

# A HANUKKAH PRAYER OF THANKS

*Al Hanissim*

Traditional

*Arranged by Susan H. Day (ASCAP)*

## INSTRUMENTATION

Full Score .....	1
Violin I .....	8
Violin II .....	8
Viola .....	5
Cello .....	5
String Bass .....	5

## FLEX PARTS

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A unique Hanukkah selection, this piece embodies traditional Jewish music with its haunting melodies. In  $\frac{4}{4}$  time throughout, this piece uses easy rhythms, lifts, tremolo, a few two-note slurs and ties, along with some cello divisi. The viola part doubles the 2nd violin and the cello doubles the bass. This is an excellent teaching piece for dotted-quarter-note rhythm.

The prayer "Al Hanissim" is sung or read at Hanukkah, expressing thanks for the miracles that have been bestowed upon the people's ancestors.

## NOTES TO THE CONDUCTOR

The piece should be played legato throughout.

The original melody of "Al Hanissim" uses the B $\flat$  to C $\sharp$  interval in the Jewish/Spanish scale. To keep this piece in the grade 1.5 range, the B $\flat$ 's have been eliminated, thus simplifying the piece. There is one B $\flat$ , however, which I could not resist, at the very end in the Violin 1 part. It is on a half note going to open A, thereby allowing time to readjust the left hand, so should provide an easy opportunity to learn B $\flat$  on the A string. Violin 1's will also have a low 1 on E at measures 17 and 31 (followed by open E, so not too difficult). It is suggested for upper strings to use 4th finger instead of open E at measures 10 and 12, as well as other measures in the Violin 1 part as indicated with a 4 over the note, to avoid string crossings.

Violin 2s and Viola have a few F $\sharp$ 's, (low 2nd finger on D) starting at m. 24, which will reinforce learning low 2.

A **molto ritard** at the end creates some fun drama, and it all ends on a joyous note with a major chord!

## Note from the Editor

In orchestral music, there are many editorial markings that are open for interpretation. In an effort to maintain consistency and clarity you may find some of these markings in this piece. In general, markings for fingerings, bowing patterns, and other items will only be marked with their initial appearance. For a more detailed explanation of our editorial markings, please download the free PDF at [www.alfred.com/stringeditorial](http://www.alfred.com/stringeditorial).

X  
extended position

-  
shift

'  
bow lift/reset

(b), (#), (b)  
high or low fingerings

▣ ▣ or V V  
hooked bowings

I hope you will find these explanations to be helpful. Best wishes with all of your musical endeavors!



Chris M. Bernotas  
Director of String Publications



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# A Hanukkah Prayer of Thanks

Al Hanissim

Traditional

Arranged by Susan H. Day (ASCAP)

FULL SCORE

Duration - 1:50

Moderato (♩ = 120)

Violins I  
Violins II  
Viola  
Cello  
String Bass

*mf legato*

1 2 3 4

This section of the score covers measures 1 through 4. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The Violins I and II parts are in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature, playing a melodic line of quarter notes. The Viola part is in alto clef with a 4/4 time signature, also playing quarter notes. The Cello and String Bass parts are in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The dynamic marking is *mf legato*. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

Vlns. I  
Vlns. II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

*div.*

5 6 7 8

This section of the score covers measures 5 through 8. It features five staves: Violins I, Violins II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The Violins I and II parts are in treble clef with a 4/4 time signature, playing a melodic line of quarter notes. The Viola part is in alto clef with a 4/4 time signature, playing quarter notes. The Cello and String Bass parts are in bass clef with a 4/4 time signature, playing a rhythmic accompaniment of eighth notes. The dynamic marking is *div.*. A large red watermark is overlaid on the score.

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

9 10 11 12

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 9 through 12. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measures 9 and 10 show a melodic line in the strings with a four-measure rest in measure 10. Measures 11 and 12 continue the melodic development. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

*To Coda* ⊕

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

13 14 15 16

Detailed description: This block contains the musical notation for measures 13 through 16. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature has one sharp (F#). Measure 13 begins with a 'To Coda' instruction. Measures 14 and 15 show a melodic line in the strings with a four-measure rest in measure 15. Measure 16 concludes the section. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the page.

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

17 18 19 20

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 17 through 20. It features five staves: Violins I and II, Viola, Cello, and String Bass. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 17-19 show a melodic line in the strings with various articulations (accents, slurs) and dynamics. Measure 20 continues the melodic development. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

I  
Vlns.  
II  
Vla.  
Cello  
Str. Bass

21 22 23 24

*f*  
*mf*  
*mf*  
*mf*

Detailed description: This block contains the musical score for measures 21 through 24. It features the same five staves as the previous block. Measure 21 continues the melodic line. Measure 22 has a dynamic marking of *f*. Measure 23 has a dynamic marking of *mf*. Measure 24 has a dynamic marking of *mf* and includes a first ending bracket with a '2' above it. A large red watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

*mf*

*f*

25 26 27 28

Vlns. I

Vlns. II

Vla.

Cello

Str. Bass

29 30 31 32 33

D.S.  $\%$  al Coda

Score for measures 34-37. Instruments: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass. Dynamics: *mf*. Measure numbers 34, 35, 36, 37 are indicated below the staves.

Score for measures 38-41. Instruments: Vlns. I, Vlns. II, Vla., Cello, Str. Bass. Dynamics: *f*, *ff*. Tempo marking: *molto rit.*. Coda symbol is present above measure 38. Measure numbers 38, 39, 40, 41 are indicated below the staves.