



TWO PART

# OH CHANUKAH

Arr. Bill Miller (BMI)



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Holiday Series

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## ABOUT THE COMPOSER



Bill Miller is a music composer, educator, and clinician from Phoenix, AZ. Originally from the Chicago area, Miller moved to Arizona in 2010 and has been a resident ever since. His primary instrument is trumpet.

Bill received his B.A. in Music Education from Grand Canyon University in 2017 and has been actively teaching music to students of all ages both in and out of the classroom.

His experiences in education have allowed him to write music that is enjoyable yet challenging for its grade level. Bill's music has been performed all over the world. Some of his notable works include his "Night Before Christmas...Gone Wrong", "To the Moon", "Sounds of Ireland", and more. Outside of the concert band, choir, and orchestral realms, Bill composed the soundtracks to "Chronexia and the Eight Seals", Season 1 of the Emmy-award winning show "CON", and "Antidote 15". Most recently, his music was included in an episode of the "Cardinals Folktales" series for the Arizona Cardinals.

## ABOUT THE PIECE

"Oh Chanukah" is an English Hanukkah tune whose lyrics are roughly based on the Yiddish version. First published in 1912, it has become an upbeat staple of Hanukkah celebrations around the world.

I wanted to try my hand at arranging this tune. I had always envisioned a scenario where multiple parts could approach the melody as a round, and I wished to explore that idea more in depth. The rest fell into place. I attempted to make this arrangement accessible to young singers – to that end, should the round/2<sup>nd</sup> voice prove too cumbersome, this tune can still function as a unison piece.

I went back and forth over which versions of the lyrical text to use. I tried to find a balance between English/Yiddish and opted to use the Yiddish spelling of *dreydl* (instead of the Romanized "dreidel") in lieu of *sevivon*, of which the former is more familiar to performers in English-speaking countries (and thus probably easier to pronounce at speed).

Additionally, I alluded to "I Have a Little Dreidel" in the last couple of measures, carried in the melody. It's one of those "blink and you'll miss it" sort of moments, but I think it added to the overall piece. I hope you enjoy my arrangement!

*Bill Miller*

## VOCABULARY WORDS

The following words in the lyrics may be unfamiliar to young singers.

- ***Dreydl* (also dreidel)** – A 4-sided spinning top, played during Hanukkah.
- ***Latkes*** – Potato pancakes.
- ***Menorah*** – A candelabra with 8 branches, one for each day of Hanukkah.
- ***Horah*** – A traditional circle dance from Southeastern Europe.

## DIFFICULTY LEVEL

The difficulty level of this piece has been assessed a score on a scale of 0 to 5, taken as an average of the scores of the categories below (0 representing what a young singer might handle and 5 representing college-level or professional level literature), rounded down to the nearest half grade level. Voicing is graded on a 1-4 basis. Unison works will have a score of 0 for harmony. The Accompaniment category reflects how much the accompaniment supports the sung lines. Scoring is subjective and varies from publisher to publisher. Use your judgement to choose literature that's best for your ensemble.

Rhythm: 1	Voicing: 2
Intonation: 1	Range: 1
Accompaniment: 1	Harmony: 1
Musicality & Literacy: 2	Melodic Contour: 2
Lyrical Complexity: 2	

GRADE  
1

# OH CHANUKAH

Two Part w/ Piano

BILL MILLER (BMI)

Festive ♩ = 140

Part I

Part II

Piano

*mf*

*mp*

5

Oh Cha - nu - kah, oh Cha - nu - kah! Come light the me - nor - ah!

*mp*

Oh Cha - nu - kah, oh Cha - nu - kah! Come light the me - nor - ah!

7

Let's have a par - ty, we'll all dance the hor - ah! Ga - ther 'round the ta - ble, we'll

Let's have a par - ty, we'll all dance the hor - ah!

10

give you a treat! And

*mf*

Some drey - dls to play with and lat - kes to eat.

The image shows a musical score for the song 'Oh Chanukah'. It consists of two systems of music. The first system starts at measure 7 and includes two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'Let's have a par - ty, we'll all dance the hor - ah! Ga - ther 'round the ta - ble, we'll'. The second system starts at measure 10 and also includes two vocal staves and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are 'give you a treat! And' followed by 'Some drey - dls to play with and lat - kes to eat.' with a mezzo-forte (*mf*) dynamic marking. A large, diagonal watermark reading 'Preview Only' is overlaid across the entire page.

13

while we are play - ing, the can - dles are bur - ning low. One for each night, they

Oooh Oooh

*p*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 13 through 17. It features a vocal melody in the upper staff, piano accompaniment in the lower staff, and a vocal harmony line in the middle staff. The lyrics are: "while we are play - ing, the can - dles are bur - ning low. One for each night, they". There are two "Oooh" vocalizations in the middle staff. The piano part includes a dynamic marking of *p* (piano).

18

shed a sweet light to re - mind us of days long a - go! Oh

Oh Long a - go, oh

*f*

*mf*

This block contains the musical notation for measures 18 through 22. It features a vocal melody in the upper staff, piano accompaniment in the lower staff, and a vocal harmony line in the middle staff. The lyrics are: "shed a sweet light to re - mind us of days long a - go! Oh". There are two "Oh" vocalizations in the middle staff. The piano part includes dynamic markings of *f* (forte) and *mf* (mezzo-forte).

21

one for each night, they\_ shed a sweet light to re - mind us of days long a -

one for each night they shed a sweet light to re - mind us of days long a -

*f*

24

-go!

*mf*

Oh

-go.

Oh

The musical score is written for a vocal ensemble and piano. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. Measures 21-23 show the vocal parts with lyrics and the piano accompaniment. Measure 24 shows the vocal parts with the lyrics '-go!' and 'Oh', and the piano accompaniment. A large diagonal watermark 'Preview Only' is overlaid on the page.

28 2. *f* 30

Oh Cha - nu - ka, oh Cha - nu - kah! Come

Oh

31

light the me - nor - ah! Let's have a par - ty, we'll all dance the hor - ah!

Cha - nu - ka, oh Cha - nu - kah! Come light the me - nor - ah! Let's have a par - ty, we'll

The musical score is written for a vocal soloist and piano. The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score is divided into two systems. The first system starts at measure 28 and ends at measure 30. The vocal part begins with a rest, followed by the lyrics 'Oh Cha - nu - ka, oh Cha - nu - kah! Come'. The piano accompaniment consists of chords in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand. The second system starts at measure 31 and continues. The vocal part has two lines of lyrics: 'light the me - nor - ah! Let's have a par - ty, we'll all dance the hor - ah!' and 'Cha - nu - ka, oh Cha - nu - kah! Come light the me - nor - ah! Let's have a par - ty, we'll'. The piano accompaniment continues with similar chordal textures. A large diagonal watermark 'PREFINISHED PURCHASE' is overlaid across the entire page.