

JUDITH SHATIN

Chanukah, We Celebrate

3-part Treble Choir & Piano



## Program Note: *Chanukah We Celebrate*

The story of Chanukah is about the fight for survival of the Jewish religion, which the Syrian-Greek King Antiochus IV tried to eradicate in favor of the worship of Zeus. A resistance movement, consisting of the priest Mattathias and his five sons, whose leader was Judas Maccabeus, sprang up. Others joined and the larger group traditionally called the 'Maccabees,' prevailed.

The rededication of the Temple, which had been despoiled, led to the story of the miracle of one day's worth of oil lasting for eight days to keep the 'ner t'amid (eternal flame) burning. I understand this as a symbol of overcoming against overwhelming odds. Throughout history, terrible efforts have been made to destroy Judaism. Yet, as in the days of the Maccabees, it survives. I composed both the lyrics and music for *Chanukah We Celebrate* to contribute to the observance of this festive holiday. -JS

### **Chorus:**

Chanukah, we celebrate,  
Chanukah, rededicate, בָּרַח  
Chanukah, eight nights and days,  
Light the candles, see them blaze.

### **Verse 1**

King Antiochus tried to make us bow,  
But Judah and his brothers taught us to stand proud.  
We fought three years so we could all be free,  
And a miracle occurred when we lit the *ner t'amid*

### **Verse 2**

All the oil was in a tiny jar,  
We knew it would not last, it couldn't go far,  
But on and on it burned, Its glow so bright,  
And ever since we celebrate the festival of lights.

© 2024, Judith Shatin, All Rights Reserved

# Chankukah, We Celebrate

Words and Music  
by Judith Shatin

**Lively**

The musical score is arranged in four systems. The first system is for Piano, starting with a forte (*f*) dynamic. The second system includes a Tutti vocal line with lyrics "Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, we ce - le - brate," and a Pno. accompaniment with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic. The third system continues the vocal line with lyrics "Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah, re - de - di - cate, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah," and the Pno. accompaniment. The fourth system concludes the vocal line with lyrics "eight nights and days, Light the can - dles, see them blaze," and the Pno. accompaniment. The score includes various musical notations such as treble and bass clefs, time signatures (4/4, 3/4, 2/4), dynamics (*f*, *mf*), and articulation marks like slurs and accents. A large diagonal watermark "PERUSAHARA SCORE, NOT FOR PERFORMANCE" is overlaid across the score.

12 *mf*

Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, we ce - le - brate, Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, re - de - di - cate,

Pno.

15 *f*

Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, eight nights and days, Light the can - dles, see them blaze.

Pno.

*Poco meno mosso* ♩ = 72

19 *mf*

S1 King An - ti - o - chous tried to make us bow, but  
All of the oil \_\_\_\_\_ was in a ti - ny jar, We

S2 *mf*

King An - ti - o - chous tried to make us bow, but  
All of the oil \_\_\_\_\_ was in a ti - ny jar, We

A *mf*

Cha - An - ti - o - chous tried to make us bow, but  
All of oil \_\_\_\_\_ was in a ti - ny jar, We

Pno.

*f*

S1  
22  
Ju - dah and his bro - thers taught us to stand proud. We fought three years so we could all be free, and a  
knew it would not last, it could - n't go far, But on and on it burned, its glow so bright, and

S2  
Ju - dah and his bro - thers taught us to stand proud. We fought three years so we could all be free, and a  
knew it would not last, it could - n't go far, But on and on it burned, its glow so bright, and

A  
Ju - dah and his bro - thers taught us to stand proud. Cha - fought three years so we could all be free, and a  
knew it would not last, it could - n't go far, But All and on it burned, its glow so bright, and

S1  
Pno.  
22

S1  
24  
1 2  
mi-ra - cle oc-cured when we lit the ner t'a - mid. e-ver since we cel-e-brate the fes-ti-val of lights!  
e-ver since we cel-e-brate the mir-a - cle of lights.

S2  
1 2  
mi-ra - cle oc-cured when we lit the ner t'a - mid. e-ver since we cel-e-brate the fes-ti-val lights!  
e-ver since we cel-e-brate the mir-a - cle of lights.

A  
1 2  
mi-ra - cle oc-cured when we lit the ner t'a mid. e-ver since we cel-e-brate the fes-ti-val of lights!  
e-ver since we cel-e-brate the mir-a - clae of lights.

Pno.  
24  
*f* *f*

## Tempo Primo

*mf*

S1  
Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, we ce - le-brate, Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, re - de - di-cate,

*mf*

S2  
Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, we cel - le-brate, Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, re - ded - i - cate,

*mf*

A  
Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, we ce - le-brate, Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, re - de - di-cate,

Pno.

S1  
32 *f*  
Cha-nu - kah, Cha-nu - kah, eight nights and days, Light the can - dles, see them

S2  
*f*  
Cha - nu kah Cha - nu kah eight nights and days, Light the can - dles, see them

A  
*f*  
Cha-nu - kah Cha-nu - kah eights nights and days, Light the can - dles, see them

Pno.

36 *poco rit.* -----

S1  
blaze.

S2  
blaze.

A  
blaze.

Pno. *poco rit.* -----  
*mf*

**A Tempo**

39 *f*

S1  
Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah, re - de - di - cate, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah,

S2  
Cha - nu kah, Cha - nu - kah, re - de - di - cate, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah,

A  
Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah, re - de - di - cate, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah,

Pno. *f*

42 *mf* *cresc.* *f*

eight nights and days, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah, eight nights and days,

S2 *mf* *cresc.* *f*

eight nights and days, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah eight nights and days,

A *mf* *cresc.* *f*

eight nights and days, Cha - nu - kah, Cha - nu - kah eights nights and days,

Pno. *mf* *cresc.* *f*

46 *ff*

Light the can - dles see them blaze!

S2 *ff*

Light the can - dles, see them blaze!

A *ff*

Light the can - dles, see them blaze.

Pno. *ff* 6