



***The spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels***  
-- Ezekiel 1:21

***"Wheels Within Wheels*** deepens the musical experience created at Congregation Bet Haverim by lifting the veil between the ordinary and the sacred, so that our earthy expression of musical holiness connects with the celestial resonance of the universal. Like Ezekiel's mystical vision, the spirals of harmonies, voices and instruments evoke contemplation, awe and celebration. At times ***Wheels Within Wheels*** will transport you to an intimate experience with your

innermost self, and at other times it will convey a profound connection with the world around you."

-- Rabbi Joshua Lesser

## **THE MUSICIANS OF CONGREGATION BET HAVERIM**

### **Chorus**

**Soprano:** Nefesh Chaya, Sara Dardik, Julie Fishman, Nancy Gerber, Joy Goodman, Ellie McGraw, Theresa Prestwood, Rina Rosenberg, Faith Russler, Sandi Schein

**Alto:** Jesse Harris Bathrick, Elke Davidson, Gayanne Geurin, Kim Goldsmith, Rebecca Green, Carrie Hausman, Alix Laing, Rebecca Leary Safon, AnnaLaura Scheer, Valerie Singer, Linda Weiskoff, Valerie Wolpe, McKenzie Wren

**Tenor:** Ned Bridges, Brad Davidorf, Faye Dresner, Henry Farber, Alan Hymowitz, Lynne Norton

**Bass:** Dan Arnold, Gregg Bedol, David Borthwick, Gary Falcon, Bill Laing, Bill Witherspoon, Howard Winer

### **Band**

Will Robertson, guitar, keyboards; Natalie Stahl, clarinet, saxophone; Sarah Zaslav, violin, viola; Reuben Haller, mandolin; Jordan Dayan, bass, electric bass; Mike Zimmerman, drum kit, percussion; Henry Farber and Gayanne Geurin, percussion; with Matthew Kaminski, accordion

### **Strings**

Sarah Zaslav and Benjamin Reiss, violin; David Borthwick, viola; Ruth Einstein, cello; Will Robertson, double bass

### **Children's Choir and CBH Community School**

**Chorus director:** Will Robertson

**Music director:** Gayanne Geurin

## Thank You

**It takes a shul to raise a recording.** Huge thanks to the recording project team for crafting and guiding the Merkavah Project. CBH is enormously blessed with members who volunteer their immense talents, heart and soul to create meaningful music and spiritual experiences. The musicians above are the spiritual fuel that runs this “chariot.” We are so grateful for you all.

### **Special thanks to these folks who made this CD possible:**

**Sonia Ron Osio:** Original Artwork

**Jessica Lily:** Photography

**Laurie Slack:** Graphic Design

**Sarah Zaslav:** liner notes and copy editing

**Carrie Hausman:** communications, web pages, and financials

**Julie Fishman:** digital distribution

**Lynne Norton:** licensing

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**Rabbi Joshua Lesser:** Insight, spiritual connections

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This album was engineered by Vic Stafford, Martin Kearns and Will Robertson. Mixed by Will Robertson at Gallop Studios. Mastering by Colin Leonard at SING Mastering, Atlanta, using SING Technology.

Recorded in and around Atlanta at Gallop Studios, Southern Tracks, 800 East, Clarkston Community Center (thanks, McKenzie Wren), Central Congregational UCC, St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and The Friends School.

## TRACKS, LYRICS AND MUSIC NOTES

### 1. Achot Ketana

Traditional Moroccan words and tune. Arranged by [Will Robertson](#). Performed by the CBH Chorus and Band.

This [Sephardi](#) piyyut (liturgical poem) for Rosh Hashanah looks from the old year to the new year. It is sung in unusual seven-bar phrases.

Achot ketana tefiloteha	The little sister prepares her prayers
Orcha v'ona tehiloteha	And intones her praises
El na refana l'machaloteha	God, heal her sickness now
Tichle shana v'kileloteha	May the year and its misfortunes now cease altogether

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### 2. LYG (Lo Yisa Goy)

Hebrew text from [Isaiah 2:4](#). English text from an African American spiritual. Music by Aaron Lightstone, [Aviva Chernick](#) and Chris Gartner. Arranged by [Will Robertson](#). Performed by the CBH Chorus and Band with soloists Gayanne Geurin and Ellie McGraw.

