

Example #14

for Joshua Breitzer
The Tallit (The Prayer Shawl)

Poem by Yehuda Amichai*

Music by Jack Gottlieb

Moderately fast *p*

(Preferably, the piano introduction is not played, in which case the singer must not get pitch from the piano.) Who -

p

5 **freely**

e - ver put on a tal - lit as a young - ster Will ne - ver for - get

8

8

12 **a tempo**
p tenderly

Tak - ing it out of the soft vel - vet bag,

p

16 *mp* *f*

O - pen - ing the fold - ed shawl, Spread - ing it out, Kiss - ing the neck - band,

mp *f*

*Translated from the Hebrew
 by Chana Bloch & Chana Kronfeld.
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The Tallit

20

hold back

(em - broi-dered or trimmed in gold), Then, then

a tempo *mp* *f*

swing-ing it in a great swoop o - ver - head, Like the hea - vens, like a khu -

28 *poco accel.* *mf rall.*

pa, like a par-a-chute. Then, then

32 a tempo *mp* *poco accel.* *rall.*

Wind-ing it a - round the head as if play-ing hide-'n'-seek. Then

The Tallit

3

36 *a tempo*

wrap-ping the bo-dy in it tight, tight. Snug - gling in- to it like the co - coon of a

mf *f*

40 *poco rall. f* *a tempo*

but-ter-fly. Then o - pen-ing wide like wings for fly - ing.

f warmly

44 *freely*

And why does a tal-lit have

f *dim. flutter away* *ppp* *8va*

48 *mf*

stripes, And not black and white squares like a chess- board? Be - cause

4

The Tallit

52

squares are fi - nite, with-out hope, And stripes come from in - fin-i - ty, And go

mf *p*

56

on to in - fin-i - ty. Like run - ways at the

f *mp excited* *8va* *sub. mp*

60

air - port, so that an - gels may land and take off.

f *8va* *p*

64

Who -

mp *8va* *dim.* *l'hitra-ot*

light pedaling

The Tallit

5

67 *freely*

e - ver put on a tal - lit will ne-ver for-get...

mf *p*

73 *a tempo*

Com - ing out of a swim-ming pool or the sea, And

p *mf*

76

be-ing wrapped in a large tow-el. Spread-ing it out a - gain

mf *f*

80

o - ver the head, And snug - gling in - to it, tight, tight, - Still

p *cresc.* *ff*

p *cresc.*

The Tallit

6

83

shiv-er - ing a lit - tle and laugh - ing and

mp

ff

87

The Amichai poem ends here.

Text from
Mishkan Tefila*meno mosso*

(Remove a tallit from its bag.) **

bliss-ing. — Bless, — A - do-nai, O my soul. — A - do-

p *f*

91

nai, my God, how great You are. — You are robed in glo - ry and in

94

(Spread out the tallit.)

ma - jes - ty. Wrapping Your - self in light as a garment, Spread - ing

* If desired, skip to the last two bars on p. 7 to complete the song.

** Such moves are to be regarded as suggestions.

Theo2010

The Tallit

(As if reading the Hebrew blessing on the neckband.)⁷

97

forth the hea-vens like a cur-tain. Ba - ruch A - tah A - do -

dim. *p*

101

nai E - lo - hei - nu me-lech ha o - lam, A - sher kid' - sha - nu

f

105

b' - mitz-vo - tav v' - tzi - va - nu l' - hit a - teif ba - tzi -

108

rall. al fine

(Kiss the neckband and then drape the tallit over the shoulders.)

tzit.

dim. *p*