

Yih'yu l'ratson (*May the words of my mouth*)*for SATB Chorus unaccompanied*

Traditional Sabbath Prayer, S. M. H., tr.

Stanley M. Hoffman

Slowly ♩ = 60

Soprano

p *mp - p*

Yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson, yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson im - re
 May the words of my mouth, may the words of my mouth, my

Alto

p *mp - p*

Yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson, yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson im - re
 May the words of my mouth, may the words of my mouth, my

Tenor

p *mp - p*

Yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson, yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson im - re
 May the words of my mouth, may the words of my mouth, my

Bass

p *mp - p*

Yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson, yi - h' - yu l' - ra - tson im - re
 May the words of my mouth, may the words of my mouth, my

Keyboard
 (for rehearsal only)

Slowly ♩ = 60

Two other versions of Yih'yu l'ratson (*May the words of my mouth*) are available from the publisher:

Catalog No. 5876 for cantor (high voice) and keyboard, and

Catalog No. 5877 for cantor (low voice) and keyboard.

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5 *mf-mp*

fi v' - heg - yon li - bi l' - fa - ne - cha A - do - nai, tsu -
mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleas - ing to you, O

mf-mp

fi v' - heg - yon li - bi l' - fa - ne - cha A - do - nai, tsu -
mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleas - ing to you, O

mf-mp

fi v' - heg - yon li - bi l' - fa - ne - cha A - do - nai, tsu -
mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleas - ing to you, O

mf-mp

fi v' - heg - yon li - bi l' - fa - ne - cha A - do - nai, tsu -
mouth and the thoughts of my heart be pleas - ing to you, O

10 *mp-p* *p-pp*

ri, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, A - do -
Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re - deem - er, O

mp-p

ri, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li,
Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re - deem - er,

mp-p

ri, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li,
Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re - deem - er,

mp-p

ri, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li,
Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re - deem - er,

15

The musical score is for the hymn 'Rock of Ages'. It consists of five staves. The first four staves are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass) and the fifth is a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves. The tempo is marked 'Andante' and the key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature is 3/4. The score includes dynamic markings: *mp-p*, *p-pp*, *mp-p*, and *mf-mp*. There are also triplets and slurs indicated. The lyrics are: 'nai, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a - Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re'. The piano part features a steady accompaniment with triplets in the right hand and a more active bass line.

mp-p *mf-mp*

nai, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a -
Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re

p-pp *mp-p* *mf-mp*

A - do - nai, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a -
O Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re

p-pp *mp-p* *mf-mp*

A - do - nai, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a -
O Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re

p-pp *mp-p* *mf-mp*

A - do - nai, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li, tsu - ri v' - go - a -
O Lord, my rock and my re - deem - er, my rock and my re

19

The musical score consists of five staves. The first four staves are vocal parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and the fifth staff is the piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The time signature changes from 4/4 to 3/4 at measure 8. Dynamics include mp-p, p, and pp. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

li, _____ tsu - ri _____ v' - go - a - li. _____ Yi - h' -
deem - er, my rock _____ and my re - deem - er. _____ May the

li, _____ tsu - ri _____ v' - go - a - li. _____ Yi - h' -
deem - er, my rock _____ and my re - deem - er. _____ May the

li, _____ tsu - ri _____ v' - go - a - li. _____ Yi - h' -
deem - er, my rock _____ and my re - deem - er. _____ May the

li, _____ tsu - ri _____ v' - go - a - li. _____ Yi - h' -
deem - er, my rock _____ and my re - deem - er. _____ May the

23 [2] *pp*

li. deem - er.

pp

li, deem - er, tsu - ri v' - go - a - li. deem - er.

pp

li, deem - er, tsu my ri rock and my re - deem - er.

pp

li. deem - er.

* optional repeat

2001
c. 2'00"

Stanley M. Hoffman

Born in Cleveland, Ohio in 1959, Stanley M. Hoffman has lived in the greater Boston area since 1977. He holds degrees in composition from Brandeis University (PhD 1993), New England Conservatory of Music (MM 1984), and The Boston Conservatory (BM *Cum Laude* 1981). Dr. Hoffman's *Grant Us Peace* (ECS Publishing No. 6031, an homage to the victims of the terrorist attacks of 9/11/01 composed to a text from *Gates of Prayer*) received "honors" in the 2002 Waging Peace Through Singing program and was recommended for performance by the jury. Dr. Hoffman's commissions include *Selections from the Song of Songs* for male voice and wind ensemble from the Metropolitan Wind Symphony in 1996, and *Trio in One Movement* for clarinet, viola and violoncello from the contemporary music ensemble ALEA III in 1995. *There Is a Name* for SA chorus and amplified classical guitar was performed before 8,000 people in 1995 at the dedication ceremonies for the New England Holocaust Memorial of Boston. The Boston Composers String Quartet has performed his *String Quartet* (1987) at Jordan Hall, Boston, and at Carnegie Hall, New York City. Dr. Hoffman received a BMI Award to Student Composers in 1985 for his composition *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Blackbird* for mezzo-soprano and string quartet. Chief Editor at ECS Publishing since 1998, Dr. Hoffman is also active as a conductor, lecturer, and vocalist in the Boston area.