“LYG (Lo Yisa Goy)” won the John Lennon Songwriting contest in 2009. In 2011, Aviva Chernick and [Jaffa Road](#) performed it with us at the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival. Will Robertson made this choral arrangement for that occasion.

Lo yisa goy el goy cherev	Let no nation lift a sword against a nation
Lo yilmedu od milchama	Let them learn no more the ways of war

I'm gonna lay down my sword and shield  
By the riverside  
Lay down my sword and shield

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### 3. Zochreinu L'Chaim

Prayer from High Holiday liturgy. Music by [Ara Dinkjian](#). Arranged by [Will Robertson](#). Performed by the CBH Chorus and Band.

Zochreinu l'chaim	Remember us for life
Melech chafetz bachaim	Sovereign who seeks to grant life
Vechotveinu besefer hachaim	Inscribe us into the Book of Life
Lema'anacha Elohim chaim	For your sake, God of Life



#### 4. Mad World / Kol Ha'Olam Kulo

“Mad World” written by [Roland Orzabal](#) (Tears for Fears). Publisher: Chrysalis Music Group. “Kol Ha'Olam Kulo” text attributed to Rabbi [Nachman of Bratslav](#), music by [Baruch Chait](#). Arranged by [Will Robertson](#). Performed by the CBH Chorus, Band and Strings with soloist Brad Davidorf.

The idea to make a mashup of these songs arose from a lucky misunderstanding between Brad Davidorf and Gayanne Geurin. It turns out that the two tunes, one American and one Israeli, mesh almost perfectly, and together they form a conversation about despair and hope.

All around me are familiar faces  
Worn out places, worn out faces  
Bright and early for the daily races  
Going nowhere, going nowhere  
And the tears are filling up their glasses  
No expression, no expression  
And in my head I want to drown my sorrow  
No tomorrow, no tomorrow

And I find it kind of funny  
I find it kind of sad  
The dreams in which I'm dying  
Are the best I've ever had  
And I find it hard to tell you  
I find it hard to take  
When people run in circles  
It's a very, very  
Mad world, mad world

Children waiting for the day they feel good  
Happy birthday, happy birthday  
Made to feel the way that every child should  
Sit and listen, sit and listen

Went to school and I was very nervous  
No one knew me, no one knew me  
Hello, teacher, tell me what's my lesson  
Look right through me, look right through me

And I find it kind of funny...

Kol ha'olam kulo gesher tzar me'od  
V'ha'ikar lo l'fached klal

The entire world is a very narrow bridge  
The essential thing is to have no fear at all

## 5. American Tune

By [Paul Simon](#). Published by Paul Simon Music. Arranged by [Will Robertson](#). Sung by Will Robertson with the CBH Chorus, Band and Strings.

For “American Tune” Paul Simon uses a same Lutheran chorale tune that Bach had set more than once, centuries earlier. Will’s arrangement begins and ends with the chorus wordlessly singing one of Bach’s settings.

We first sang Simon’s “American Tune” amid the Great Recession. It resonated with the congregation, so we kept it. Then, in September 2013, we were given a chance to perform it at Emory University to open a [lecture](#) by Paul Simon himself. In the run-up to that event, Emory made a seven-minute [video](#) about CBH Chorus members’ associations with the song.

Many’s the time I’ve been mistaken  
And many times confused  
Yes, and I’ve often felt forsaken  
And certainly misused  
Oh, but I’m all right, I’m all right  
I’m just weary to my bones  
Still, you don’t expect to be bright and bon vivant  
So far away from home, so far away from home

I don’t know a soul who’s not been battered  
I don’t have a friend who feels at ease  
I don’t know a dream that’s not been shattered  
Or driven to its knees  
Oh, but it’s all right, it’s all right  
For we’ve lived so well so long  
Still, when I think of the road we’re traveling on  
I wonder what went wrong  
I can’t help it, I wonder what’s gone wrong

