

## GENERAL PRONUNCIATION RULES

The most troublesome sounds of Hebrew are:

**The Hebrew "R"** - In Israel or when performing solo music, the "R" is made at the back of the mouth. But for choral music, it is usually made with a short flip of the front of the tongue just behind the teeth. I will try to consistently pronounce the "R" with the flipped sound.

The sound generally denoted with the letters **"Ch" or "Kh"** is similar to the German "Ch". It is made by saying an "H" while lifting the back of the tongue.

Another problematic sound is **"Ts"**. This is sometimes written as "Tz". This sounds like the end of the word "cats". It is always unvoiced. The usual MIS pronunciation is "Z".

English speakers tend to turn many **vowels** into diphthongs. Except for a few actual diphthongs, Hebrew vowels are pure.

Tonight, Judy brought up the **Sheva** (schwa), a Hebrew vowel having little or no sound. It is sometimes pronounced "uh". However, it is important that it not sound like "ah". For this reason, I have usually heard it pronounced "ih", especially in music. In spoken Hebrew, it is short. Grammatically speaking, when it is heard, it is classified as a half-syllable.

### Other Notes:

There are a couple of places in the music, Rossi's "Adon Olam," for example, where the transliteration is not grammatically correct. In our music, the first letter is written with a "B" instead of a "V". We should probably ask Joshua Jacobson about it.

In the Rossi "Adon Olam," the word "Ait" has been changed to "Yom". I have checked several prayer books. They all say "ait". Since we are doing 3 versions of this poem, I have used the more common word. The Davidson version, which we just received, uses the word "ait." However, Joshua may want to use the word, "yom" - at least in the Rossi piece.

The word Adonai will probably be changed to Adoshem or HaShem. That is another question to ask Joshua Jacobson.