

Lesson 8:

Hafla! Sephardic and Middle Eastern Music

Appendix A – *Piyut*: Lecha Dodi

Note to Teacher:

Make copies for each
student

Lecha Dodi

by the Andalusian Orchestra

Lecha Dodi is a liturgical song sung in synagogue on Friday night as part of the Kabbalat Shabbat service. It was written in the 16th century by Rabbi Shlomo Halevi Elkabetz who was born in Saloniki Greece but lived and wrote in Safed, Israel.

	English translation	Transliteration	Hebrew
Chorus:			
	Let's go, my beloved, to meet the bride,	<i>Lekhah dodi liqrat kallah</i>	לכה דודי לקראת כלה
	and let us welcome the presence of <i>Shabbat</i> .	<i>p'nei Shabbat neqabelah</i>	פני שבת נקבלה
Verse 1:			
	"Safeguard" and "Remember" in a single utterance,	<i>Shamor v'zakhor b'dibur ehad</i>	שמור וזכור בדבור אחד
	We were made to hear by the unified God,	<i>hishmi 'anu El hameyuhad</i>	השמיענו אל המיחד
	God is one and God's Name is one,	<i>Adonai ehad ushemo ehad</i>	'' אחד ושמו אחד
	In fame and splendor and praiseful song...	<i>L'Sheim ul'tiferet v'lit'hilah...</i>	לשם ולתפארת ולתהלה...

What do you think?

1. Do you recognize this piyut?
2. How does this describe Shabbat?
3. What is the message of this Piyut? Give examples from the poem.
4. Why do you think Jews wrote religious poems about the Shabbat?

Let's Listen!

This rendition of Lecha dodi is sung according to the Moroccan tradition by the Andalusian Orchestra. The Andalusian Orchestra is an award-winning Orchestra that opened in Ashdod Israel in 1994. The aim of the orchestra is to preserve Sephardic and Middle Eastern music from the time of the Golden Age of Spain. The orchestra is comprised of musicians playing both Arab Andalusian and European instruments

An Invitation to Piyut – Lecha Dodi

From web.nli.org.il/sites/nlis/he/Song/Pages/Song.aspx?SongID=55#2,20,822,224