

K-1st Grade Music Ed Curriculum

Teaching music to Kindergarten & 1st grade in a synagogue's religious school is one of the great pleasures of a cantor, soloist, songleader, and/or music educator. Kids in this age group (5 to 7 years old) are known to exhibit boundless imagination and curiosity, lack of self-consciousness or judgment, enthusiastic participation, excitement while learning, and eagerness to lead. They want to show off their mastery and to please the adults in the room. These kids enjoy being silly, and play is an important vehicle for their learning. All of these characteristics translate to thoroughly engaged music classes! Though they are young, music teachers planning curriculum for this age group should not shy away from songs in Hebrew because there is no resistance. They're excited to be learning something in a different language, and more importantly, they soak it up like a sponge.

Of course, there can be challenges as well. Because they are constantly taking in new information, Kindergarteners and 1st graders have limited attention spans. One must keep them moving, both literally and figuratively in order to keep them engaged – transitions within space as well as from song to song are important. It is also important to note that with the lack of self-consciousness or judgment also comes self-centeredness. At this age, they are still figuring out their bodies and testing spatial awareness, so songs that give them the opportunity to move are crucial to their physical development as well as assisting in their maintained engagement.

When teaching, one should demo just a small portion of the song, teach it slowly, and then sing it under tempo with the students so they can feel a sense of mastery of the piece. The key is to provide lots of encouragement along the way – there are no wrong answers at this age!

In this curriculum, the goal is to touch on various essential themes throughout the academic calendar: holidays, family, bible stories, beginning liturgy (community prayers), beginning Hebrew (the *alef bet*), synagogue symbols, and G?d language. The songs chosen to represent each of these themes in the enclosed curriculum were selected for age-appropriateness – minimizing the number of words (or at least the number of words that they will be expected to sing), maximizing the *shtick* (e.g., hand motions, body movements, clapping, silly sounds, etc.), and demonstrating meaningful connections between the music we sing and our placement within both the Jewish and the Gregorian calendars (e.g., music with themes of social justice around Martin Luther King Day).

The idea is to get these kids singing songs that they will then bring home and share with their families. In that way, music education for Kindergarten and 1st grade becomes education and Jewish engagement for the whole family! The goal is to bring awareness of gratitude and of G?d 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
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Session 1	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key)
9/18/16	R	Hinei Mah Tov	Jacobson-Drozi	Shireinu, #66C, p. 90-91	Segue from minor waltz setting
(Opening Day)	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)
(RH & YK Prep)	T	L'shana Tovah	Traditional HHD Motif	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 28	Sing as niggun to teach the motif that will recur throughout the HHDs
	T	Tapuchim Ud'vash	Folk Song	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 28	Teach English lyrics and have them listen to the Hebrew

Session 2	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)
9/25/16	R/T	L'shana Tovah	HHD Motif	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 28	Review niggun, add Hebrew & English text
(RH & YK Prep)	R	Tapuchim Ud'vash	Folk Song	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 28	Sing English lyrics together and have them listen to the Hebrew
	T	Avinu Malkeinu	Folk	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 29	Using English lyrics – "I'm sorry for what I did wrong..."
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key)

Session 3 10/16/16	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	Teach about Sukkot & discuss the commandments to dwell and invite others into our sukkah
(Sukkot)	R	Hinei Mah Tov	Jacobson-Drozi	Shireinu, #66C, p. 90-91	Segue from the waltz

	T	In My Sukkah	Dean Friedman	DeanFriedman.net	Have them echo and/or create hand motions as they go (as much as they can handle at one time)
	T	This Is What We Need To Build A Sukkah	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto G?d Anthology, p. 313-314	Teach chorus with hand motions; They can listen to the verses since it's too strophic/wordy for this age
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key)

