

Ha'bayita

Bring Them Home

Background for Teacher:

In December 2023, 1,000 Israeli musicians and singers gathered at the ancient Caesarea Amphitheater and sang 'Bring Them Home' as a song of prayer to God to bring home the Israeli hostages held captive by Hamas in Gaza. Although the song was originally written in reference to the First Lebanon war, it has now become associated with the hostage crisis. At minute 2:20, hostage families enter and the melody subtly changes to the national anthem "hatikva."



While Watching

To encourage students to pay closer attention to the video and song, it is helpful to give them specific things to look for before viewing. Using the worksheet below, tell the students that they will need to:

- 1) find the melody that is "mashed-in" to the song.
- 2) prepare a question that they have about the song or video



After Watching

- 1) Pair up students and have them attempt to provide an answer to each other's question.
- 2) Student pairs can continue by reading Rabbi Saks' quote on the power of collective song in prayer and reflecting on the followup questions.
- 3) You can also use this video to discuss different symbols of "Bring them Home" solidarity. The two main symbols noticeable in this video are dogtag necklaces and yellow ribbon bracelets. Students can explore and express how they relate to these and other symbols of solidarity that they have seen during the war. Why do they or don't they think such symbols are important or effective?

Ha'bayita

Bring Them Home

[Link to youtube](#)

Another Hour has passed
 Another Hour of madness
 The weeds have grown in the path and garden
 The wind sighed
 Opening the shutter
 Banging the old wall
 As if calling

Home, Home

It's time to return
 From hills and foreign fields
 The day is fading and there's no sign

Home, Home

Before the light is dimmed
 Cold nights, bitter nights
 Closing in

Until the dawn,

I pray for you
 Bound in the grip of fear
 I hear steps

Home, Home

Because it hasn't yet been given
 As was promised long ago

הביתה

מילים: אהוד מנור
 לחן: יאיר קלינגר

עוד שעה חלפה,
 עוד שעה טרופה,
 עשבים שוטים עלו בשביל ובגן.
 רוח נאנח
 את התריס פתח
 ומכה בקיר הישן,
 כמו קורא:

הביתה, הביתה,

באה עת לחזור,
 מן ההרים
 משדות זרים.
 היום דועך ואין סימן.

הביתה, הביתה

טרם רדת אור.
 לילות קרים,
 לילות מרים,
 קרבים עכשיו לכאן.

עד עלות השחר

מתפללת לשלומך,
 שבויה באזיקי פחדים
 אני שומעת צעדים.

הביתה, הביתה,

כי עוד לא ניתן
 כל מה שהובטח לנו מזמן.

Ha'bayita Bring Them Home

What melody was suddenly heard in the middle of the video?

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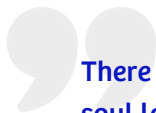
What else happened when that song was introduced?

.....

Suggest a different song that would be appropriate to "mash-up" with this song:

One question I have about this video/song:

My partner's answer:

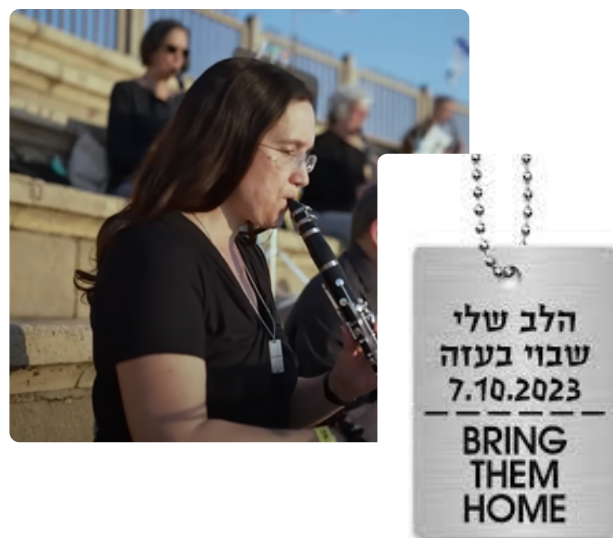


There is something profoundly spiritual about music. When language aspires to the transcendent, and the soul longs to break free of the gravitational pull of the earth, it modulates into song. Jewish history is not so much read as sung. The rabbis enumerated 10 songs at key moments in the life of the nation. There was... the song at the Red...and Haazinu... Joshua sang a song. So did Deborah, Hannah, and David... We are each called on to be voices in the choir, singers of God's song. Faith is the ability to hear the music beneath the noise... The history of the Jewish spirit is written in its songs.

Rabbi Jonathan Saks

- What is the impact of a community praying or singing together vs. individually?
- Have you ever personally experienced a powerful moment of communal prayer or song?

Solidarity Symbols



Design your own #bringthemhome solidarity symbol: