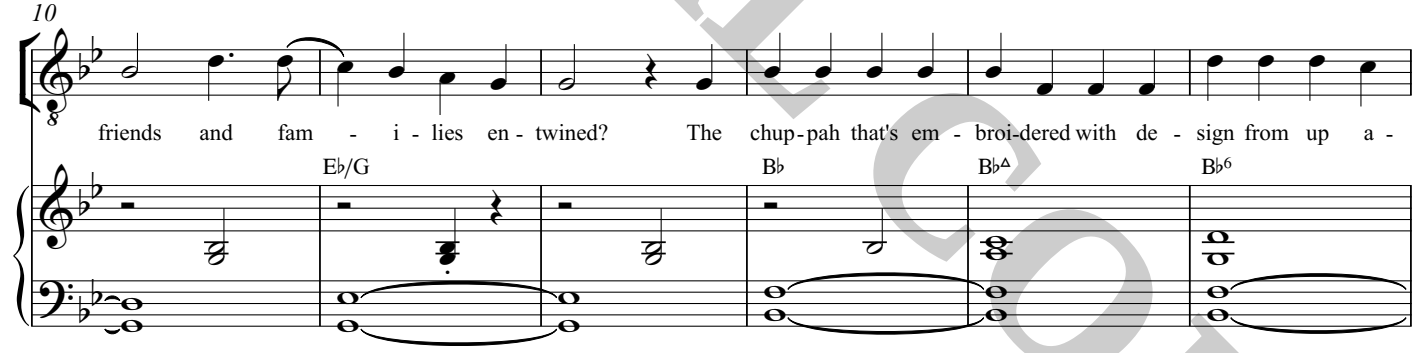
Malcolm Dalglish

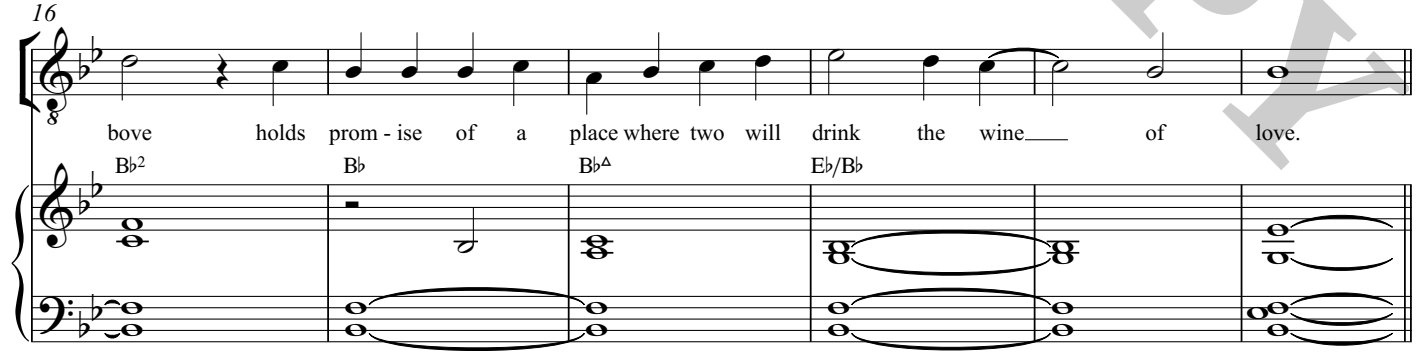


* Keyboard part can be played on any available instrument(s).
Chords are supplied should an accordion (for which the accompaniment figure is well-suited) be available.

Verse 1







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