



Hava Nagila (Let Us Rejoice)

Apparently, the man largely responsible for the song's existence in its present form is Abraham Zevi Idelsohn, the father of Jewish Musicology. Three years after World War I he was a bandmaster in the Turkish Army during the war. Idelsohn returned to Jerusalem, leading a chorus in a "victory concert".

The Turks were out, the British were in, there was a Balfour Declaration, and the yishuv (*Jewish community*) was celebrating.

He needed a good crowd-pleasing number to end his concert, and he didn't have one. But he had a file, so he browsed, and as luck would have it his hand fell on this Sadigura Nigun. He arranged it in four parts, put some simple Hebrew lyrics to it, and performed it. The rest, as you know, is history, as this became the best-known Jewish song in the world.

Hava nagila, hava nagila
Hava nagila venis'mecha
Hava nagila, hava nagila
Hava nagila venis'mecha

Let us rejoice, let us rejoice,
let us rejoice and be glad
Let us rejoice, let us rejoice,
Let us rejoice and be glad

Hava neranena, hava neranena
Hava neranena venis'mecha

Let us, la-la-la-la. Let us la-la-la-la.
Let us, la-la-la-la, let us be glad

Uru, uru achim
Uru achim belev same'ach
Uru achim belev same'ach
Uru achim belev same'ach
Uru achim belev same'ach
Uru achim belev same'ach

Wake up, wake up brethren
Wake up brethren your heart of joy
Wake up brethren your heart of joy
Wake up brethren your heart of joy
Wake up brethren your heart of joy
Wake up brethren, wake your heart of joy