

DONI GROSS PRESENTS



Hakol Meito

COMPOSED BY The Blumstein Brothers

בְּיָדַי הַלֵּל לְטוֹבָה
בְּיָדַי הַלֵּל לְטוֹבָה
בְּרַבְּתִי וְחַמְּתִי לַחֵה
בְּיָדַי וְדַאי הַלֵּל לְטוֹבָה

הַלֵּל לְטוֹבָה
Thank You Hashem

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

On a recent trip to Eretz Yisroel, the Blumstein Brothers visited with HaRav Avraham Nadler, shlit"a. While they were schmoozing about what it means to thank Hashem, Rav Nadler showed them a shtikle

Torah from the heilige Rav Nachman of Breslov.

In "כי מאחר שההל מאתו יתברך בְּיָדַי הַלֵּל לְטוֹבָה," That once you understand that everything is from Hashem, then you will suddenly realize that everything in your life is good. Says Rav Nadler, the real avoda of thanking Hashem is to be able to acknowledge that He is the source of everything. Once we know that everything is from Him, then we will immediately see that everything is good – even the things we don't understand! Now, once we know that everything is from Him, and that, therefore, everything is good, THEN we are able to properly thank Hashem for all that He does for us. That's the primiyus of #ThankYouHashem - Gevalt!

הַלֵּל מֵאֲתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ
בְּיָדַי הַלֵּל לְטוֹבָה
הַלֵּל מֵאֲתוֹ
הַלֵּל מֵאֲתוֹ
הַלֵּל מֵאֲתוֹ יִתְבָּרֵךְ

Ma
Tovu

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

Sometimes I look in someone else's life,
And I wonder why can't that be me.
Sometimes I look in someone else's life,
And I wish I had the things I see.
But I say...

מָה טוֹב אֶהְיֶה יַעֲקֹב
The things you have are meant for you,
מָה טוֹב אֶהְיֶה יַעֲקֹב
The way you thinking ain't the truth.

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

A Yid approached me and told me a gevaldik'e vort; Bilaam says (בלק: כ"ד, ה') "מה טוב אהליך יעקב" and Rashi explains, "על שראה פתחיהם שאינו מקנין זה מול זה" – "because Bnei Yisroel didn't build their tents in a way that their doors faced each other." Bilaam was praising the trait of

tzniyus that the Bnei Yisroel exhibited whenever they camped in the midbar – that nobody was able to see into someone else's house.

The Tzaddikim ask, was this really our most exceptional attribute? That we excelled in the middah of Tzniyus? Quoting Rashi, they answer, yes, and it was so much more! "על שראה פתחיהם שאינו מקנין זה מול זה" that each person recognized that everyone's door in life is different. Nobody's life can be compared to another. Everyone is given exactly what they need and, therefore, everyone was content with what they had.

So, when Bilaam looked at the encampment, he perceived this and made a point to mention this incredible ma'alah. By going out of their way to make sure that their doors didn't face one another, it was clear that Klal Yisroel understood that a Yid doesn't look into someone else's house. It showed that they knew, "מה טוב אהליך יעקב" – that each person's tent was perfect – just for him.

The One Thing That I Know

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

I don't know why,
I don't know when,
I don't know how,
And I don't know what.

The one thing that I know,
Oh yes, I know Who,
It's all from You,
Hakadosh Baruch Hu.

אין עוד מלבדו
אפס זולתו

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

Sometimes, the darkest Golus is when you have questions without any answers. Rabbi Moshe Brody showed me something amazing inside Reb Sholom Mordechai Rubashkin's book, in which he writes that the hardest night of his life was the first night that he spent in prison.

The reason this was so was that he was stuck with a bunch of questions that seemingly had no answers. He found himself asking 'Why?' 'When?' 'How?' and 'What?' – all with zero answers. But at some point, he realized that he knew the answer to the most important question of them all – the question of Who? Once you know Who is behind it all, then all the other questions disappear! This insight ignited the great fire of Emunah that he used to illuminate the darkness of his personal golus, and inspired me to write this song.

A Gutte Voch

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

CHILDREN'S CHOIR Meir Kaplan • Yeshaya Levin • Refael Soroka

Hashem take us back we want You,

טאטע נשגל ילבינו

יבא ויגאלנו

ויבא לבית תפארתנו

A gutte voch,

A mazaldik'e voch,

A voch filled with geulah.

A gutte voch,

A mazaldik'e voch,

A voch filled with yeshuah.

