

Eshet Hayil

*Commissioned by a member of Kolot HaLev
in loving memory of Kadimah (Kim) Michelson*

Judith Silver

Rehearsal notes

I've taken sections from the start and end of the Hebrew,
and the translations of these are as follows:

I

Eshet hayil - a woman of valour

Mi yimtzah - who can find her?

V'rahok mi p'ninim mikhra - for she is far from (above) rubies/gems/pearls
(there's no precise translation, but they're precious stones of some kind)

II

Rabbot banot 'asu hayil - many women have done valorous deeds

V'at 'alit 'al kulana - and/but you are above all of them

Sheker hahen v'hevel hayofi - charm deceives and beauty fades

(literally: deceives the charm and fades the beauty)

Isha yirat Adonai hi tithalal - a woman who fears/is in awe of the Lord, she is to be praised

Tenu la mipri yadeha - honour her for the work of her hand

Vihaleluha bashe'arim ma'aseha - and her good deeds will praise her at the gates

(literally: and will praise her at the gates her good deeds)

The poem is an acrostic: each line starts with a letter of the Hebrew alphabet.

I wanted to reflect this idea in the piece, since this technique is often used to

describe something too great for description:

the alphabet is finite, so it provides a kind of container.

The being described here is super-human, but with so many qualities

many of us share and aspire to - ways in which we see those who inspire us

and (often unbeknownst to us) ways in which they also see us.

The hummed section at rehearsal letter 'T' is to give a space for anyone present,

whether singing or listening, to name, aloud or silently,

anyone who has had this kind of presence in our lives: those who have taught, guided and
nurtured us, shared their experience, kindness or anything that's made us who we are today.

We may also be able to acknowledge some of these special qualities in ourselves,
which are often so much easier to see in others, and perhaps give ourselves a justified pat on the back.

And this is of course an opportunity for gratitude...

With thanks to:

Chazzan Ramon Tasat

Rabbi Deborah Silver

Angela Reith

Kolot HaLev

Our anonymous donor

Judith Silver, March 2020

Eshet Hayil

Commissioned by a member of Kolot HaLev in loving memory of Kadimah (Kim) Michelson.

Music: Judith Silver

Lyrics: Proverbs 31/Judith Silver

A

$\text{♩} = 75$

SOPRANO

mp Far, far, far, far a-bove! *f* far a-bove!

ALTO

mp Far, far, far, far a-bove! *f* far a-bove!

TENOR

mp Far, far, far, far a-bove! *f* far a-bove! *mp* You are,

BASS

mp Far, far, far, far a-bove! *f* far a-bove! *mp* You are,

B

mp Far a-bove ru-bies, far a-bove dia-monds. You are far, far a-bove.

mp Far a-bove ru-bies, far a-bove dia-monds. You are far, far a-bove.

mf you are, you are far, far a-bove. You are

mf you are, you are far, far a-bove. You are

10

mf Far, far, you are far, far a-bove.

mf Far a-bove ru-bies, far a-bove dia-monds. You are far, far a-bove.

mf you are, you are far, far a-bove.

mf you are, you are far, far a-bove.

14 *f* *emphatic*

E - shet hayil, mi yim. tzah? v' ra - hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil,

f

E - shet hayil, mi yim. tzah? v' ra - hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil,

f

E - shet hayil, mi yim. tzah? v' ra - hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil,

f

E - shet hayil, mi yim. tzah? v' ra - hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil,

18 *mp* *more pensive*

mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies! E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? v' ra

mp

mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies! E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? v' ra

mp

mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies! E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? v' ra

mp

mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies! E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? v' ra

22

hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies!

hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies!

hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies!

hok mi - p'ni-nim mikh rah. E - shet hayil, mi yim tzah? For your worth is__ far a-bove ru- bies!

26 *mf*

Far, far, far, far a- bove! Far, far a- bove!

Far, far, far, far a- bove! Far, far a- bove!

Far, far, far, far a- bove! Far, far a- bove!

Far, far, far, far a- bove! Far, far a- bove!

ff

31 *mp* Word emphasis as in speech, focusing on the meaning

In Awe of the Di vine you live, Mmm

mp

Mmm Daunt-less is your spi - rit, Mmm

mp

Mmm Mmm

mp

Bles-sed, Cou ra - geous one!

35

Guid-ing in the lone - ly ones, Mmm...

Mmm In- spi

Mmm

E-ver loy - al Friend in need. Ho-nour ing e - v'ry one.

