6th-7th Grade Music Ed Curriculum

6th and 7th grade religious school music can be tough. While 4th and 5th graders were already immersed in the world of cliques and increased social consciousness, peer pressure gets added in a big way when we look at the 6th-7th-grade age group. At this point, the students' peers are the most important people in their lives – not their teachers, not their parents, and not any other adult. Because of this immensely heightened social awareness and adulation of their peers, 6th and 7th graders are very self-conscious, and therefore quite resistant to what happens in a typical religious school music class – both in terms of resistance to the Hebrew language as well as resistance to joining in on the singing for fear of looking uncool to their friends and classmates. Many students in this group attend Jewish summer camp, which means that these students will continue to build upon their repertoire base and exposure to new music/liturgy over the summer.

With this in mind, in this curriculum, the goal is to continue to touch on various essential themes throughout the academic calendar: holidays, liturgy (community prayers, in preparation for *b'nai mitzvah*), *tikkun olam, middot*, Israel, and wrestling with God. The songs chosen to represent each of these themes in the enclosed curriculum were selected for age-appropriateness – alternative holiday music (still including the classics) in order to keep them engaged and interested in the holidays post-K-5th grades and repertoire that includes combinations of Hebrew and English lyrics (perhaps with a heavier emphasis on English to get their buy-in). In 6th and 7th grade music, there should be a maximum on words and a minimum on gimmicks*/shtick*. It can work well to start by having a conversation with them and all of a sudden a melody appears within the conversation. If the song relates to the topic being discussed in

an interesting way, there is more likely to be some buy-in from the group. Music that is mellower creates an environment that might feel a little safer; it doesn't ask them to put themselves out there as much. Texts from *Pirkei Avot* tend to work well with this age group as they touch on timeless values/moral lessons with which this age group can identify. At this age, they are also able to do some simple rounds – It is helpful to have someone helping hold down the different parts so they have one leader to look at who's with them the whole time, but they can do it!

The goal is to bring awareness of gratitude and of God into these kids' lives, to teach them about our stories and our identity as Jews. Music is deeply connected to spirituality in Judaism, and therefore we are ultimately enriching these children's spiritual lives by creating opportunities for them to sing in community in a Jewish context.

Date T/R	Song Title	Composer	Source	Notes

Session 1	Т	Hinei Mah Tov	Noah Aronson	NoahAronson.com	So good to be back here with you all for a new school year
9/10/17	R	L'shana Tovah	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song,	Remind them of the HHD motif using niggun;
(Opening Day)			HHD Motif	p. 28	review English & Hebrew lyrics
(2 weeks until	R	Hayom T'amtzeinu	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song	
Rosh Hashanah)					
(3 weeks until	Т	V'al Kulam	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
Yom Kippur)				p. 33	
	R	Shehecheyanu	Tzivka Pik	<i>Shireinu,</i> #225, p. 339	Starting religious year together with a blessing

Session 2 9/17/17	R	Avinu Malkeinu	Folk/Janowski	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 29	Review from 2-3; Introduce the motifs from the Janowski – maybe just the first few lines
(1 week to RH) (2 weeks to YK)	R	V'al Kulam	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 33	
	Т	Hayom T'amtzeinu	Noah Aronson	NoahAronson.com	
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	Noah Aronson	NoahAronson.com	
	R	L'shana Tovah	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song,	Wish them a Happy New Year!
			HHD Motif	p. 28	

Session 3 9/24/17	R	Hayom T'amtzeinu	Noah Aronson	NoahAronson.com	
(Post-RH) (1 week to YK)	R	Avinu Malkeinu	Folk/Janowski	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 29	Review from 2-3; Introduce the motifs from the Janowski – maybe just the first few lines
(2 weeks to Sukkot)	R	V'al Kulam	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 33	
(3 weeks to Simchat Torah)	Т	Kol Nidre	Traditional, arr. Lewandowski	Shirei T'shuvah	Teach them the first few lines
	R	<i>Zochreinu/</i> Remember Us	Dan Nichols	Unpublished; Hava Nashira resources	Review from 4-5; Beginning to prepare for Sukkot
	Т	Asher Yatzar	Dan Nichols	DanNicholsMusic.com	Sukkot is a time of fragility – We can be fragile too sometimes; this is a prayer we can sing when we're feeling like we need some stability and support

