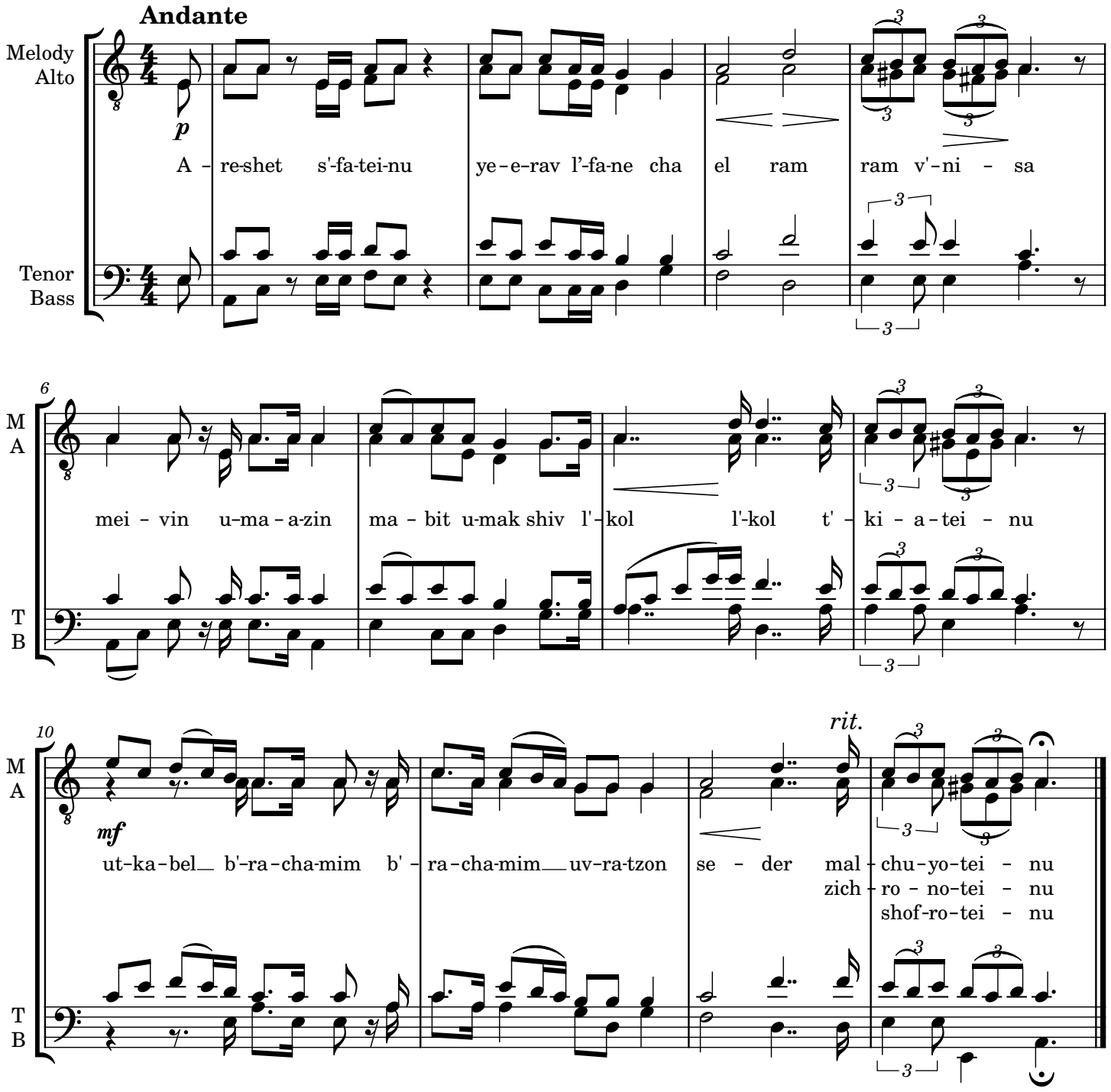
Areshet S'fateinu

263d

Version 1

Max Halpern
Arr. Stuart Izon

Whilst this tune appears, unattributed and with some modifications, in Israel / Samuel Goldfarb's Melodies for the High Holy Days, its earliest known version is found in Max Halpern's Z'miroth Ut'filoth, where Halpern states that he composed it himself. Halpern served as the cantor for Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Boston and published his hymnal in 1915 to enrich congregational services. This is a short, punchy melody, with an ascending leap motif appearing briefly on the words "most high" and again on "the sounds".

Although Halpern also adopted many works by composers such as Sulzer and Lewandowski, he notes in the foreword that "the greater part of them have been composed by myself to such purpose that, while being traditional in character, they should be at the same time very simple and tuneful." This melody certainly fits that description: simple, tuneful and traditional in character.