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MICHAEL SCHACHTER

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ORCHOT TZADIKIM

for SATB Chorus

(2019)

DURG MUSIC, INC.

PERUSAL SCORE

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## Note from the Composer

The text of *Orchot Tzadikim*, which translates to “the ways of the righteous,” comes from the 15<sup>th</sup>-century book of the same name on Jewish ethics. The author of the original *Orchot* is unknown, but in truth is less originator than compiler of wisdom, stitching together assorted teachings from the Old Testament, Maimonides, Solomon ibn Gabirol, Rabbenu Yona of Gerona, and other influential Rabbis and Jewish thinkers.

Beyond its songful cadence, the excerpt I set in this piece called to me for two reasons. First, the very existence of this text speaks to the basic project of humanity, which has remained constant through dramatic cultural change and technological advancement: in an uncertain and indifferent world, how does one live well? Second, the author reminds us not only of the value of persistence, but the tight bond between darkness and light, struggle and triumph – each making the other real by reflective contrast. After all, what is a chorus but a collection of individual lives and stories, weathering untold uncertainties and keeping the world at bay for a few hours each week to come and sing together, to sanctify a space and make it beautiful?

## Text and Translation (transliteration by the composer):

V'imru rebeteinu zikronim l'bracha:

Ilamaleh sh'nifalti –  
lo kamti;  
V'ilamaleh shiyashviti b'choshech –  
Lo hayah or li.

*And our Sages, of blessed memory, said:*

*If I had not fallen –  
I would not have arisen;  
And if I had not sat in darkness,  
I would not have seen the light.*

**Performance Duration:** 4 minutes

PERUSAL SCORE

# ORCHOT TZADIKIM

Orchot Tzadikim 26

Michael Schachter (b. 1987)

SOLO SPEAKER:

*V'imru rebeteinu zikronim l'bracha:  
Ilamaleh sh'nifalti – lo kamti;  
V'ilamaleh shiyashviti b'choshech – lo hayah or li.*

**A** ♩ = 54

Cantus

Altus

Quintus

Tenor

Bassus

I - la - ma - leh sh'ni - fal - ti, I -

I - la - ma - leh sh'ni - fal - ti, I - la - ma - leh sh'ni - fal -

4

Cant. \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. \_\_\_\_\_

Q. \_\_\_\_\_

T. *8* *3* *3*  
 - la-ma-leh sh'ni-fal - ti, sh'ni-fal - ti, I-la-ma-leh sh'ni-fal - ti,

Bass. *3*  
 ti, sh'ni - fal - ti, I-la-ma-leh sh'ni-

7

Cant. \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. \_\_\_\_\_

Q. *8* \_\_\_\_\_

T. *8* *3* *dim.*  
 I-la-ma-leh sh'ni-fal - ti, fal - ti,

Bass. *3* *dim.* *3*  
 fal - ti, I-la-ma-leh sh'ni-fal - ti I-la-ma-leh, \_\_\_\_\_

10 **B** poco meno mosso

Cant. \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. \_\_\_\_\_

Q. *p* lo kam - ti,

T. *p* lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

Bass. *p* lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti, lo

14

Cant. \_\_\_\_\_

Alt. *mf* lo kam -

Q. *mf* lo kam - ti, lo

T. lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

Bass. *mf* kam - ti, lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

18 *mf*

Cant. lo kam -

Alt. ti, lo

Q. kam - ti, lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

T. lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

Bass. lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti, lo

22 *p*

Cant. ti,

Alt. kam - ti, kam - ti,

Q. lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

T. lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

Bass. kam - ti, lo kam - ti,



25

Cant. lo kam - ti; *p*

Alt. lo kam - ti; *p*

Q. lo kam - ti; *p*

T. I - la - ma - leh sh'ni - fal - ti; *p*

Bass. lo kam - ti; *p*

27 **C** tempo 1

Cant. *sfp* 3 Vi - la - ma - leh, —

Alt. *sfp* 3 Vi - la - ma - leh, —

Q. *sfp* 3 Vi - la - ma - leh, — *sfp* 3 Vi - la - ma - leh, —

T. —

Bass. —

29

Cant. *sfp* 3 V'i-la-ma-leh\_ shi-ya

Alt. *sfp* 3 V'i-la-ma-leh, *sfp* 3 V'i-la-ma-leh,\_\_\_

Q. *sfp* 3 V'i-la-ma-leh,\_\_\_ *sfp* 3 V'i-la-ma-leh,\_\_\_ *sfp* 3 V'i-la-ma-leh,\_\_\_

T.