Session 4 10/1/17 (Post-RH/YK)	R	Hayom T'amtzeinu	Traditional/Noah Aronson medley	Jewish Holidays in Song/ NoahAronson.com	
(1 week until <i>Sukkot</i>)	R	Kol Nidre	Traditional, arr. Lewandowski	Shirei T'shuvah	
(2 weeks until Simchat Torah)	R	Lama Suka Zu	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 35	Review from 4-5
	R/T	<i>Zochreinu/</i> Remember Us	Dan Nichols	Unpublished; Hava Nashira resources	Teach them how to do the round!
	R	Asher Yatzar	Dan Nichols	DanNicholsMusic.com	Sukkot is a time of fragility – We can be fragile too sometimes; this is a prayer we can sing when we're feeling like we need some stability and support
	Т	To Be One	Billy Jonas	OySongs.com	Same themes of fragility, but also strength – what does it mean for <u>us</u> to be one?

Session 5 10/8/17	R	<i>Zochreinu/</i> Remember Us	Dan Nichols	Unpublished; Hava Nashira resources	Review with the round!
(During Chol HaMoed Sukkot–	R	Asher Yatzar	Dan Nichols	DanNicholsMusic.com	Try to get them to sing in harmony on the whoa's
Music IN the <i>Sukkah</i> !)	R	To Be One	Billy Jonas	OySongs.com	
(1 week until Simchat Torah)	Т	Mayim	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	
	R	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	
	R	Open	Judith Silver	<u>OySongs.com</u>	Review with parts from 4-5

Session 6 10/15/17	R	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	
(Post-Sukkot & Simchat Torah)	R	Mayim	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	
(Parashat Noach)	Т	All This Rain	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	Story song about what Noah must have been thinking after 40 days in the ark – never ending. Have you ever experienced something like that? Tie to <i>Gam Zeh Ya'avor</i> story.
	Т	There Is Hope	Shirav	Unpublished;	Teach each part on its own
			(Paskin/Creditor)	Hava Nashira resources	
	R	To Be One	Billy Jonas	<u>OySongs.com</u>	

Session 7 10/22/17	R	All This Rain	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	
(Post-Sukkot & Simchat Torah)	R/T	There Is Hope	<i>Shirav</i> (Paskin/Creditor)	Unpublished; Hava Nashira resources	Review parts and try it in a round
(Parashat Lech Lecha)	R	L'chi Lach	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	Discuss Parashat Lech L'cha
	R	<i>Sh'ma/</i> You Shall Love	Shir Chadash at Am Shalom	Ruach 5777	Connection to Abraham smashing the idols story
	Т	None of Them Are You	Brendan James	Unpublished; chords received from Dan Nichols	Abraham was the one God chose; we all have special qualities and we all have a unique journey that we will travel in life – try not to compare to others with judgment
	R	Asher Yatzar	Dan Nichols	DanNicholsMusic.com	

Session 8	R	There Is Hope	Shirav	Unpublished;	Review the whole thing with the round
10/29/17			(Paskin/Creditor)	Hava Nashira resources	
	R	Olam Chesed	Menachem Creditor	Unpublished;	
		Yibaneh		Hava Nashira resources	
	Т	Eileh Chamdah	Noah Aronson	<u>NoahAronson.com</u>	
		Libi			
	Т	Yih'yu L'ratzon	Elana Arian	Unpublished; HN res.	
	R	None of Them	Brendan James	Unpublished;	
		Are You		chords from Dan Nichols	

Session 9 11/5/17	R	Eileh Chamdah Libi	Noah Aronson	NoahAronson.com	
(4 weeks until Chanukah)	R	Yih'yu L'ratzon	Elana Arian	Unpublished; HN res.	
(Assembly Prep)	R	<i>Chanukah</i> Candle Blessing	Nusach	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 40	Introduce the idea of the <i>Chanukah</i> assembly; 6 th & 7 th grades will lead some songs!
	R	Chanukah, O Chanukah	Traditional	MusicNotes.com	Review from K-1
	Т	I Am A Latke	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	

Session 10 11/12/17	R	<i>Chanukah</i> Candle Blessing	Nusach	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 40	
(3 weeks until <i>Chanukah</i>)	R	I Am A Latke	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
(Assembly Prep)	Т	Ocho Kandelikas	Flory Jagoda, arr. Edward Kalendar	<u>OySongs.com</u>	Introduce idea: In partnership with K-1, who will represent the 8 candles by lining up as the 6 th and 7 th graders sing/count (e.g., una kandelika, dos)
	R	Not By Might	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
	R	Maoz Tzur	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 42	Hebrew & English