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

As we know, Motzei Shabbos is a time especially mesugal for us to daven for the arrival of Moshiach. One Motzei Shabbos, as I was walking to Maariv through the first snowfall of the winter, I was like, 'Wow... Hashem's kindness is mamash a

gevalt!' The pasuk in Yeshayahu states, "אם יהיו חטאיכם כשנים כשגל ילבינו" – even if our aveiros are as dark as crimson, Hashem will purify us and make us as white as snow. That no matter how far we fall, He will never give up on us – He will pick us up, He will cleanse us, and He will bring us the Geulah! This niggun came to me that night during davening, and I recorded it as soon as I got home.

Old Yishama

COMPOSED BY The Blumstein Brothers

A moment of gratitude turned into song. This niggun came down at the l'chaim of Adina Blumstein and Avromy Schron - we should all share in Simchas! Dedicated in honor of their parents Eli and Chaya Schron and Harav Heshy and Mimi Blumstein for showing us what it means to really love another Yid.

Diddy-dy-dy-dy oif simchas!

Diddy-dy-dy-dy oif simchas!

Diddy-dy-dy-dy-dy-dy-dy-
dum,

Simchas far Klal Yisroel!

עוד ישמע בערי יהודה
ובחצות ירושלים

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

It was a Friday afternoon, and I was attending the l'chaim of the Schron-Blumstein families. The chevra was farbrenging, so I grabbed my guitar and together we sang this niggun in honor of the upcoming chasunah. Simchas far Klal Yisroel!

Tatteh I'm Coming Home

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb & Aryeh Kunstler

ADDITIONAL GUITARS & BACKGROUND VOCALS BY Aryeh Kunstler

The love, the embrace,
You're back in that place,
The feeling of just being close to home.

The feelings of youth,
The moments of truth,
The feeling of just being close to home.

So take me home,
I'm coming home,
I've been trying for so long,
So Tatte please take me home.

I'm coming come,
Yeah, I'm coming home,
I've been trying for so long,
So Tatte please take me home.

I'm coming home.

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

This song is very dear to me, as it was written at a very unique moment. After just spending Rosh Hashanah, Aseres Yimei Teshuvah and Yom Kippur with the chevra at K'hal Mevakshai Hashem - the davening, the hartz, the hisorrerus, was such a deeply uplifting experience - I was in such an incredibly

ruchniusdik'e place.

Now I found myself entering the zman of Succos, preparing myself for the mitzvos of simcha and d'veykus with the Riboino Shel Oilam. Wanting to capture the emotions that I was feeling at that exact moment, I sat down with the guitar, telling myself that I would just express whatever feelings would come out. After a few moments, I began to feel the words emerge from a deep place within: The love, the embrace / You're back in that place / The feeling of just being close to home...

Im Yesh Mikvah Yesh Tikvah

FEAT. Shmueli Ungar

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

מִקְוָה יִשְׂרָאֵל ה'

מִקְוָה יִשְׂרָאֵל ה'

מִה מִקְוָה מְטִהר אֶת הַטְּמֵאִים

אֶף הַקְדוּשׁ בְּרוּךְ הוּא מְטִהר אֶת יִשְׂרָאֵל

אִם יֵשׁ מִקְוָה יֵשׁ תִּקְוָה

אִם יֵשׁ מִקְוָה יֵשׁ תִּקְוָה

אִם יֵשׁ מִקְוָה יֵשׁ תִּקְוָה

אִם יֵשׁ מִקְוָה יֵשׁ תִּקְוָה

לְחַיִּים, לְחַיִּים
לְחַיִּים טוֹבִים וְלְשָׁלוֹם

L'chaim

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

After arriving in Uman, we would first sit down to eat and clear our minds, so that we wouldn't come to the kever of Rav Nachman unsettled (something that Rav Nachman himself suggested not to do). As we sat around the table in one of the basement rooms of the building, one member of

the group happened to mention that he had not used a mikvah since his Bar Mitzvah – some 30 years ago. When Rav Mota Frank heard this, he stood up and remarked in admiration, "Wow! So, this will be the first time you'll be using a mikvah in thirty years!?" To which the fellow replied, "Wait, who said I'll be going?"

Rav Mota then relayed to us that Rav Nosson of Breslov would explain that the word מִקְוָה comes from the same lashon as תִּקְוָה. And by giving us the mitzvah of mikvah, Hashem is showing us that there is always hope. He would say, "If a mikvah can transform a goy into a Yid, can you imagine what a mikvah could do for a Yid?!" Therefore, he concluded, Rav Nosson would often say, "אִם יֵשׁ מִקְוָה יֵשׁ תִּקְוָה" – that as long as we have the gift of mikvah, then there is still hope.

After hearing this, the man was convinced and decided that he, too, would immerse in the waters of the mikvah. At that moment, I looked at Rav Mota and Rav Mota looked at me – I grabbed the guitar, and this song was born.

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

This song was composed on Shabbos afternoon while the chevra and I were farbrenging at the aufruf of Meir Weiss, in Cassopolis, MI. L'chaim Yidden!