And I dreamed I was dying  
And I dreamed that my soul rose unexpectedly  
And looking back down at me  
Smiled reassuringly  
And I dreamed I was flying  
And high above my eyes could clearly see  
The Statue of Liberty  
Sailing away to sea  
And I dreamed I was flying

Oh, we come on the ship they call the Mayflower  
We come on the ship that sailed the moon  
We come in the age's most uncertain hour  
And sing an American tune  
Oh, it's all right, it's all right, it's all right  
You can't be forever blessed  
Still, tomorrow's going to be another working day  
And I'm trying to get some rest  
That's all, I'm trying to get some rest

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## 6. Ahavat Olam

Prayer from the [Ma'ariv](#) service. Music by [Will Robertson](#). Sung by the CBH Chorus.

At High Holiday services, the chorus fans out around the sanctuary to sing this, forming a container in which to "hold" the congregation. The song repeats enough times for everyone to catch on and join in on the refrain, and the sound gets fuller and fuller.

Ahavat olam amcha ahavta	With everlasting love
Ahavat olam Beit Yisrael	You love the House of Israel
Torah umitzvot, chukim umishpatim	Torah and mitzvot, laws and justice
Otanu limad'ta	You have taught us
Al kein Adonai Eloheinu	And so, Adonai our God,
B'shachveinu u'v'kumeinu	When we lie down and when we rise
Nasi'ach b'chukecha	We reflect upon your laws
V'nismach b'divrei toratecha v'mitzvotcha	We take pleasure in your Torah's words and your mitzvot
L'olam va'ed	Now and always

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## 7. Or Zarua

Text from [Psalm 97:11](#). Music by [Dan Nichols](#). Published by Clashing Plaids. Vocal arrangement by Will Robertson. Performed by the CBH Chorus and Band.

Or zarua latzadik	Lightbeams are seeded for the righteous
Ul'yishrei lev simcha	Happiness for those steadfast of heart





## 8. La Hora

By [Roberto Juan Rodriguez](#). Performed by the CBH Band.

Cuban Jewish musician Roberto Juan Rodriguez specializes in blending Latin and Jewish sounds. In “La Hora” you can hear those klezmer and Cuban strains dancing together. Though to English-speakers’ eyes the title seems to refer to the Israeli circle dance the hora, it’s also simply Spanish for “the hour” or “time.”

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## 9. Swing Down Chariot

Arranged by [Will Robertson](#) after the [Golden Gate Quartet](#)’s version (1940s) of a traditional spiritual. Performed by the CBH Chorus and Band with soloists Ned Bridges, Bill Witherspoon and Brad Davidorf.

Thanks to the “Swing Down, Sweet Chariot,” we often associate chariot imagery with Christianity, but in fact the chariot in question makes its appearance in the Hebrew Bible: in a wild prophetic vision in the first chapter of the [Book of Ezekiel](#). This more lighthearted song on the same theme, “Swing Down Chariot,” begins with a smooth barbershop quartet and then gets swinging

Why don't you swing down, sweet chariot  
Stop and let me ride, Swing down, chariot  
Stop and let me ride, Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord  
Calm and easy, I got a home on the other side

Ezekiel went down in the middle of a field  
He said he saw an angel with a chariot wheel  
He wasn't so particular 'bout the chariot wheel  
He just wanted to see how a chariot feels

Why don't you swing down, sweet chariot...

Ezekiel went down and he got on board  
Chariot went a bumpin' on down the road  
Zeke wasn't so particular 'bout the bumpin' of the road  
He just wanted to lay down his heavy load

Why don't you swing down, sweet chariot...

Well I got a father in the promised land, I won't stop until I shake his hand  
Rock me, Lord, rock me, Lord, Calm and easy

I've got a home on the other side

Why don't you swing down, sweet chariot...

## 10. Terk (Yoducha Rayonai)

Traditional Turkish/Balkan tune. Arranged by [David Borthwick](#). Performed by the CBH Strings.

Congregation Bet Haverim sings the words "Yoducha Rayonai" to this melody. Turks call the song "Uskudar." Bulgarians, Albanians and others also think of it as their own. (See the 2003 documentary [Whose Is This Song?](#)) There's a Sephardi love song on this melody, too. *And* it's a type of wordless klezmer tune called a terk. Our violist, David Borthwick, made this arrangement for string quintet, incorporating a middle section from yet another klezmer number, "Araber Tanz."