Session 11	R	I Am A Latke	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
11/19/17					
(2 weeks to Chanukah)	R	Ocho Kandelikas	Flory Jagoda, arr. Edward Kalendar	OySongs.com	Practice with K-1
(Assembly	R/T	Maoz Tzur	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song,	Review the English verse; Teach the Hebrew
Prep)				p. 42	
	R	Not By Might	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
	R	Chanukah, O	Traditional	MusicNotes.com	
		Chanukah			

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Session 12	R	<i>Chanukah</i> Candle	Nusach	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
12/3/17		Blessing		p. 40	
	R	I Am A Latke	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
(1 week to	R	Ocho Kandelikas	Flory Jagoda, arr.	<u>OySongs.com</u>	Practice with K-1
Chanukah)			Edward Kalendar		
(Assembly	R	Maoz Tzur	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song	Review the entire song
Prep)	R	Not By Might	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
Session 13	K-1	I Have a Little	S. E. Goldfarb	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
12/10/17		Dreidel		p. 54	
, ,		Chanukah Chag	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
(ALL-SCHOOL		Yafeh Kol Kach		p. 47	
CHANUKAH		Ocho Kandelikas	Flory Jagoda, arr.	OvSongs.com	Just the chorus, in partnership with 6-7
ASSEMBLY)			Edward Kalendar	<u></u>	(see below)
,	2-3	Sivivon Sov	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song	
		Judah Maccabee,	Ellen Allard	Sing Shalom: Songs for	Verses and chorus
		The Hammer		the Jewish Holidays	
	4-5	Mi Yimalel	Folksong	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
	10		ronsong	p. 51	
		Lots of Latkes	Allen Leider	Unsure if published;	
		Round	Then berder	MP3 available on	
		Round		OySongs	
	6-7	I Am A Latke	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
	0 /	Ocho Kandelikas	Flory Jagoda, arr.	OvSongs.com	Verses and chorus, in partnership with K-1,
			Edward Kalendar	<u>oysongs.com</u>	who will represent the 8 candles by lining up
			Luwai u Kaleliuai		as the 6^{th} and 7^{th} graders count (e.g., una
					kandelika, dos)
	ALL	<i>Chanukah</i> Candle	Nusach	Jourish Holidays in Song	
	ALL		INUSACII	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 40	
		Blessing	Tuoditional	1	
		Maoz Tzur	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
				p. 42	
		Not By Might	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
		Chanukah, O	Traditional	MusicNotes.com	
		Chanukah			

Session 14 1/7/18	R	L'takein/Na Na	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Review from 4-5
(MLK Prep)	R	We Shall Overcome	Pete Seeger	<u>MusicNotes.com</u>	"There was a time about 50 years ago when the world seemed pretty broken (Explanation of fight for civil rights and history of this song)
	R	This Land is Your Land	Woody Guthrie	MusicNotes.com	"We sing these songs because we believe that this land really does belong to all of us."
	Т	Lo Alecha	Noam Katz	Unpublished; HN res.	<i>Pirkei Avot!</i> It's not our task to finish the work, but neither are we free to desist from it.
	Т	God's Counting on Me	Pete Seeger & Lorre Wyatt	Unpublished; HN res.	God's counting on all of us to do our part!

Session 15	R	Lo Alecha	Noam Katz	Unpublished; HN res.	
1/21/18	R	God's Counting on	Pete Seeger & Lorre	Unpublished; HN res.	
(Post-MLK Day)		Me	Wyatt	_	
(2 weeks until	Т	Circle Chant	Linda Hirschhorn	Manginot (Complete	"Circle round for freedom circle for the
Tu B'shevat)				Jewish Songbook for	planet"
				Children), vol. 2	-
	R	Hash'keidiyah	M. Ravina/	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
		Porachat	M. Dushman	p. 57	
	R	Plant a Tree for	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God	
		Tu B'shevat		Anthology, p. 251-252	

Session 16 1/28/18	R/T	Circle Chant	Linda Hirschhorn	<i>Manginot</i> (Complete Jewish Songbook for Children), vol. 2	Teach the round
(1 week until Tu B'shevat)	R	Hash'keidiyah Porachat	M. Ravina/ M. Dushman	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 57	
	R	Adamah V'shamayim	Folk	Unpublished; HN Res.	
	Т	Atzei Zeitim Omdim	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 57	
	R	God's Counting on Me	Pete Seeger & Lorre Wyatt	Unpublished; HN res.	

