TALMUD SUITE

The Talmud is a vast corpus of law, commentaries, legend, and philosophy, compiled more or less independently in Palestine and Babylonia between the third and eighth centuries. The arguments and dissenting opinions of the leading scholars and schools of the time are recorded in all their complexity and universality of reference. No other work has had a comparable influence on the theory and practice of Jewish life, shaping spiritual content and serving as a guide to conduct throughout the world.

Although the Talmud's main objective is to provide legal interpretation, it is, simultaneously, a work of art that goes beyond legislation and its practical application. It is a blend of subtle logic and unswerving pragmatism, of history and science anecdote and humour. It also occasionally contains short poems - prayers designed for synagogue use, private devotions, ele random snatches of popular verse. It is this kind of material which provides the texts for the accompanying set of cho pieces.

Mining While there is an unmistakable reference in these pieces to earlier periods of musical expression for the pure the ancient character of the texts, there has been no attempt at evoking an authentic impression of the were written. The music is solely a response to an ancient and still very much living tradition through the and mind modern reader. If this music conjures up the past, that is all well and good. And if it touches upon more co that's fine too. And even if it does neither of these, and just happens to please the listener a little, the composer's purpose.

Note on Pronunciation

In the transliteration of the Hebrew text, most of the sounds are to be pronound aking particular note of the following:

- 1. ch is always pronounced as in Scottish "loch," e.g. v'chamas.
- 2. The apostrophe (') is used to indicate a reduced vowel similar to the e in "cou amal
- 3. Both a and ah are pronounced as the "a" in Italian "mano," e.g. atah.
- 4. ai is pronounced as the "y" in "sky," e.g. Elohai.

- 5. e is pronounced as in "met," e.g. mimeni. 6. ei is pronounced as the "ey" in "they," e.g. seifer. 7. i is pronounced as the "ee" in "feet," e.g. b'kirbi.
- 8. o is pronounced as in "for," e.g. t'horah.

through a grant from the Ontario Arts Council. This piece was commissioned by the Elmer Iseler Singer of To

VI PRAYER BEFORE SLEEP

Grouped among the prayers to be recited hom night.

Exalted art Thou, O my Lord Who art God and King of the World Who weighs down my eyes With gentle bonds of sleep h slumber. And refreshes my tired

May ever it be Thy w all fathers Lord my God, and C peace To lay me down n unt And raise m in peace once more

t dark imaginings disturb me ghts of sin and despai ith hea fear and my sufferi y bed be enclosed in Thy

M unto my eyes sleep of death of Lest th For 'tis Thou who breathes life Into man's slumb'ring soul. Exalted art Thou, O Lord, Who illuminates all the world With His Glory.

Eloheinu melech ha-olam Hamanil chaylei sheina Al einai Ut'numah al afapai Vihi ratson milfanecha Adonai Elohai Velohei Avotai Shetashkiveini l'shalom V'ta-amideini l'shalom

Baruch atah Adonai

V'al v'vahaluni ravonai Vachalomot ra-im V'harhorim ra-im U-t'hi mitati shleima l'fanecha

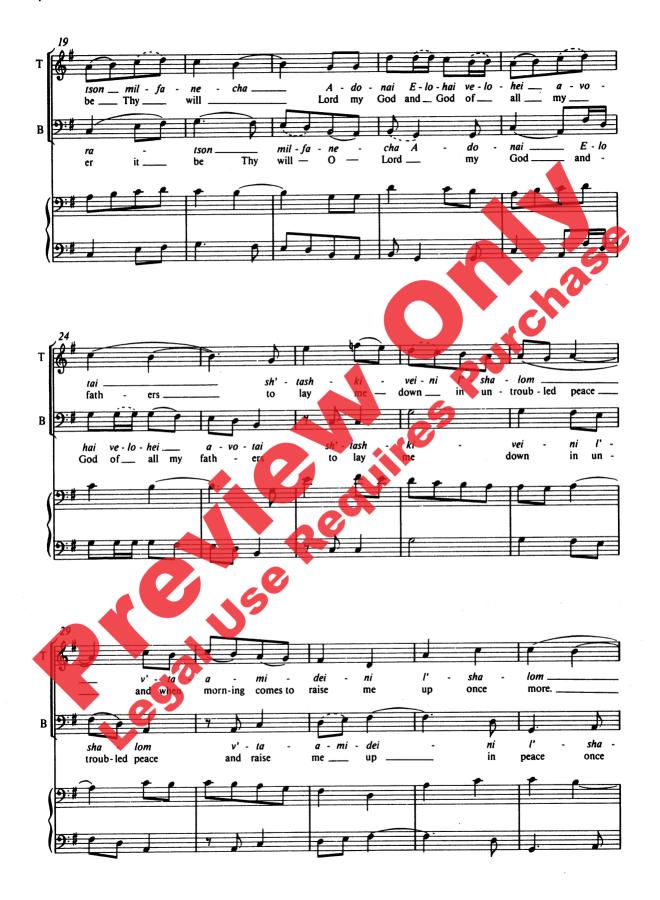
Pen ishan hamavet Ki atah hame-ir L'ishon bat-avin Baruch atah Adonai Hame-ir la-olam kulo Richvodo

V'ha-er einai

Prayer Before Sleep



© Copyright 1986 Gordon V. Thompson Music, Toronto, Canada A Division of Warner/Chappell Music Canada Ltd. All Rights Reserved













Alfred Publishing Co., Inc. 16320 Roscoe Blvd., Suite 100 • P.O. Box 10003 Van Nuys, CA 91410-0003