38 E *mf*

Mmm Keep-ing your Light a-flame.

- ring hope, in spi - ring peace, Mmm Dm dm,

Mmm Mmm dm - dm,

Join-ing hands and join-ing hearts. Dm - dm,

41

Dm, dm-dm, Dm, dm-dm,

Dm, dm-dm, Ne-ver- end - ing boun - ty. dm-dm,

You are a Mi-ra - cle! Dm, dm-dm,

dm, dm-dm, dm, dm-dm, O-pen heart-ed al - ways.

44

Pre cious a-bove a - ny_ jewel, dm, dm-dm,

dm, dm-dm, dm, dm-dm, Rais- ing_ your voice in song,

dm, dm-dm, Qui-e - ting the trou bled mind. dm-dm,

dm, dm-dm, dm, dm-dm, dm, dm-dm,

47 **F** *f*

Dm, dm - dm, Un-der stand-ing fills your heart.____

dm, dm - dm. Ah... *f*

dm, dm - dm. Ah *f* You let your self be Vul-n'ra ble._

Sweet and strong your Ten-der - ness.____ Ah

50 **G** *ff*

Ah... Far_ a-bove ru - bies, *ff*

Know-ing you are Wor thy.____ Far_ a-bove ru - bies, *ff*

Ah You are *ff*

EX cell ing in Your Zest for life.. You are *ff*

53 **H** $\text{♩} = 70$ *mp* rubato, with feeling

Far_ a bove ru bies!____ Ra -bbot ba-not 'a- *mp*

Far_ a bove ru bies!____ Ra -bbot ba-not 'a- *mp*

You are Ra -bbot ba-not 'a- *mp*

You are Ra -bbot ba-not 'a- *mp*

58 *rit.....* *ff* *pp*

su ha-yil v' - at 'a - lit 'al ku-la-na. She-ker ha hen v' - he-vel ha-yo-fi; i - sha yi-rat A-do-nai, hi

su ha-yil v' - at 'a - lit 'al ku-la-na. She-ker ha hen v' - he-vel ha-yo-fi; i - sha yi-rat A-do-nai, hi

su ha-yil v' - at 'a - lit 'al ku-la-na. She-ker ha hen v' - he-vel ha-yo-fi; i - sha yi-rat A-do-nai, hi

su ha-yil v' - at 'a - lit 'al ku-la-na. She-ker ha hen v' - he-vel ha-yo-fi; i - sha yi-rat A-do-nai, hi

64 **a tempo** *mf* , **rubato, with deep feeling** ,

tit-ha -lal. T'nu la mi-pri ya - de-ha vi-ha-le - u-ha b' she' a rim ma' a - sei - ha.

tit-ha -lal. T'nu la mi-pri ya - de-ha vi-ha-le - u-ha b' she' a rim ma' a - sei - ha.

tit-ha -lal. T'nu la mi-pri ya - de-ha vi-ha-le - lu-ha b' she' a rim ma' a - sei - ha.

tit-ha -lal. T'nu la mi-pri ya - de-ha vi-ha-le - lu-ha b' she' a rim ma' a - sei - ha.

69 **I** **p a tempo** *Space for audience reflection* *Repeat as necessary*

Ng ng ng ng. Ng ng ng ng.

Ng ng ng ng. Ng ng ng ng.

Ng ng ng ng. Ng ng ng ng.

Ng ng ng ng. Ng ng ng ng.

77 *pp with reverence* *mf rubato*

T'nu la mi-pri ya - de- ha vi-ha-le - u-ha b' she' a rim ma' a - sei... E - shet ha- yil,

pp T'nu la mi-pri ya - de- ha vi-ha le - u-ha b' she' a rim ma' - a - sei - ha.

pp T'nu la mi-pri ya - de- ha vi-ha-le - lu-ha b' she' a rim ma' - a - sei - ha.

pp T'nu la mi-pri ya - de- ha vi-ha-le - lu-ha b' she' a rim ma' - a - sei - ha.

82 **J**

mi yim - tzah? For your worth is far a-bove ru - bies! Far, far,

mf mi yim - tzah? For your worth is far a-bove ru - bies! Far, far,

mf Far, far, far,

mf Far, far, far,

86 *mp* *ff*

far a bove, far, far a bove... You are! _____

mp *ff*

far a bove, far, far a bove... You are! _____

mp *ff*

far a bove, far, far a bove... You are! _____

mp *ff*

far a bove, far, far a bove... You are! _____