

B tonic version

Hanerot Halalu

flexible canon for Hanukkah

Sarah Riskind (b. 1987)

Prayerful, but not too slow

1 **A** $\text{♩} = 44$ B Am (or C) B

Ha-ne-rot ha - la - lu a - nach - nu mad - li - kin al - ha - ni -

5 Cmaj7 (or Am7) B

sim v' - al ha - nif - la' - ot,

7 **B** B Am (or C) B

al hat' - shu - ot v' - al ha - mil - cha - mot she - a -

11 Cmaj7 (or Am7) B

si - ta la'a - vo - tei - nu

13 **C** B Am (or C) B

ba - ya - mim ha - hem, baz - man ha - zeh al y' - dei ko - ha -

17 Cmaj7 (or Am7) B

ne - cha ha - k'do - shim.

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Hebrew Transliterated Text and Translation

Hanerot halalu anachnu madlikin	We light these lights
Al hanisim v'al hanifla'ot	For the miracles and the wonders,
V'al hat'shu'ot v'al hamilchamot	For the redemption and the battles
She'asita lavoteinu	That you made for our forefathers
Bayamim hahem bazman hazeh.	In those days at this season, through your holy priests.

Text Source

The candle-lighting prayer Hanerot Halalu is a liturgical poem based on Mishnah tractate Sofrim 20:6, from the writings known as the Talmud. A central text in Judaism, the Talmud contains complex layers of rabbinic law that influence the life and worship of observant Jews.

Pronunciation Resources

Visit <https://www.jewishchoralmusic.com/singing-in-hebrew> for a guide to singing in Hebrew. There are also many online recordings and videos of other melodies with the same text.

Hanukkah

Hanukkah (or Chanukah/other spellings) is a historical holiday that commemorates the 168 B.C.E. victory of the Jewish resistance forces, led by the Maccabee family, over the army of Antiochus Epiphanes. In the face of violence, destruction, and forced assimilation into Greek culture, the Maccabees' courage allowed the Jews to preserve their culture and religion.

Later in history, another story was told: when the Maccabees reclaimed the holy Temple in Jerusalem, there was only one jar of oil to keep the sacred light burning. This miraculous oil lasted for eight nights, inspiring eight nights of celebration and the practice of lighting a menorah (more accurately called a *Hanukkiyah*) with an additional candle on each of those nights.

Around the 1920s, American Jewish families began exchanging Hanukkah gifts, due to the holiday's proximity to Christmas. Other traditions include making fried potato pancakes called *latkes* and jelly doughnuts called *sufganiyot* (in order to celebrate the oil), playing *dreydl*, and singing the Hanukkah blessings while lighting the candles. Although it is a popular holiday today, it not one of the most important religious holidays for Jewish people; Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (typically in September and/or October) carry much more significance.