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# Eric Whitacre

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## Five Hebrew Love Songs

for soprano, violin and piano

- I. Temuná
- II. Kalá kallá
- III. Lárov
- IV. Éyze shéleg
- V. Rakút

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## Chester Music

In the spring of 1996, my great friend and brilliant violinist Friedemann Fichhorn invited me and my girlfriend-at-the-time Hila Plitmann (a soprano) to give a concert with him in his home city of Speyer, Germany. We had all met that year as students at the Juilliard School and were inseparable. Because we were appearing as a band of travelling musicians, 'Friedy' asked me to write a set of troubadour songs for piano, violin and soprano. I asked Hila (who was born and raised in Jerusalem), to write me a few 'postcards' in her native tongue, and a few days later she presented me with these exquisite and delicate Hebrew poems. I set them while we vacationed in a small skiing village in the Swiss Alps, and we performed them for the first time a week later in Speyer.

In 2001, the University of Miami commissioned me to adapt the songs for SATB chorus and string quartet, and the Efroni Choir in Israel commissioned me to adapt them for SA, violin and piano, leaving me now with five (!) different versions of the same work: SATB and string quartet; SATB, violin, and piano; SA and string quartet; SA, violin, and piano; and the original soprano, violin, and piano.

Each of the songs captures a moment that Hila and I shared together. "Kalá kallá" (which means 'light bride') was a pun I came up with while she was first teaching me Hebrew. The bells at the beginning of "T'yzc shéileg" are the exact pitches that awakened us each morning in Germany as they rang from a nearby cathedral.

These songs are profoundly personal for me, born entirely out of my new love for this soprano, poet and now my beautiful wife, Hila Plitmann.

Eric Whitacre

## FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS

### I. Temuná

A picture is engraved in my heart;  
Moving between light and darkness:  
A sort of silence envelopes your body,  
And your hair falls upon your face just so.

### II. Kalá kallá

Light bride  
She is all mine,  
And lightly  
She will kiss me!

### III. Lárov

"Mostly," said the roof to the sky,  
"the distance between you and me is endlessness;  
But a while ago two came up here,  
And only one centimetre was left between us."

### IV. Éyze shéleg

What snow!  
Like little dreams  
Falling from the sky.

### V. Rakút

He was full of tenderness;  
She was very hard.  
And as much as she tried to stay thus,  
Simply, and with no good reason,  
He took her into himself,  
And set her down  
In the softest, softest place.

# FIVE HEBREW LOVE SONGS

for soprano, violin, tambourine and piano

## I. Temuná

*A picture*

HILA PLITMANN

ERIC WHITACRE

**Dolce con rubato**  $\text{♩} = 96$

SOPRANO

VIOLIN

TAMBOURINE

PIANO

6

S. *mp*  
Te-mu - ná be-li-bi elu-ru-

Vln. *mp*

Pno. *mp*

12

S. *mf*  
- tá; No - dé - det beyn ór u-veyn ó - fel: Min dma - má she-ka - zó et gu -

Vln.

Pno.

\* Violin part is available on sale separately CH75240-01

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16 *mp*

S. *- fěch kach - o - tá, U - sa - réch al pa - ná' - ich kach ná - fel.*

Vln.

Pno.

II. Kalá kallá  
Light bride

Teneramente ♩ = 96

SOPRANO *mp*

Ka - lá kal - lá Ku - lá she - li, Ka - lá kul - la she - li, Ká - lu kal la Ku -

VIOLIN *mp* *espress.*

TAMBOURINE

PIANO *mp*

rit. -----

Leggero ♩ = 86-92

6

S. *- lá she - li, Ká - lu kul - lá she - li, la la la la la la la la*

Vln. *mp* *pizz.*

Tamb. *mp*

PIANO *mp*

rit. -----

Leggero ♩ = 86-92

11

S. *la la*

Vln.

Tamb.

Pno.

17

S. *la la*

Vln.

Tamb.

Pno.

23

S. *la la la la la la la Ka - lá kal - lá Ku - lá she - li, Ka*

Vln. *arco*

Tamb.

Pno.