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## 11. Hareni Mekabel Alai

Text from Jewish morning prayers and [Leviticus 19:18](#). Tune by [Gabriel Meyer Halevy](#). Arranged by [Will Robertson](#). Performed by Will Robertson and Sarah Zaslav, but mostly Will Robertson.

The positive statement of Judaism's golden rule: Love your fellow human being as yourself. When this song is done live, we use a loop pedal to add layer upon layer of guitar, voice and violin.

Hareni mekabel alai	Behold, I take upon myself
Et mitzvat haborei	The instruction of the Creator:
V'ahavta l'reyacha kamocho	"You shall love your fellow human being as yourself."
V'ahavta kamocho	

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## 12. Sanctuary

By [Eliza Gilkyson](#). Published by Red House Records. Arranged by [Will Robertson](#). Sung by Gayanne Geurin with Will Robertson and the CBH Strings.

This declaration of faith echoes [Psalm 23:4](#): "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me."

Yeah, though I walk through the valley of the shadow  
Thou art with me  
Though my heart's been torn on fields of battle  
Thou art with me  
Though my trust is gone and my faith not near  
In love's sanctuary thou art with me

Through desolation's fire and fear's dark thunder  
Thou art with me  
Through the sea of desires that drag me under

Thou art with me  
Though I've been traded in like a souvenir  
In love's sanctuary thou art with me

Through the doubter's gloom and the cynic's sneer  
Thou art with me  
In the crowded rooms of a mind unclear  
Thou art with me  
Though I'll walk for a while down a trail of tears  
In love's sanctuary thou art with me

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### 13. Yedid Nefesh

Traditional piyyut (liturgical poem) for Shabbat. Music by [Will Robertson](#).

Sung by the CBH Chorus.

Yedid nefesh av harachaman  
Meshoch avedecha el retzonecha

Yarutz avdecha kemo ayal  
Yishtachaveh el mul hadarecha

You who love my soul  
Sweet source of tenderness  
Take my inner nature  
And shape it to your will

Like a darting deer  
I will flee to you  
Before your glorious presence  
Humbly do I bow

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### 14. Shed a Little Light

By [James Taylor](#). Published by Country Road Music, Inc. Performed by the CBH Chorus and Band with soloist Brad Davidorf.

As Atlantans we are always conscious of living in the city where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born and preached. In many ways our synagogue aims to live up to his values. We have sung "Shed a Little Light" for Shabbat Shirah (Sabbath of Song), the annual Jewish celebration of freedom and music, which usually falls right around Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

Let us turn our thoughts today  
To Martin Luther King  
And recognize that there are ties between us  
All men and women living on the Earth  
Ties of hope and love, sister and brotherhood

That we are bound together  
In our desire to see the world become  
A place in which our children  
Can grow free and strong  
We are bound together  
By the task that stands before us  
And the road that lies ahead  
We are bound and we are bound

There is a feeling like the clenching of a fist  
There is a hunger in the center of the chest  
There is a passage through the darkness and the mist  
And though the body sleeps the heart will never rest

Shed a little light, oh Lord  
So that we can see  
Just a little light, oh Lord  
Gonna stand it on up  
Stand it on up, oh Lord  
Gonna walk it on down  
Shed a little light, oh Lord

Can't get no light from a dollar bill  
Don't give me no light from a TV screen  
When I open my eyes  
I wanna drink my fill  
From the well on the hill.

Do you know what I mean?  
Shed a little light, oh Lord...  
There is a feeling like the clenching of a fist...  
Let us turn our thoughts today to Martin Luther King...

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## 15. Shiru L'Adonai

Text from [Psalm 96](#):1–2. Music by [Will Robertson](#). Sung by the CBH Chorus.

Will Robertson composed this after an intense Yom Kippur service at which he conducted CBH musicians in part of Steve Reich's *Tehillim*, a famously difficult work for four solo singers and assorted instruments. Its changing meters and odd melodic jumps were stuck in his head for weeks afterward, and he found himself wanting to hear the full choir sing something similar. So he wrote it. What we're hearing here is the first part of a longer piece that he intended as kind of a choral etude, or study.