Bass.

32

Cant. shav - ti, *sfp* 3 V'i - la - ma - leh

Alt. *sfp* 3 V'i - la - ma - leh,\_\_\_ shi - ya -

Q. *sfp* 3 V'i - la - ma - leh,\_\_\_ *sfp* 3 V'i - la - ma - leh,\_\_\_

T.

Bass.

34

Cant. shi - ya - shav - ti, b' - cho - shech, V'i - la - ma - leh

Alt. shav - ti, b' - cho - shech, shi - ya -

Q. *sfp* 3 V'i - la - ma - leh, V'i - la - ma - leh, shi - ya - shav -

T.

Bass.

36

Cant. shi - ya - shav - ti, b' - shi - ya - shav -

Alt. shav - ti, b' - cho - shech, shi - ya - shav - ti, b' -

Q. ti, b' - cho - shech, shi - ya - shav - ti, b' - cho - shech,

T.

Bass.

38

Cant. *dim.*  
ti, b' - cho - shech, shi - ya - shav - ti, b' - cho - shech,

Alt. *sfp* 3 *sfp* 3  
cho - shech, V'i - la - ma - leh, V'i - la - ma - leh,

Q. *sfp* 3 *sfp* 3  
V'i - la - ma - leh, V'i - la - ma - leh,

T.

Bass.

**D** poco più mosso

40

Cant. *f*  
lo ha - yah or

Alt. *f*  
lo ha - yah or li, lo ha - yah

Q. *f*  
lo ha - yah or li, lo ha - yah

T. *f*  
lo ha - yah or

Bass. *div.* *f*  
lo ha - yah or li,

44

Cant. li lo ha -

Alt. or li, lo ha - yah,

Q. or li, lo ha - yah,

T. li lo ha -

Bass. lo ha - yah or li, lo

48

Cant. yah or li,

Alt. lo ha - yah or - li,

Q. lo ha - yah or - li,

T. yah or li,

Bass. ha - yah or - li,

10

51 *f*

Cant. *V'i-la-ma-leh* *shi-ya - shav - ti,* *shi-ya-shav-ti, b' cho-shech,*

Alt. *lo,* *lo,* *lo,*

Q. *lo,* *lo,* *lo,*

T. *V'i-la-ma-leh* *shi-ya-shav - ti,* *shi-ya-shav - ti,*

Bass. *lo,* *lo,* *lo,*

54 *ff*

Cant. *lo* *ha - yah or li,* *lo* *ha - yah or*

Alt. *lo* *ha - yah* *or li,* *ha -*

Q. *lo* *ha - yah* *or li,* *ha -*

T. *lo* *ha - yah or li,* *lo* *ha - yah or*

Bass. *lo* *ha - yah* *or li,* *ha -*

57 *dim. poco a poco*

Cant. *gliss.* **p**  
 li, or li, or li, or li;

Alt. *dim. poco a poco* **p**  
 yah, or li, or li, or li;

Q. *dim. poco a poco* **p**  
 yah, or li, or li, or li;

T. *dim. poco a poco* *gliss.* **p**  
 li, or li, or li, or li;

Bass. *dim. poco a poco* **p**  
 yah, lo ha - yah or li;

61 **E**

Cant. **mp** 3  
 I-la-ma-leh sh'ni - fal - ti lo kam-

Alt. **mp** 3  
 I-la-ma-leh sh'ni - fal - ti lo kam - ti,

Q. **mp** 3  
 I-la-ma-leh sh'ni - fal - ti lo kam - ti, lo kam - ti,

T. **mp** 3

Bass. **mp** 3

66 *pp*

Cant. ti;

Alt. *pp* ti;

Q. *pp* ti;

T. *p* 3 Vi-la-ma-leh shi - ya - shav - ti, b' cho-shech

Bass. *unis. p* 3 Vi-la-ma-leh shi - ya-shav - ti,

70

Cant.

Alt.

Q.

T. *pp* gliss. lo ha - yah or li.

Bass. *pp* gliss. lo ha - yah or li.