Tempo 1° (♩ = 96)

*mp*

Tempo 1° (♩ = 96)

*mp*

Red

28

S. *-lá - lá - lá - she - H.*

Vln.

Pno.

32

rit. . . . . **Tempo II<sup>o</sup>** (♩ = 86-92)

S. *la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la*

Vln. *pizz.*

Tamb. *mp*

Pno. *rit. . . . . Tempo II<sup>o</sup>* (♩ = 86-92)

37

S. *la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la*

Vln.

Tamb.

Pno.

43

S. *la la*

Vin.

Tamb.

Pno.

Adagio espressivo ♩ = 80

49

S. *U' - ve - ka - lüt - Ti - shák - hí - lí! Ka - lá - Ku - lá - shcl -*

Vin. *urco*

Tamb.

Pno. *pp*

Adagio espressivo ♩ = 80

54

S. *- lí - Ku - lá - kal - lá - U' - ve - ka - lüt - Ti - shák - ti - shák ti-shák*

Vin.

Tamb.

Pno.

rit. *P* **Tempo II° con fuoco** *f*

rit. **Tempo II° con fuoco**



59

S. *hi hi! la*

Vln.

Tamb.

Pno.

65

S. *la la*

Vln.

Tamb.

Pno.

71

S. *la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la la*

Vln.

Tamb.

Pno.

*loco*

*ff*

### III. Lárov Mostly

Con rubato ♩ = 108

SOPRANO *mf*

"Lá-rov," a - már gag la'-sha - ma' - im, "Hu - mer - chák she - bey - néy - nu hu

VIOLIN *mf* *mp*

PIANO *mf* *mp sub.*

4

S. ad; Ach líf - néy zman a - lu le - chán shna' - im, U-vey-

Vln. *mf* *mp*

Pno. *mf* *mp*

7 *f* rit. . . . .

S. -néy - nu nish - ár sen - tí - mé - ter e - chad."

Vln. *f* rit. . . . .

Pno. *f*

IV. Éyze shéleg  
What snow!

Senza misura

SOPRANO

VIOLIN

PIANO

*עוד* →  
\* gradually, randomly melt into the aleatoric section  
\*\* play pitches in random order

*whispered*  
Éyze shéleg! Kmo  
chalornót ktanim  
No'fir mehashamá'im;

$\text{♩} = 64$

*mp dolce*

S.

Vln.

Pno.

S.

Vln.

Pno.

Poco più mosso

11

S. 

Vln.  *mp* *cresc. poco a poco*

Pno.  *cresc.*

*And* →

*mf*

16

S.  slowly close to "m"

Vln.  *mp* *mf* *espress.*

Pno.  *mf*

*And* *And*

20

S.  *p* *rit.*

Vln.  *p* *rit.*

Pno.  *p*

*And* *And*

*attacca*

V. Rakút  
Tenderness

SOPRANO *Semplice* ♩ = 76 *mp*  
Hu ha - yá ma - lé ra - kút;

VIOLIN *p*

PIANO *P*  
Ped sim.

6  
S. *mf*  
Hi huy-tá ka - shá. Ve-chól

Vln. *solo*  
*espress.*

Pno. *espress.*  
Ped

11 *mf*  
S. *mf*  
ká ma she-nis-tá le - hi-sha - ér kach. Ve-chól

Vln. *mp*  
*mf espress.*

Pno. *mf* R.H. R.H. *sim.*  
Ped sim.

15 rit.

S. *mf* ká-ma sho-ris-tá le - hi-sha - ér kách, Pa -

In. *mf* rit.

no. *mf* rit.

19 a tempo

S. *mf* - shút, uv - lí sí - bú to - vá, La -

In. *mf* *mp sub.*

no. *mf* *mp sub.*

23 ten.

S. *mf* - kách o - tá el tocht atz-mó, Ve-he - ní - ach Ve-he - ní - ach Ba -

In. *mf*

no. *mf* *mp*

27

S. *ten. P*  
 - ma - kóm ha - chí, ha - chí, ha -

Vln.

Pno. L.H. R.H. *p*

Ped.

31 *pp freely* **Dolce con rubato** ♩ = 96

S. - chí rach.

Vln. *p*

Pno. *p*

Germany, March 1996