

Notes from the Music Department

June 14, 2020

First performed in 1969, "Shir l'shalom" has become an unofficial anthem for the Israeli peace movement. On November 4, 1995, at the close of a peace rally in honor of the Oslo Accords, Shimon Peres and Yitzhak Rabin, then Prime Minister of Israel, led the crowd in singing the song. Just after the rally ended Rabin was assassinated. In his shirt pocket was found a page with the song's lyrics, stained with his blood.

"Military cemeteries in every corner of the world
are silent testimony to the failure of national leaders to sanctify human life."

-Yitzhak Rabin, 1994 Nobel Peace Prize lecture

Shir l'shalom Hand in Hand – a Song for Peace

Ev'ry day, the sun will rise and shine upon our land,
Urging us to realize we must walk hand in hand.
People who were once at war at last will understand,
It's a sign we can't ignore, we must walk hand in hand.

In this world we will survive, give thanks to God above,
Because we know the reason we are all alive, is God's eternal love.
And so we sing, sing, sing of a day when peace will reign supreme,
And so we sing, sing, sing and we pray that it is not a dream.

As we gather side by side to plead for what we need,
Throw away mistaken pride and peace will then succeed.
Brothers will embrace again and sisters will unite,
Ev'ry day we live in peace will shine with radiant light.

Only when we're hand in hand can sanity be near,
Let's do our best to make sure war is banned and peace will conquer fear.
And so we sing, sing, sing of a day when peace will reign supreme,
And so we sing, sing, sing and we pray that it is not a dream.

Not a dream.