

Young People's Jewish Song Writing Contest – 2010
Sharim v'Sharot Foundation is hosting: The Third Sharim v'Sharot Young
People's Jewish Song Writing Contest

Through the Third Young People's Jewish song writing contest, Sharim v'Sharot Foundation is offering an opportunity for young people to express their thoughts and feelings about Jewish life. Music reaches beyond boundaries and connects generations, one to another. With the creation of songs, applicants will share their talents with the Jewish Community and demonstrate that Jewish music can always be an important part of one's identity.

What is the Sharim v'Sharot Foundation?

The Sharim v'Sharot Foundation (from Ecclesiastes 2:8, Hebrew for "People of Song"), is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization based in the State of New Jersey that sponsors a four-part a cappella choir. Our mission is to perform the music of the Jewish people at the highest possible level, so that our love of Jewish music is conveyed to our audiences. We also aim to educate the public about the Jewish people, so they may appreciate the passion and value within the rich tapestry of Jewish experience. We serve the entire Jewish community, spanning Orthodox, Reform, Conservative, and Reconstructionist institutions. Sponsored by Rider University's Hillel and funded partly by the United Jewish Federation of Princeton Mercer Bucks, Sharim v'Sharot is an independent choir. We meet in Lawrenceville, New Jersey throughout the year. Our members are students and professionals of all ages, living throughout central New Jersey and the Greater Delaware Valley.

Who is eligible to enter?

Jewish children, ages 8-18, residing or attending school in Mercer County, New Jersey, or Bucks County, Pennsylvania are eligible. For purposes of this contest, we use the definition of "Jewish" as it appears in the in Birthright Israel Program:

Eligible individuals are those recognized as Jewish by the Jewish community or by one of the recognized denominations of Judaism; or if either parent is Jewish and the applicant does not actively practice another religion.

How is a Jewish song defined?

A Jewish song is a song in English, Hebrew Yiddish, or Ladino, that contains one or more of the following properties of text and music:

A. Lyrics are taken from *Tanach* (Torah, Prophets, the Writings,) the *Siddur* (Prayer Book,) the *Machzor* (The High Holiday Prayer Book,) other Jewish liturgical texts and texts of Jewish poets or other written materials if written about events, people, places, customs, observances, or issues of importance to the Jewish people.

For this year's contest, songs may be sung in Hebrew or English. If using the Hebrew, songs that are notated should use transliteration. (Musical notation, like Romanized text

moves from left to right. Hebrew text, however moves from right to left. Therefore Hebrew songs are almost always written in transliterated texts.)

B. Melody contains pitch and rhythm and can be repeated by other performers. Sorry, no Rap Songs accepted.

C. Melody contains full phrases and has at least a beginning, a contrasted section, and an ending section.

Who chooses the lyrics of the song?

This year, Sharim v'Sharot has chosen song lyrics. All applicants are assigned a specific text as follows:

K'tanim 8-11 years old are assigned the lyrics to "Adon Olam." Set the first two stanzas, or more. For translation, consult a *siddur* such as: *Siddur Sim Shalom*, Rabbi Jules Harlow, editor, New York: The Rabbinical Assembly, The United Synagogue of America, 1985, page 515.

Transliteration and syllabification are given for your convenience:

A-don O-lam a-sheer ma-lach
B'-te-rem kol ye-tzir niv-rah
L'-et na'-a-sa b'-chev-tzo kol
A-zai me-lech sh'-mo nik-ra.

V'-a-cha-rei kich-lot ha-kol
L'-va-do yim-loch no-ra
V'-Hu ha-ya v-Hu ho-veh
V'-Hu yih-yeh b'-tif-a-ra.

V'-hu e-chad v'en she-ni
L'-ham-shil lo l'-hach-bi-ra
B'-li-re-shit b'-li tach-lit
V'-lo ha-oz v'-ha-mis-ra.

V'-hu E-li v'-chai go-a-li
V'-tzur chev-li b'-et tza-ra
V'-Hu ni-si u-ma-nos li
Me-nat ko-si b'-yom ek-ra.

B'-ya-do af-kid-ru-chi
B'-et i-shan v'-a-i-ra
V'-im ru-chi ge-vi-a-ti

A-do-nai li v'-lo i-ra.

Garinim 12-15 years old and Bogrim 16-18 years old are assigned the lyrics to Pirkey Avot, Chapter 5, verse 24.

Here is the text translation, transliteration, syllabification and Hebrew.

Pirkey Avot, Chapter 5, verse 24

Ben Bag-Bag taught:

Turn it over and over: You will find everything in it.

