

Im Ein Ani Li

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?

text by
Hillel the Elder

music by
Ross Fishman



PREVIEW



recording and rehearsal tracks available at sbmp.com

Im Ein Ani Li

If I am not for myself, who will be for me?

Hillel the Elder

Ross Fishman

With passion ♩. = 60

mf

T
8
Im ein a - ni a - ni

mf

B
Im ain a - ni a - ni

With passion ♩. = 60

Piano
mf

4
8
li, Im ein a - ni li mi
li, Im ein a - ni li mi

p

p

8
♩. = 70
li?
li?

♩. = 70

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1751-3

12 *mp*

Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li?

mp

16 *mf-f*

T
Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li?

B
Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li?

B
Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li?

mf-f

20

T
mi li? Uch - she - a - ni l' - ats - mi

B
mi li? Uch - she - a - ni L' - ats -

B
mi li? Uch - she - a - ni L' - ats -

mf-f

24

Uch-she-a - ni l' - ats - mi ma a - ni?

mi Uch - she a - ni l' - ats - mi ma a - ni?

mi Uch - she a - ni l' - ats - mi ma a - ni?

28

f

Im lo

f

Im

PREVIEW

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32

Musical score for measures 32-35. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts have lyrics: "ach - shav ei - ma -", "Im lo ach - shav ei - ma -", and "lo ach - shav ei - ma -". The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the left hand. A large "PREVIEW" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

36

Musical score for measures 36-39. It features three vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 8/8. The vocal parts have lyrics: "tai? Im lo ach - shav", "tai? Im lo", and "tai? Im lo ach -". The piano accompaniment continues with chords in the right hand and a rhythmic pattern of eighth notes in the left hand. A large "PREVIEW" watermark is overlaid diagonally across the score.

Final Time to CODA \oplus
(p. 9, m. 55)

40

— ei - ma - tai?

ach - shav ei - ma - tai?

shav ei - ma - tai?

Final Time to CODA \oplus
(p. 9, m. 55)

p

44

mf

Im ein a - ni,

mf

Im ein a - ni,

mf

Im ein a - ni,

mf

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f

Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li? Im ein a - ni,

f

Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li? Im ein a - ni,

52

f

Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li? Uch -

f

Im ein a - ni, Im ein a - ni li mi li? Uch -

D.S. al CODA
(p. 4, m. 21)

D.S. al CODA
(p. 4, m. 21)

♩

55

p

ei - ma - tai? Im lo ach-shav ei - ma -

p

ei - ma - tai? Im lo ach-shav ei - ma -

p

ei - ma - tai? Im lo ach-shav ei - ma -

♩

59

ff

tai.

ff

tai.

ff

tai.

ff



About the composer

Ross Fishman is a music educator, composer, and arranger from Plymouth, Minnesota. He received his Bachelor's degree in Music Education with a choral emphasis from the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Ross currently teaches middle school choir in Minnesota and has previously taught at international schools in Israel and China. With a strong background in Jewish music, Ross is committed to creating new Hebrew choral literature that can engage and inspire students, teachers, and audiences of all cultures.



Composer notes

The Hebrew text was written by Rabbi Hillel (1st century BCE) who is known as one of the most important teachers of Jewish ethics and morality. Many of his teachings are found in the book, *Pirkei Avot (Ethics of the Fathers)*, and have been adopted cross-culturally as essential tenets of morality.

Each line of text in “Im Ein Ani Li” is presented as a different musical theme. The singing begins with a chant-like repetition to express the importance of examining our own sense of self. The text continues to recognize the complexity in balancing self-care with caring for others, all while avoiding delay when taking action. While preparing this song, the director is encouraged to guide the singers in a discussion of their interpretations of this profound text.

Translation

Im ein ani li, mi li? If I am not for myself, who will be for me?
Uch'she ani l'atsmi, ma ani? If I am only for myself, what am I?
Im lo achshav, eimatai? And if not now, when?

Pronunciation guide

Pronounce as in English with these guidelines in mind.

Hebrew example

Ma

Im

Ein

Uch'-she

Lo

L'-ats-mi

Vowels

a as in “father”

i as in “meet”

ei as in “cane”

u as in “zoo”

o as in “echo” (open Latin “o” - no diphthong)

' as in “believe” (use schwa vowel)

Consonant

Ach-shav

ch as in the name “Bach”, but somewhat softer

Ranges



T

B

B



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PREVIEW

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