Session 4 10/23/16 (Simchat Torah)	R	Hinei Rakevet	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #67, p. 92	For K & 1, this will be a signal they will recognize from our Tot Shabbat Together program that it's time for the "Torah train" (i.e., march around the room until we come back to the ark). Opens the door to teaching about Torah for the rest of class.
	T	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Tell story about teachers having students write out Hebrew letters with honey and then lick them up so that the words of Torah would be sweet as honey on their tongues
	R	Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe	Folk Song	Unknown	
	R	Tree of Life	Richard Silverman	Shireinu, #219, p. 321-322	"What is a tree of life?" "Why might we refer to Torah that way?"
	R	Bim Bam	Nachum Frankel	Shireinu, #231, p. 349	"Simchat Torah" instead of "Shabbat Shalom"

Session 5	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)
10/30/16	R	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Only review the chorus – Reminder that the Hebrew is a blessing for Torah study
	T	Alef Bet Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto G?d Anthology, p. 21-23	"Remember the story about the teachers asking students to write letters and honey and lick them up? If they were writing letters we can find in the Torah, were they in English? They were in Hebrew! Let's learn those letters together." -They do the echo of the letters and just listen to the verses
	T	Rise and Shine	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #282, p. 173	Teach only the chorus; Discuss <i>Parashat Noach</i>
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key)

Session 6 11/6/16	R	Bim Bam	Nachum Frankel	Shireinu, #231, p. 349	Use "Shavua Tov" instead of "Shabbat Shalom"
	R	Alef Bet Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto G?d Anthology, p. 21-23	
	R	Rise and Shine	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #282, p. 173	Review the chorus; They will listen to the verses
	T	Sh'ma	Solomon Sulzer	Shireinu, #190A, p. 266	Tell Abraham's idol-smashing story (part of Lech L'cha) – connection to 1 G?d; Teach hand motions and meaning of text

	T	G?d, G?d, G?d	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	Teach hand motions and continue discussion on G?d
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	Jacobson-Drozi	Shireinu, #66C, p. 90-91	

Session 7	R	Sh'ma	Solomon Sulzer	Shireinu, #190A, p. 266	Review hand motions and meaning of text; explain that this is sung at every <i>t'filah</i>
11/13/16	R	G?d, G?d, G?d	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	Review hand motions
	T	Song In My Heart	Lizzie Swan	Hebrew Wizards Songbook, p. 10-11	Teach only the first verse ("woke up this morning with a song in my heart..."), and let them listen to the Modeh Ani verse ("...thank you, G?d, for this brand new day")
	T	Shehecheyanu	Tzvika Pik	Shireinu, #225, p. 339	"There's another blessing we can say any time something new or special happens, or whenever we reach a special time..." Teach only the "Amen" section
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key)

Session 8	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)
11/20/16	R	Song In My Heart	Lizzie Swan	Hebrew Wizards Songbook, p. 10-11	Review verse 1; they listen to Modeh Ani/chorus; connect to Thanksgiving
(Thanksgiving Prep)	T	Modim Anachnu Lach	Rosalie Boxt & Julie Silver	Resource received from Hava Nashira faculty	Teach Hebrew (6 words!) & create motions "What things are you thankful for in the morning? In the afternoon? At night?"
	R	Thank You, G?d	Doug Cotler	Resource received from Hava Nashira faculty	
	R	Shehecheyanu	Tzvika Pik	Shireinu, #225, p. 339	

Session 9 12/4/16 (Chanukah Prep)	R/T	Song In My Heart	Lizzie Swan	Hebrew Wizards' "Time to Shine" Songbook, p. 10-11	Review verse 1 and <i>Modeh Ani</i> chorus; ADD "woke up this morning with a <u>light</u> in my soul" verse and have them listen to the <i>Elohai N'shamah</i> chorus
	T	Chanukah Candle Blessing	Nusach	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 40	Teach as a niggun; "Does anyone know on which holiday we sing this special tune?"
	R	Dreidel Song	S. E. Goldfarb	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 54	"We sing it on Chanukah!"
	T	Chanukah, O Chanukah	Traditional	MusicNotes.com	Ask the kids to come up with motions/ to act out the different actions mentioned; More focused on familiarizing them with the melody than teaching them every lyric
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key)

