

The Lord bless you and keep you

Michael Winikoff

March-June 2009

To the memory of my father

Kingsley Winikoff

(13/4/1941-21/2/2009)

Programme and performance notes

This piece is dedicated to my father, who passed away in February 2009.

In writing this piece, I wanted to write a work that was not a lament, but rather, a celebration of life, and in particular, my father's life. Nonetheless, the piece has a definite sadness to it, and a feeling of loss, of a gap in one's heart.

The blessing I selected as text is of particular significance: my father read it every Friday night to bless his children. It brings together two of the most important things in his life: his family, and his Jewish faith. Although traditionally it would be read by a parent to bless his/her children, in this context, the blessing could perhaps also be interpreted in a different way: as a blessing from a child to his departed father, wishing him peace.

My father played violin, and so it was natural to incorporate a violin, representing both his playing, and, in the closing bars of the work, the soul finding peace.

The blessing is in three parts, and the structure of the piece has many "threes" including the three repetitions of the initial motif in the first seven bars (altos unaccompanied, then altos with tenors and sopranos [three parts], and then violin), the three repetitions of "*and give you peace*", and, at the end of the work, the three repetitions of "*Shalom*" (peace).

Since the blessing is read in Hebrew, I included it in that language, as well as in English. Hebrew text (transliterated) is in *italics*.

I'd like to thank Matthew Jordan for feedback on the violin part, and Leanne Veitch for comments on the piece.

Performance instructions: Bars 27-28 give the choir a chance to "re-pitch", in the remainder of the piece the singers should listen to the violin and tune to it. Bar 54 is the climax of the work (don't climax too early!). In bar 74 the choir (except for the second basses) should gradually close to an "m" sound.

Pronunciation: Hebrew vowels are pure (itanianate), "r"s are rolled, and the "kh" should be pronounced as a guteral sound (as in "bach" or "loch", a little harsher, but not long - see <http://www.winikoff.net/music> for pronunciation).

Text: Numbers 6:24-26

- 24 The LORD bless thee, and keep thee;
- 25 The LORD make His face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee;
- 26 The LORD lift up His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

Transliteration: (capitals indicate the emphasis)

YevaREkhekha adoNAI veYishmeREkha
YaER adoNAI paNAV eLEYkha viykhuNEkha
yiSA adoNAI paNAV eLEYkha veYASEM leKHA shaLOM

Hebrew text:

יבָרַכְךָ יְהוָה וַיִּשְׁמַרְךָ.
יאֵר יְהוָה פָנָיו אֲלֵיךָ וַיִּחְפֹּךְ.
ישַׁא יְהוָה פָנָיו אֲלֵיךָ וַיִּשְׁם לְךָ שָׁלוֹם.

The Lord bless you and keep you
 To the memory of my father, Kingsley Winikoff (1941-2009)

Duration: approx. 4:40

Michael Winikoff, March-June 2009

Andante (♩ = 48)

Violin

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

p

will bless and keep you _____
 the
mp, solo

The Lord will bless you and keep you, the Lord will bless you and keep you _____
 The Lord will bless you and keep you _____

6

Vln

S

A

T

B

Lord will bless you and keep you
 the Lord will make his face to
 the Lord will make his face to
 oo ____ to
 the Lord will make his face to shine u-pon you oo ____ to

(tutti)

11

Vln

S

A

T

B

fervant, bright

shine u-pon you to shine u-pon you
 the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the
 shine fervant, bright
 the Lord will make his
 shine _____ the

15

Vln S A T B

the Lord will make his face, the Lord will make his face to shine upon you
 Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face to shine to
 face, the Lord will make his face, the Lord will make his face make his face to shine to
 Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face to shine to

19

Vln S A T B

shine upon you and give you peace and give you peace and give you
 shine and give you peace and give you peace and give you
 shine and give you peace and give you peace and give you
 shine and give you peace and give you peace and give you

25

Vln S A T B

peace pp peace pp peace
 peace pp peace pp peace
 peace pp peace pp peace
 peace pp peace pp peace

(avoid open strings)

p *v* *3*

dark and rich *3*

ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -
 ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -

31

Vln *mp* V
espressivo, (play on A string)

S

A

T 8

nai ve-yish-me - re - kha, ye - va - re-khe - kha — a - do - nai ve-yish-me - re - kha, ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e -
nai ve-yish-me - re - kha, ye - va - re-khe - kha — a - do - nai ve-yish-me - re - kha, ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e -

B

Vln 37

S

A

T 8

the Lord will bless you and
ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -
ley - kha — viy - khu - ne - kha — ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom the Lord will bless you and
ley - kha — viy - khu - ne - kha — ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom ye - va - re - khe - kha — a - do -

B

Vln 42

S

A

T 8

keep — you the Lord will bless you and keep — you the Lord will bless you and
nai ve - yish - me - re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav the Lord will bless you and
keep — you the Lord will bless you and keep — you e - le - kha — viy - khu -
nai ve - yish - me - re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e - le - kha — viy - khu -

B

46

Vln S A T B

keep — you the Lord the Lord will bless you and keep — you the Lord will make his face, the Lord will
 keep — you ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom The Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the
 ne - kha — The Lord will make his face the Lord will make his face the Lord will make his
 ne - kha — ve - ya - sem - le - kha sha - lom The Lord, the Lord will make his face, the

50

Vln S A T B

make — his — face to shine u-pon you shine u-pon you shine u-pon you
 Lord will make his face to shine to shine u - pon you
 face make his face to shine to shine u - pon you and
 Lord will make his face to shine — to shine — u - pon you

54

Vln S A T B

and give you peace and pp
 and give you — peace and give you peace and give you peace and give you peace and pp
 give you peace and give you peace and give you peace and give you peace and pp
 and give you peace and give you peace and give you peace and

61

Vln S A T B

give you and give you oo
 give you — and give sha - lom — sha - lo(m)
 give — you and give you — peace ye - va re - khe - kha a - do - nai ve - yish - me -
 Ah — give you — Ah —

69 *p*

Vln S A T B

re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e - ley - kha viy - khu ne - kha ve - ya sem - le - kha sha -
 re - kha ya - er a - do - nai pa - nav e - ley - kha viy - khu ne - kha ve - ya sem - le - kha sha -

74

Vln S A T B

niente
close to 'm' gradually *niente*
m *close to 'm' gradually* *niente*
m *close to 'm' gradually* *niente*
close to 'm' gradually *niente*

lom sha - lom sha - lo - - m
 lom sha - lom sha - lo - - m

The Lord bless you and keep you

To the memory of my father, Kingsley Winikoff (1941-2009)

Duration: approx. 4:40

Michael Winikoff, March-June 2009

Andante ($\text{♩} = 48$)

23

(*avoid open strings*)

31

mp

espressivo, (play on A string)

39

46

52

61

5

p

ve-yish-me - re - kha

72

niente