Scrutinize it, grow old and gray in it,

Do not depart from it:

There is no better portion in life than this.

Ha Foch Ba ---

transliterated from the Artscroll Siddur.

Ben Bag Bag o-mer:

Ha-foch bah v'-ha-foch bah, d'-cho-lah vah.

U-vah te-che-zei,

V'-siv u'-v'-leh vah,

U-mi-nah lah ta-zu-ah,

She-eyn l'-cha mi-dah to-vah hey-me-nah.

How do applicants enter the contest?

A. Go to www.SharimvSharot.org, between December 7, 2009 and February 25, 2010 and download the Jewish Youth Song-Writing Application Form. Enter according to age group. Only one entry per applicant is allowed.

1. K'tanim 8-11 years old on the date of submission of entry
2. Garinim 12-15 years old on the date of submission of entry.
3. Bogrim 16-18 years old on the date of submission of entry.

B. Mail all materials to:

Sharim v'Sharot

P.O. Box 5102

Trenton, NJ 08638

What should be submitted?

Complete either A or B. Applicants may also submit both A and B.

A. Entrants are encouraged, but not required to submit an original musical score for at least one singer with notated lyrics and melody. Put the song title on the score. Chords

are appreciated but not required. Piano accompaniment or other instruments or vocals are appreciated but not required. DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE SCORE.

B. Entrants are encouraged but not required to submit a recorded performance on CD. Put the song title on the CD. If you are submitting a CD, DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE RECORDING.

C. Entrants are required to submit printed lyrics on separate sheet. Put the song title on the page. DO NOT WRITE YOUR NAME ON THE PAGE.

D. Application Forms will be available on line at www.SharimvSharot.org beginning December 7, 2009.

This form will include: name, address, ZIP code, telephone, e-mail, synagogue affiliation (not required), JCC member (not required), and name of school that the student attends.

What is the deadline for all submissions?

All submissions must be postmarked by February 25, 2010.

How will the submissions be processed?

A non-judge will pick up all submissions from the post office and assign an alphanumeric label to all materials in the package. The Application Form will also receive the same label and will be filed away. In this way, the judges will not know the identities of the contestant. For example, if Sara Cohen is 11 years old on the date of postmark, when the package is received, her name will not appear on any of her creative materials. The number K-1 (K'tanim #1) will put recorded instead. If K-1 is chosen as the winner, we will then ask to see the list of contestants and look for the identity of K-1. Song materials containing contestants' names will be automatically eliminated from the contest.

Who will judge the contest?

The contest will be judged by professional Jewish educators, Jewish music educators, and Jewish musicians, Cantors, and/or Rabbis. All decisions of the judges are final. If a judge has a child residing in the Princeton-Mercer-Bucks area, he or she shall not be allowed to serve as a judge in the age category of his or her children.

When will contest winners be announced?

A presentation to the contest winners will be made on Sunday, May 16th, 2010 during the Sharim v'Sharot's Tenth Anniversary Concert at 3 P.M. in the Bart Luedeke auditorium on the campus of Rider University in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. First and Second Place Winners will receive a concert ticket free of charge.

Are there prizes?

Yes, First-place winners in each category will receive a \$72 check and a certificate. Second-place winners will receive a \$54 check and certificate. Honorable mention may be given at the discretion of the judges.

Will the winning songs be performed?

The winning song in each category may be performed at the discretion of Sharim v'Sharot. If performed, either the Sharim v'Sharot Choir will perform the song, as a solo or as a choral composition, or the winners will be asked to present their songs on May 16th, 2010. Each applicant and parent/guardian will be asked to sign a statement giving permission for Sharim v'Sharot and/or the child composer to perform the song at the May 16th concert.

Will materials be returned?

All materials become the property of Sharim v'Sharot and cannot be returned. The composers will, of course, retain copyright ownership of their work. We suggest that applicants keep copies of scores and CDs for themselves. This year, all lyrics are in the public domain.

How will authenticity be assured?

Each child and parent or guardian will sign a statement that the song was written by the child alone, not the parent or guardian.

To whom may questions be addressed?

You may address your questions to Dr. Elayne R. Grossman, Conductor and Music Director of Sharim v'Sharot. Use the e-mail link on the Foundation's website: www.SharimvSharot.org .

Applicants may ask Dr. Grossman questions about their song or about song writing. Dr. Grossman is the facilitator of the contest and not a judge. Therefore, she may serve in an advisory capacity.

Thanks for your interest and Good Luck!