Session 10	R	Song In My Heart	Lizzie Swan	Hebrew Wizards Songbook, p. 10-11	
12/11/16 (Chanukah Prep)	R/T	Chanukah Candle Blessing	Nusach	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 40	Review as niggun then add the words of the blessing (only through " <i>shel Chanukah</i> ")
	R	Chanukah, O Chanukah	Traditional	MusicNotes.com	Ask the kids to come up with motions/ to act out the different actions mentioned in the song
	T	Chanukah Chag Yafeh Kol Kach	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 47	
	R	Dreidel Song	S. E. Goldfarb	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 54	

Session 11	R	Chanukah Candle Blessing	Nusach	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 40	Review through “ <i>shel Chanukah</i> ”
12/18/16 (Chanukah)	R	Chanukah Chag Yafeh Kol Kach	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 47	
	T	Sivivon Sov, Sov, Sov	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 52	Come up with some sort of spinning dance
	R	Dreidel Song	S. E. Goldfarb	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 54	
	R	Chanukah, O Chanukah	Traditional	MusicNotes.com	Ask the kids to come up with motions/ to act out the different actions mentioned in the song

Session 12	R	Hinei Mah Tov	“Folk song”	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key) “Welcome back!”
1/8/17	R	Hinei Mah Tov	Jacobson-Drozi	Shireinu, #66C, p. 90-91	Segue from minor waltz setting
(MLK/ Social Justice)	T	With My Own Two Hands	Ben Harper/ Jack Johnson	MusicNotes.com	Discussion on social justice; “How can we help make the world a better place?”

	T	L'takein/Na Na	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Only teach the na na's; Explain the blessing
	R	Shehecheyanu	Tzvika Pik	Shireinu, #225, p. 339	

Session 13	R	With My Own Two Hands	Ben Harper/ Jack Johnson	MusicNotes.com	
1/22/17	R	L'takein/Na Na	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	
	T	Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah	Andy Vogel	Shireinu, #112, p. 153	
	T	I'm Calling You	Peter Rowan	Resource received from Hava Nashira faculty	
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)

Session 14	T	Hinei/How Good	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	
1/29/17	R	I'm Calling You	Pete Rowan	Resource received from Hava Nashira faculty	
	R	G?d, G?d, G?d	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	
	R	Song In My Heart	Lizzie Swan	Hebrew Wizards Songbook, p. 10-11	
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)

Session 15	R	Hinei/How Good	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	
2/5/17	T	Tree Song	Josh Miller	Resource received from a cantorial mentor; unavailable online	
(Tu B'shevat	T	Plant a Tree for Tu B'shevat	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto G?d Anthology, p. 251-252	
Prep)	R	With My Own Two Hands	Ben Harper/ Jack Johnson	MusicNotes.com	
	R	Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah	Andy Vogel	Shireinu, #112, p. 153	

Session 16	R	Alef Bet Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto G?d Anthology, p. 21-23	
2/12/17	R	Tree Song	Josh Miller	Unavailable online	Resource received from a cantorial mentor
(Tu B'shevat)	R	Plant a Tree for Tu B'shevat	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto G?d Anthology, p. 251-252	
	T	Oseh Shalom	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	Have them echo throughout
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)

Session 17	T	Hal'l'l'luyah	Folk (arr., Shira Kline)	Shirlala.com	
2/19/17	R	Bim Bam	Nachum Frankel	Shireinu, #231, p. 349	"Shavua Tov" instead of "Shabbat Shalom"
	R	Oseh Shalom	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	Have them echo throughout
	R	I'm Calling You	Pete Rowan	Resource received from Hava Nashira faculty	
	R	Hinei/How Good	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	

Session 18	R	Hal'III'luyah	Folk (arr., Shira Kline)	Shirlala.com	
2/26/17	T	My Hat It Has 3 Corners	Folk song	TheLearningGroove.com	Teach the motions; slowly start to take words away; messing up can be fun and silly!
(Purim Prep)	T	Chag Purim	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 68	
	R	Alef Bet Song	Debbie Friedman	Sing Unto G?d Anthology, p. 21-23	
	R	Bim Bam	Nachum Frankel	Shireinu, #231, p. 349	"Shavua Tov" instead of "Shabbat Shalom"