Costa Rica Niggun

A.K.A Alfred's Niggun

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

This song was written on a Shabbos afternoon, during a recent visit to Costa Rica. I had the privilege of spending that Shabbos with some of the incredible Yidden from The Special Children's Center ("The Center – which was founded and is directed by Mrs. Jenine Shwekey). After the seudah, I looked over and saw that one of the children was in the center of the room, dancing joyously all by himself. It was Shabbos afternoon; There was no music being played, the singing had ended – he was just blissfully dancing away!

We all jumped to our feet and joined him in the middle – all of us dancing to the music in our minds. It didn't take long for me to be overcome by the inspiring moment, and it was then that I started singing this new niggun – one that quickly became our theme song for the remainder of our trip.

L'sheim Shamayim

FEAT. Yosef Karduner

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

This song was composed during Shaleshudis in L.A. after I had heard the most powerful and fiery drasha from Rabbi Moshe Nourallah. He got up and spoke about the concept of doing things **לשם שמים** – completely for Hashem. He gave us various clear and concise examples, he told us beautiful stories to illustrate the idea... I was really feeling it! I turned to his son Yehuda, and motioned that we should step outside for a few. As soon as we were outside, I started singing, **תזכני לעשות** **לשם שמים** – it was a tefillah! Hashem, I want to do things **לשם שמים**, I want my actions to be done entirely for Your sake. May we takeh be zocheh.

רבנו של עולם אני כל כך רוצה
לעשות הכל בשבילך
רבנו של עולם אני כל כך רוצה
לעשות הכל בשבילך
תזכני לעשות הכל לשם שמים

תזכני לעשות הכל לשם שמים
תזכני לעשות הכל לשם שמים

1 Morocco Medley

COMPOSED BY Joey Newcomb

GUEST APPEARANCE BY Issak Jamal (AKA Hacham Izak)

B'zchut R' Amram Ben-Diwan

יְהִי רָצוֹן מִלְפָּנֶיךָ
שְׁמֵשְׁכָה שְׁכִינְתְּךָ בְּיָמֵינוּ
וְתִתֵּן לָנוּ בְּרָכָה וְהַצְלָחָה
בְּכָל מַעֲשֵׂה יָדֶינוּ
בְּזָמַת רֵב עַמְּךָם בְּן דִּיּוּאָן
זְכוּתוֹ יָגֵן עָלֵינוּ

Shakshouka in Morocco

Shakshuka in Morocco
For breakfast every day

This one pretty much
explains itself.

Shukran Allah

"Thank You Hashem" in Morocco's spoken language.

Shabbos in Marrakesh

Written and sung on Shabbos in Marrakesh... as the title would suggest.

THE INSPIRATION BEHIND THE NIGGUN

The story surrounding Rabi Amram Ben-Diwan is fascinating, and his kever has become a place of pilgrimage for Yidden both near and far.

Numerous miracles are said to have occurred after davening at his holy tzion: incurable illnesses have been healed, the blind have regained their sight, the mute have found their voice, the paralyzed have returned to full strength, and the childless have become parents! Following our visit – which was filled with stories, divrei chizuk and inspiration – this was the tefillah that we sang. We daven, that in the merit of this saintly tzaddik, we will be worthy of having Hashem's Presence in our lives and to experience success in everything we do.

PERFORMED BY
JOEY NEWCOMB

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YAAKOV BROWN

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ישראל גולדפריינד • שרולי ליפשיץ • יענקי ברזין

RECORDED AT
EQ Studios - Yanky Braun

FREE

THANK YOU

First and foremost, **THANK YOU HASHEM**. If I would try to start going into all the details, I would pashut run out of paper. Instead, I will just say this: **THANK YOU HASHEM FOR EVERYTHING!**

To **MY DEAR WIFE**; thank you for your endless support in this avoida. I know that it gets busy and I'm not always around, but you continue to push me to accomplish and fulfill the mission. Thank you; I just can't say it enough.

To **MY HEILIGE KINDERLACH** who sometimes have to share their Tatty with the entire world – Chaim Menachem, Esther Feiga, and Yehudis (AKA Jude); you are the best, mamish! I love you guys forever... keep tanzten!

To **MY OUTLAWS**, whoops - I meant **IN-LAWS**; thank you for your never-ending support. I really don't get any of the Shvigger jokes – they're all shver as far as I'm concerned! I am so grateful for our close kesher. Thank you for always being there for us.

To **MY PARENTS**; people always ask me, 'how'd you get so leibedik?' So, I tell them, "You should meet my parents!" I'M KIDDING! Thank you both for everything, since the first day of my life, encouraging me to be what I was meant to be – al pi darki.