Session 17 2/4/18	R	Circle Chant	Linda Hirschhorn	<i>Manginot</i> (Complete Jewish Songbook for Children), vol. 2	With all parts in round
(Post-Tu B'shevat)	R	Atzei Zeitim Omdim	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 57	
(3 weeks until Purim)	Т	Turn The World Around	Harry Belafonte	MusicNotes.com	
	R	Chag Purim	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 68	
	R	Wicked, Wicked Man	Folktune, alternate lyrics by Barbara Mazer Gross	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 72	

Session 18 2/11/18	R	Turn The World Around	Harry Belafonte	MusicNotes.com	
(2 weeks until Purim)	Т	Stand	The Kennedys	Unpublished, HN res.	<i>Purim</i> can be a silly holiday, but it's really about Esther and Mordechai, who stood up for their people and got the king to do the right thing
	R	Latke/ Hamentaschen Debate	Joe Black	<i>Manginot</i> (Complete Jewish Songbook for Children), vol. 2	
	R	Utzu Etza	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 65	
	R	Mi Shenichnas Adar	Hassidic	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 59	Purim comes in the month of Adar, and the whole month of Adar is a time to be happy!

Session 19 2/25/18	R	Mi Shenichnas Adar	Hassidic	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 59	
(1 week until Purim)	R	Ani Purim	Unlisted	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 69	
	R	Chag Purim	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 68	
	R	Layehudim	Noam Katz	Unpublished; HN res.	Review from 4-5
	R	Stand	The Kennedys	Unpublished, HN res.	

Session 20	R	Layehudim	Noam Katz	Unpublished; HN res.	
3/4/18	R	Utzu Etza	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
(Post-Purim)				p. 65	
	Т	Devorah's Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
	R	Miriam's Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
	Т	Ha Lachma Anya	E. Pugatchev	Jewish Holidays in Song	

Session 21	R	Devorah's Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	Review entire song
3/11/18					
(3 weeks until	Т	Hallelujah Land	Noah Budin	Noah Budin Songbook	
Pesach)				_	
	R	Ha Lachma Anya	E. Pugatchev	Jewish Holidays in Song	Discussion about Aramaic!
	R/T	Chad Gadya	Traditional/	Jewish Holidays in Song,	Review Traditional from 4-5; give them a taste
			Moyshe Oysher	p. 97	of the Moyshe Oysher
	R	Dayeinu	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song,	Discussion on "enough"
				p. 84	Come up with our own verses?

Session 22	R	Hallelujah Land	Noah Budin	Noah Budin Songbook	
3/18/18	R	Ha Lachma Anya	E. Pugatchev	Jewish Holidays in Song	
(2 weeks until	Т	Let My People Go	Folk	<i>Shireinu,</i> #270, p. 72	
Pesach)	Т	Mi Chamocha	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	
	R	Chad Gadya	Traditional/	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
			Moyshe Oysher	p. 97	
	R	Dayeinu	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song,	
				p. 84	

Session 23	R	Mah Nishtana #2	Israeli	Jewish Holidays in Song	Refresher for your s'darim!
3/25/18	R	Let My People Go	Folk	<i>Shireinu</i> , #270, p. 72	
(1 week until	R	Mi Chamocha	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	
Pesach)					
	R	Siyahamba	South African	MusicNotes.com	"Walking/marching in the light of God" & add
			Traditional		Mi Chamocha
	R	If Not Now	Carrie Newcomer	<u>CarrieNewcomer.com</u>	Connection to how important and amazing was that we overcame slavery and became a free people

Session 24 4/1/18	R	Miriam's Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
(During Pesach)	R	Mi Chamocha	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	(Am, C, D, Am version)
(2 wks. to Yom Ha'atzmaut)	R	Ameh Yisrael Chai	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	
,	R	Dayeinu	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 84	
	Т	Kachol v'Lavan	Folktune	Unpublished, provided by Merri	Teach about the Soviet Refuse-niks and their journey out of the narrowness of the USSR to Israel – transition between <i>Pesach & Yom</i> <i>Ha'atzmaut</i>

