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"Zol Zain Sholem" (Let There be Peace) Yiddish Folksong; Arr. Jacobson S/AT/B+solo (any voice) (Easy); Piano; Yiddish/Opt. Eng.

# Zol Zain Sholem

*(Let There Be Peace)*

**A Joyous Call-and-Response Song in Yiddish from  
Eastern Europe, as Sung by the Zamir Chorale of Boston**



024

LESLIE MUSIC

\$ 1.40

**Arranged by Joshua Jacobson**  
**Director, Zamir Chorale of Boston**

**HaZamir Publications/World Music Press**  
**PO Box 2565 Danbury CT 06813-2565**

Folksongs are songs that get passed around, loved, and changed as they go from voice to voice. I learned "Zol Zain Sholem" from Hankus Netsky, director of the renowned Klezmer Conservatory Band. He learned it from the band's lead singer, Judy Bressler, who learned it, in turn, from Zalman Mlotek, the man who knows everything about Yiddish music. Zalman remembers learning the song as a child from Michael Gelbart in the Workmen's Circle Yiddish School. He also remembers hearing another version on a rare recording by Nechama Lipschitz that came out of the Soviet Union in the 1950s.

"Zol Zain Sholem," sung in Yiddish, is a joyous call-and-response song that originated in Eastern Europe. The refrain consists of vocables that are typical of the *lebedik* (lively) Hassidic melody. In each verse the soloist calls out a key word which is then repeated by the chorus. Since the words and melody are so simple, the song lends itself well to group participation.

**Performance practice:** The rhythm of the accompaniment should be heavy and strong, but joyous. Have the pianist begin by vamping the first measure. S/he may feel free to improvise on the simple part provided in the score. While the pianist is vamping, the soloist will give a brief explanation of the song, encouraging the audience to join the chorus in both the call-and-response and the refrain. Repeat the sections as many times and in any order which you feel is appropriate.

**Text:** The lyrics to *Zol Zain Sholem* are in Yiddish, the *lingua franca* of Eastern European Jews for hundreds of years. The language contains elements of both German and Hebrew. "Zol zain sholem" means "let there be peace." "Shabbes" is the Jewish sabbath, "kinder" means children, "dreydel" is a spinning toy associated with Chanukah, and "latkes" are potato pancakes, also associated with Chanukah. Of course, other words may be substituted, as appropriate for the season and the audience. The vocables, ya-pa yam-pam, have no discursive meaning; they are analogous to the fa-la-la refrain of a Christmas carol.

**Pronunciation:**

zol	The vowel "o" is similar to the vowel in "all," but almost like the vowel in "whole."
zain	rhymes with "fine" ("z" as in "zebra").
sholem	The vowel in the second syllable is a neutral schwa.
shabbes	<i>shah</i> -biss
Yiddish	<i>yid</i> -dish
kinder	The vowel in the second syllable is a neutral schwa.
dreydel	The vowel in the first syllable rhymes with "play." The vowel in the second syllable is a neutral schwa. The "r" is rolled or flipped.
latkes	<i>lah</i> t-kiss

**Note:** Zalmen Mlotek has recorded "Zol Zain Sholem" with the children's chorus of the Workmen's Circle School. The recording is called *Gut Yontif Kinder* and is available through the Workmen's Circle Yiddish Book Center, 45 East 33rd Street, New York, NY 10016.

Notes by Joshua Jacobson. © 1994 by Joshua Jacobson/World Music Press.

# Zol Zain Sholem

traditional

arr: Joshua Jacobson

$\text{♩} = 60$

(vamp)

## A Refrain I

solo

S/A

T/B

piano

ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

Cmin G7 Cmin

solo

S/A

T/B

piano

4

ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa

ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa

ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa

Cmin G7 Cmin G7

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Traditional Eastern European Jewish song

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7

solo

yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

S/A

yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

T/B

yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

Cmin Cmin G7 Cmin

**B Verse (All verses begin here.)**

10

solo

Sho - lem, sho - lem, zol zain zol zain  
Yontif Yontif

S/A

Sho - lem, sho - lem, zol zain zol zain  
Yontif Yontif

T/B

Sho - lem, sho - lem, zol zain zol zain

Cmin Cmin Cmin C7

Subsequent verses, substitute for "sholem": "shabbes," "Yiddish," "kinder," or for the holiday of Chanukah, "dreydel," "latkes," etc. If you want to sing a few verses in English, create your own or try the following suggestions (remember to adjust the rhythm if necessary):

Peace (peace), Peace (peace) Let the world know peace  
Peace (peace), Peace (peace) Let the world know peace and friendship

Freedom (freedom), Freedom (freedom), Let us live in freedom  
Freedom (freedom), Freedom (freedom), Let us live in freedom, freedom

Children (children), Children (children), Fill the world with children  
Children (children), Children (children), Fill the world with children laughing

13

solo

sho - lem, — sho - lem, sho - lem,

S/A

sho - lem, *Yontif* sho - lem,

T/B

sho - lem, — sho - lem,

Fmin Bb

13

**C** *Refrain 2*

16

solo

zol zain zol zain zol zain sho - lem. ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa

S/A

zol zain zol zain zol zain sho - lem. pa pa pa pa

T/B

zol zain zol zain zol zain sho - lem. yam pam pa pa

G7 Cmin G7

16

19

solo

yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

S/A

pam pam pa pa pa pa pam pam

T/B

pam pam yam pam pa pa pam ya pa pa pa

Cmin Cmin G7 Cmin

19

*Back to new verse, pg.2, section B*

22

solo

ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam ya pa pa pa ya pa pa pa yam pam pam

S/A

pa pa pa pa pam pam pa pa pa pa pam pam

T/B

yam pam pa pa pam pam yam pam pa pa yam pam pam

Cmin G7 Cmin Cmin G7 Cmin

22

Repeat ad lib verses and refrains, alternating soloists, if desired, or isolating voice parts to sing the refrains: only males, only females, only high voices, only low voices, only those under 4' tall, etc.