To **NANNY**; you believed in me since day one. You pushed me to play guitar and to fulfill my musical dreams. Even when I was hesitant, you were always right there, helping me take the next step. You have never stopped believing in us, supporting us, taking care of us... Nanny, you mean the world to us – thank you.

To **GRANDMA**; it has been such a pleasure getting to know the matriarch of the Ackerman Mishpacha. Thank you for your love, your kindness and your ceaseless care. May Hashem bless you with many more long and healthful years!

To **BROTHER DONI**; the partner in crime. To find a Yid who really gets what I'm really trying to do is nisht pashut. This chavrusa shaft is mamish the highest in the world because you chap the avoida, you chap the toleles in trying to put out meaningful music to inspire the velt. This only works when you have two chevra pushing for the same goal. So, Brother Doni, right from the beginning – and it wasn't that long ago – this has been the best journey I ever could have imagined.

Thank You Hashem that I was zoicheh to be chavrusas in life with **THE HEILIGE BLUMSTEIN BROTHERS**. To be able to spread light, positivity and the Torah of the Ba'al Shem Tov... L'maisa, ever since we met at that first farbrengen, it's been an amazing ride and we've never looked back!

To **BROTHER REUVEN**; it's mamish a zechus to be have gotten to know you over the years. To daven together, to sing together, to come close to Hashem together. A HUGE yasher koach for being mishtatef in the avoida, and b'ezras Hashem, we'll takeh bring Moshiach tzuzamen!

To **BROTHER SHMUELI UNGAR**; you're mamish one of my favorite Yidden. Your smile, your sweetness, your midoiz – it is always a pleasure to farbreng with you. I thank you with all my heart for joining me on this niggun, and for seeing the koichoiz in the song. You're the best!

A very special thank you to one of my Reb-be's, **YOSEF KARDUNER**. When I was a kid, my father played your music in the car and I can still remember the feeling I felt when I heard your music – there was no way not to be pulled in by your pnimiyus-dik'e sound. Your beautiful voice and your hartzig'e niggunim – many of them based on the Torah of Rav Nachman... You have been an inspiration of mine since I was a child, and having you sing with me on this niggun is a dream come true. Thank you, R' Yosef, it came out great – we should be zoicheh to inspire Yidden!

To **HEILIGE REB JUDAH**; the man behind the scenes and such a tremendous part of what I do. Shkoyach for teaming up with me in this avoida – for taking care of all the bookings and all the sometimes-annoying aspects of the business. I truly couldn't have asked for a better chavrusa.

To **REB ABIE ROTENBERG & REB SHLOMO CARLEBACH**, two of my Reb-be's in Jewish music; Thank You Hashem for allowing me to be exposed to such masters of niggun.

To "Reb Yaakov Oveh Theh" **REB YAAKOV ZEINES**; as Reb Shlomo would say, you are mamish the sweetest of the sweet and the deepest of the deep. You are an absolute pleasure to farbreng with! I can go from Journeys to Diaspora to MBD to Carlebach and you're always right there without missing a beat. Thank you for your friendship and your constant smile. Hashem should bless you with only b'surois toivois all the time!

To **BROTHER YAAKOV BROWN**; they say that you're the top Jewish music curator in all of Klal Yisroel. For sure top two, no? Thank you so much for getting this to the finish line, making sure that each detail is addressed on the highest level.

To **REBBETZIN HERZOG**; in creating the most amazing graphics, you have always been able to find a way to properly express the unique avoida of every album. And to think, it all started with that one caricature...

A MESSAGE FROM R' JOEY

**It's known, דְּבָרִים הַיּוֹצְאִים מִן הַלֵּב וְנִכְנָסִים אֶל הַלֵּב –
words that come from the heart,
find their way to the heart of the listener.**

I can't guarantee that I'm a yarei Shamayim and I can't guarantee that I'm going to heaven after 120. The one thing that I can guarantee is that these niggunim are definitely **יוֹצְאִים מִן הַלֵּב** – directly from my heart. They came from special moments of inspiration, from divrei Torah that I heard and from moments of deep hisboidedus.

And so I daven, that by connecting to the story behind the niggun, and by listening for the meaning and the message contained within each song, that the niggunim of my heart will find their way into the hearts of gantz Klal Yisroel.

Thank you for the incredible response and awesome feedback that you have given me over these past few years. The countless letters and emails that I've received expressing the chizuk that you've gotten from my music has been unbelievable. I pray that my music continues to do so, because that's the whole avoida!

We should be zoicheh, together as a Klal, to inspire each other to keep thanking Hashem. And whether all you know is Thank You Hashem, or Mi Ke'amcha, or you know some of the other ones too, let's join together in song and bring Moshiach once and for all!