Shiru l'Adonai shir chadash  
Shiru l'Adonai kol ha'aretz

Sing out to God a new song!  
Sing to God all the earth!

Shiru l'Adonai barchu shemo  
Bas'ru miyom l'yom yeshuato

Sing to God—bless God's name  
Bring news, day after day, of divine help

## 16. Gonna Get Through This World

Lyrics by [Woody Guthrie](#). Music by [Lisa Gutkin](#) (of [The Klezmatics](#)). Publishers: Woody Guthrie Publications, Inc. & Quartet Music (BMI). Arranged by Will Robertson. Performed by the CBH Chorus and Band with soloists Ellie McGraw, Faith Russler, Valerie Wolpe and Sara Dardik.

“Gonna Get Through This World” was written in stages. Woody Guthrie penned the lyrics back in 1945; then in 2003 the Klezmatics came up with the music, and finally Will Robertson made our choral arrangement.

Yai dai dai...

I'm gonna get through this world  
The best I can, if I can  
I'm gonna get through this world  
And I think I can  
I'm gonna work in this world  
The best I can, if I can  
I'm gonna work in this world  
And I think I can  
I'm gonna get through this world  
The best I can, if I can

I'm gonna walk in this world...  
I'm gonna talk in this world...  
And I think I can, and I think I can

I'm gonna get through this world  
The best I can, if I can  
I'm gonna work in this world  
The best I can, if I can  
I'm gonna get through this world  
The best I can

Yai dai dai...

I'm gonna clean up this world...  
I'm gonna leave this world behind...  
And I think I can, and I think I can

I'm gonna clean up this world

The best I can, if I can  
I'm gonna leave this world behind  
The best I can, if I can  
I'm gonna get through this world  
The best I can

Yai dai dai...

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## 17. The Sun Shines on Everyone

By [Snatam Kaur](#). Sung by the CBH Children's Chorus (Gayanne Geurin, director) and the congregation at the CBH Community School, accompanied by Will Robertson and Mike Zimmerman.

In this call-and-response song, the Children's Chorus calls, and everyone else responds. Here "everyone else" means the other children, parents and teachers who were at the [CBH Community School](#)'s family minyan on a recent Sunday morning.

The sun shines on everyone  
It doesn't make choices

When it rains, it rains on everyone  
It doesn't make choices

The one spirit lives in everyone  
It doesn't make choices

And we pray, we pray for everyone  
We don't make choices

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## 18. Ella's Song

By [Bernice Johnson Reagon](#) (of [Sweet Honey in the Rock](#)). Published by Songtalk Publishing Co. Sung by Gayanne Geurin with the CBH Chorus and Band. Middle verse written by chorus member [Bill Witherspoon](#).

We who believe in freedom cannot rest  
We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes

Until the killing of black men  
Black mothers' sons  
Is as important as the killing of white men  
White mothers' sons

We who believe in freedom cannot rest...

I know it's love that makes a family  
There's no law that's gonna take that away  
But when they move to steal your freedom  
It hurts everybody, straight or gay

We who believe in freedom cannot rest...

Not needing to clutch to power  
Don't need the light to shine on me  
I need to be one in the number  
As we stand against tyranny

We who believe in freedom cannot rest...

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## 19. Hashkiveinu Lullaby

Prayer from the [Ma'ariv](#) service. Music by [Will Robertson](#). Sung by the CBH Chorus.

Will Robertson's daughter was a baby when he set the evening prayer Hashkiveinu in a lilting 6/8 time and marked it "gently swaying." The resulting song was featured at the 2013 [Shalsholet](#) festival in Miami. Composers of Jewish music from all over the world submitted songs. "Hashkiveinu Lullaby" was one of just 30 songs selected for inclusion.

Hashkiveinu Adonai Eloheinu l'shalom  
V'ha'amideinu malkeinu l'chaim  
Ufros aleinu sukat shlomecha

Help us to lie down, Adonai our God, in  
peace  
And let us rise again, our sovereign, to life  
Spread over us the shelter of your peace