Session 19	R	My Hat It Has 3 Corners	Folk song	TheLearningGroove.com	Review the motions; slowly start to take words away; messing up can be fun and silly!
3/5/17	R	Chag Purim	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 68	
(Purim Prep)	T	PURIM	To the tune of "BINGO"	MusicNotes.com	Clap as you take away the letters
	T	When You Hear The Name of Esther	To the tune of "If You're Happy and You Know It"	MusicNotes.com	
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)

Session 20	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66A, p. 89	(Waltz in minor key)
3/12/17	R	Chag Purim	Folktune	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 68	

(Purim)	R	My Hat It Has 3 Corners	Folk song	TheLearningGroove.com	
	R	PURIM	To the tune of "BINGO"	MusicNotes.com	Clap as you take away the letters
	R	When You Hear The Name of Esther	To the tune of "BINGO"	MusicNotes.com	

Session 21	R	Hal'Il'luyah	Folk (arr., Shira Kline)	Shirlala.com	
3/19/17	T	Dayeinu	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 84	Discussion on "enough" Come up with our own verses?
(Passover Prep)	T	No, No, No, No, No	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	Complete with dramatic voices and movements
	R	Mi Chamocha	Carlebach's Ki Va Moed	OySongs.com	Focus on niggun – they will recognize it from Tot Shabbat programming
	R	Oseh Shalom	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	Have them echo throughout

Session 22	R	Hinei/How Good	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	
4/2/17	R	No, No, No, No, No	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	
(Passover Prep)	R/T	Mi Chamocha	Carlebach's Ki Va Moed	OySongs.com	Review niggun and sing it through; Add Mi Chamocha (for them to listen to) & discuss crossing of the sea/celebration after

	R	Dayeinu	Traditional	Jewish Holidays in Song, p. 84	
	R	Shehecheyanu	Tzvika Pik	Shireinu, #225, p. 339	Happy Passover!

Session 23	R	Song In My Heart	Lizzie Swan	Hebrew Wizards Songbook, p. 10-11	
4/23/17	R	Mitzvah Goreret Mitzvah	Andy Vogel	Shireinu, #112, p. 153	
	R	Hal'ill'luyah	Folk (arr., Shira Kline)	Shirlala.com	
	T	Salaam	Mosh Ben Ari	OySongs.com	
	R	Oseh Shalom	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	Have them echo throughout

Session 24	R	Hinei/How Good	Ellen Allard	OySongs.com	
5/7/17	T	Achshav	Folk Song	Shireinu, #2, p. 2	
(Post-Yom Ha'atzmaut)	T	Ameh Yisrael Chai	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	
	R	Salaam	Mosh Ben Ari	OySongs.com	
	R	Hinei Mah Tov	"Folk song"	Shireinu, #66D, p. 91	(Echo in major key)

Session 25	R	Ameh Yisrael Chai	Noam Katz	NoamKatz.com	
5/14/17	R	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	

(Shavuot Prep)	T	Kehillah Kedosha	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Just teach them the Kehilah Kedosha chorus and the yai lai's Explain connection to the story of Revelation/ <i>Parashat Nitzavim</i>
	T	Turn The World Around	Harry Belafonte + Torah verse	MusicNotes.com	Focus on motions and spinning as we sing "turn the world around"
	R	I'm Calling You	Pete Rowan	Resource received from Hava Nashira faculty	Because of the mountain imagery!

Session 26	R	Hal'l'l'l'lu Yah	Folk (arr., Shira Kline)	Shirlala.com	
5/21/17	R	Sweet As Honey	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	
(Shavuot Prep) (Final Session)	R	Kehillah Kedosha	Dan Nichols	OySongs.com	Review the Kehilah Kedosha chorus and the yai lai's – maybe add on "If you are <i>atem...</i> " part if they're up for it Re-explain connection to the story of Revelation/ <i>Parashat Nitzavim</i>
	R	Torah Tziva Lanu Moshe	Folk Song	Unknown	
	R	Tree of Life	Richard Silverman	Shireinu, #219, p. 321-322	

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