Session 25 4/8/18	R	Kachol v'Lavan	Folktune	Unpublished, provided by Merri	
(Post-Pesach)	R	Im Tirtzu	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	Intro to Yom Ha'atzmaut
(1 wk. until Yom Ha'atzmaut)	R	Ameh Yisrael Chai	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	
	R	Salaam Remix	Mosh Ben Ari, arr. Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Review from 4-5
	Т	Song for Peace	Rita Glassman	Unpublished, provided by Merri	Conversation about Israel and Ishmael

Session 26 4/22/18	R	Am Yisrael Chai	Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach	Shireinu, #7A, p. 28	
	R	Im Tirtzu	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto God Anthology	
(Back from Spring Break)	R	Oseh Shalom	Nurit Hirsch	<i>Shireinu,</i> #209A, p. 306	
(Post-Yom Ha'atzmaut)	R	Song for Peace	Rita Glassman	Unpublished, provided by Merri	
	Т	B'tzelem Elohim	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Connection to Israel & Ishmael with – When I reach out to you and you to me, we become <i>b'tzelem Elohim</i> – path to peace?

Session 27 4/29/18 (3 weeks until Shavuot)	Т	Kehillah Kedosha	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	Tell the story from <i>Parashat Nitzavim</i> (everyone – most "important" people to the water drawers – were there, including us!) and introduce the Shavuot Assembly
	Т	Al Sh'losha D'varim	Alan Goodis	OySongs.com	ž
	R	Al Sh'losha D'varim	Chaim Tzur	<i>Shireinu</i> , #210A, p. 15	
	R	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	
	R	B'tzelem Elohim	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	

Session 28	R	Kehillah Kedosha	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com
5/6/18				
(2 weeks until	R	Al Sh'losha D'varim	Alan Goodis	OySongs.com
Shavuot)				
	R	Al Sh'losha D'varim	Chaim Tzur	<i>Shireinu</i> , #210A, p. 15
	R	Ki Mitziyon	Shachar	<i>Shireinu</i> , #212B, p. 181
	R	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com

Session 29 5/13/18	R	Kehillah Kedosha	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	
(1 week until	R	Al Sh'losha D'varim	Alan Goodis	OySongs.com	
Shavuot)				<u></u>	
	R	Al Sh'losha D'varim	Chaim Tzur	<i>Shireinu</i> , #210A, p. 15	
	R	Ki Mitziyon	Shachar	<i>Shireinu</i> , #212B, p. 181	
	R	Tree of Life	Richard Silverman	<i>Shireinu,</i> #219, p. 335	

Session 30 5/20/18	K-1	Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe	Folk Song	Unknown	
(SHAVUOT/		"We'll be going up	To the tune of "She'll	MusicNotes.com	
CLOSING		the mountain to	Be Comin' Round		
ASSEMBLY)		get the Torah"	The Mountain"		
	2-3	There Are Ten	Ellen Allard	Sing Shalom: Songs for	
				the Jewish Holidays	
		Aron HaKodesh	Unlisted	Especially Jewish	
				Symbols	
	4-5	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	
		La'asok B'divrei Torah	Jeff Klepper	<i>Shireinu,</i> #177, p. 187	
	6-7	Kehillah Kedosha	Dan Nichols	<u>OySongs.com</u>	
		Al Sh'losha D'varim	Alan Goodis	<u>OySongs.com</u>	
	ALL	Tree of Life	Richard Silverman	<i>Shireinu,</i> #219, p. 335	
		Al Sh'losha D'varim	Chaim Tzur	<i>Shireinu</i> , #210A, p. 15	
		Ki Mitziyon	Shachar	<i>Shireinu</i> , #212B, p. 181	
		Shehecheyanu	Tzivka Pik	<i>Shireinu,</i> #225, p. 339	End the school year – w/ some nice words said by the Religious School director, clergy, etc.

Session 30	TOP 5	In the weeks leading up to our last session, I'd create a ballot and take a private, written poll from the
(Part 2) 5/20/18	SONG SESSION:	6 th -7 th grade classes to glean their "Top 5" songs of the religious school year. In the time remaining outside of the Shavuot/Closing Assembly, we'd have a short song session that includes the songs they voted for!

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¹ Links to the corresponding repertoire provided within the curriculum – I shortened the URLs so as to save space, but clicking on any one of them will take you directly to the correct, corresponding music for that row!