

Alexander Massey

# Oseh Shalom

## No.2

(for 1 or 2 voices & piano or guitar)

[www.alexandermassey.com](http://www.alexandermassey.com)

## Oseh Shalom No. 2

I wrote this piece originally for the *Yom Kippur Musaf* service for the Oxford Progressive Community. This melody is based on musical motifs from the *Hin'ni* 'Here I stand' solo prayer sung by the *shliach tzibbur* (representative of the community) at *Yom Kippur* (the Day of Atonement). *Hin'ni* is a prayer that stresses the honour and the awe the *shliach tzibbur* feels at the responsibility of being the community's representative, and the fervent hope that the prayers will be accepted. These musical motifs date back to the *Mi Sinai* melodies of 11th century Germany, the oldest known Jewish melodies. The *Musaf* service in the UK Liberal *Machzor* (prayerbook for High Holy Days, including *Yom Kippur*) does not include the *Hin'ni* prayer, but begins with a section exploring the essence of *t'fillah* (prayer). *Oseh Shalom* No. 2 is a piece for everyone to sing, echoing the music, and therefore the sentiments of the ancient *Hin'ni* prayer that builds the *kavanah* (intention) for the great High Holy Days prayer – *Un'taneh Tokef* - that immediately follows. The text of *Oseh Shalom* is often used by itself, but originates as the final section of the *Kaddish*, an important prayer praising God, used to punctuate different sections of regular services, but also, in one version, as the traditional prayer recited by mourners (mentioned in a 13th century legal work - *Or Zarua* - by Isaac ben Moses of Vienna as consoling people in troubled times in Central Europe in the Middle Ages).

The original text (beginning with *oseh shalom bimromav* from Job 25:2) ends with *hu ya'aseh shalom aleinu v'al kol yisrael* 'who makes peace for us [i.e. this current gathering of people], and all Israel [the Jewish people]'. In 1967, the UK Liberal movement added the words *v'al kol b'nei adam* 'and all the children of Adam [i.e. all humanity]'. This has been taken up in many places, including the Reform movement in the USA. This extension of the prayer is in keeping with Jewish ethical and inclusive thinking. The Bible begins with the creation of humanity, and then focuses on a story of a particular people, the Jews. But Jewish teaching urges us to extend love to all people, so it is fitting that the modern wording has been widely adopted. In more recent years, another variant (of uncertain origin) has appeared: *v'al kol yoshvei teivel* 'and all who dwell on Earth'. I like that this includes not just humanity, but all life - and so reminds us of our connection and responsibility to live in sustainable harmony with all life. Modern day liturgy has also included a fourth alternative: *v'al kol ha'olam* - 'and the whole world / universe'.

Performance notes:

1. It is unlikely to be appropriate or necessary to sing all the verses in one rendition. Choose only those verses that you need for the occasion.
2. This can also be sung as a meditative *nigun*.
3. Because of the association of the musical motifs (*nusach*) in this piece, you may want to reserve this for the High Holy Days; however, it can, of course, be sung at other times as well.



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Music: Alexander Massey

Words: Traditional liturgy, adapted from Job 25:2

Tenderly and lilting ♩ = 96

Capo 3: Em Gm Em/G Gm/B $\flat$  Em/B Gm/D B D Em Gm Am/C Cm/E $\flat$  Em/B Gm/D B Em Gm

**A**

O - seh sha - lom bim - ro - mav Hu ya-a - seh sha-lom a -

O - seh sha - lom bim ro - mav Hu ya-a - seh sha-lom a -

9 Em Gm Em/G Gm/B $\flat$  Em/B Gm/D B D Em Gm C E $\flat$

15 lei - nu V' - al kol yis - ra - el v' - i - m' - b' - nei a - dam

15 Am6 Cm6 B D Em Gm Em/G Gm/B $\flat$  Em/B Gm/D C E $\flat$  Am6 Cm6



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22

ru a - mein.

ru a - mein.

Em/B B Em Am/C Am Em/B B<sup>b</sup>dim  
Gm/D D Gm Cm/E<sup>b</sup> Cm Gm/D C<sup>#</sup>dim

29

O - seh sha - lom bim-ro -

O - seh sha - lom bim-ro -

Am6 B7 Em Em/G Em/B B7  
Cm6 D7 Gm Gm/B<sup>b</sup> Gm/D D7

**B**

36

mav Hu ya-a - seh sha-lom a - lei - nu V' - al kol yosh-

mav Hu ya-a - seh sha-lom a - lei - nu V' - al kol yosh-

Em C G<sup>b</sup>7 D7 G  
Gm Eb A7 F7 B<sup>b</sup>

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43

vei tei - vel v' - i - m' - ru a - mein.

43

Am/C Cm/E $\flat$  Am Cm Em/B Gm/D B $\flat$ dim C $\sharp$ dim Am6 Cm6 B7 D7 Em Gm

49

עוֹשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם בְּמִרוֹמָיו  
 הוּא יַעֲשֶׂה שְׁלוֹם עָלֵינוּ וְעַל כָּל יִשְׂרָאֵל  
 וְאָמְרוּ : אָמֵן.

"He who makes peace in the highest, may He make peace for us, and ...  
 ... for all Israel, / for all people, / for all who dwell on Earth / for the whole world.  
 And let us say: Amen."