

BEYLE100

Celebrating a Century of the Yiddish Songs, Poetry & Artistic Vision of Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman (1920-2013)

Premiered live on YouTube and Facebook August 9, 2020, 1:30 p.m EDT

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This program booklet includes:

- The words to songs and poems performed during the BEYLE100 event. Words are in Yiddish transliteration and English translation.
- Translations of spoken tributes, one by Beyle's son and one by a close friend, and comments made throughout the program by the emcee.
- ~ A list of performers, contributors, and supporters.

About the music and poems:

- Beyle wrote the words and composed the melodies, with two exceptions: *"Ba mayn mames shtibele"* ("At My Mother's House") is a folk song, and the music for *"Tunkl grin"* ("Dark Green") was composed by Binyumen Schaechter.
- Music for accompanied songs is arranged by the performers.

TOYKHN-BLETL

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English translations: ¹Charne Schaechter; ²Paulette (*Pesye*) Schneider with Binyumen Schaechter; ³Thomas (*Tevye*) Bird; ⁴Lucette van den Berg with Willy Brill; ⁵Zackary Sholem Berger; ⁶Michael Alpert

Comments by Itzik Gottesman (Beyle's son)

I just found what may be the first thing that my mother published: an article from 1953 about children's folklore in the journal of the Jewish Teacher's Seminary in New York. The brief article reflects my mother's view of the Yiddish cultural world. She writes that we need not only to collect the Yiddish folklore treasures of earlier generations but also to create new poetry, rhymes, plays, and songs for the current generation. New creations are a sign of a living culture, and her attitude had a great influence on the Yiddish world at the end of the twentieth and the beginning of the twenty-first century.

She lived to hear her own poems and her own folk songs sung and played and recorded by singers throughout the world. Today's celebration in honor of her 100th birthday is an appropriate and lovely way to highlight what an important role she played in Yiddish culture during the past fifty years. All the singers and participants in today's program bear witness that Yiddish culture is alive and is getting richer. It would have given her great pleasure.

Today's program was the initiative of Binyumen Schaechter, and he put a lot of effort and labor into putting it together. A big thanks to Binyumen and to all the organizers and participants.

SHA, SHA

Sha, sha, ale vintn avekgeblozn, Sha, sha, vider gele blimelekh un grozn, Yo, yo, kh'makh avek di khmares mit der hant, Yo, yo, s'klort zikh vider uf der horizont. Do, dort, zestu vider a heymish ponim, Do, dort, herstu vider a heymish vort. HUSH, HUSH

Hush, hush, all the winds blown away,
Hush, hush, yellow flowers and grass anew,
Yes, yes, I wave away the clouds with my hand,
Yes, yes, and the horizon is clear again.
Here and there, you see a familiar face again,
Here and there, you hear a friendly word again.

Sha, sha, federlaykhte tritelekh, vi frier,
Sha, sha, kumt ver un se klapt on in mayn tir.
Yo, yo, s'tsindt zikh on a likhtl un ikh shver,
Yo, yo, s'iz a nayer nign vos ikh her.
Do, dort, zestu...

Sha, sha, vekt der morgn zikh tsum lebn, Sha, sha, gib im, oyb du host im vos tsu gebn.

Yo, yo, s'efnt zikh far dir a breyter veg, Yo, yo, vider gele blimelekh un teg. Do, dort, zestu... Hush, hush, feathery light steps as before,Hush, hush, someone is knocking at my door,Yes, yes, a candle lights up and I swear,Yes, yes, it's a new tune that I hear.Here and there...

Hush, hush, morning comes to life,

- Hush, hush, give him, if you have something to give,
- Yes, yes, a wide road lies before you,
- Yes, yes, yellow flowers and days once more. Here and there...

AN EMESER KONTSERT

Lomir zingen, Lomir zingen, Yedes grezele zingt mit. Beymer shushken, Khvalyes plyushken, Zogt, ikh bet aykh, vos zingt nit?

A REAL CONCERT

Let's sing, Let's sing, Each blade of grass is singing along. Trees are whispering, Waves are splashing, What, I ask you, isn't singing?

Bern brumen, Binen zhumen, S'zingt di gantse velt – Hert, hert! Feygl pishtshen, fayers trishtshen, S'iz an emeser kontsert!

Poykt der regn Af di vegn Un der duner – trask! A klang. Shpilt a vintl Af a fleytl Aza lebedik gezang! Bears are roaring, Bees are buzzing, The whole world is singing – listen, listen! Birds are tweeting, Fires are crackling, It's a real concert!

Rain is pounding On the roads And the thunder – boom! A noise. A breeze is playing On a little flute What a lively song!

(hemshekh)

A REAL CONCERT (continued)

From somewhere

And the kittens,

Oh, the tiny ones,

Trains are whistling,

Dulcimers are sounding: Bam, bam!

Are meowing: "Mama, give us more!"

Vu fun vanen Fayfn banen, Tsimblen reyern: Bokh, bokh! Un di ketslekh, Oy di pitslekh, Myowken: "Mame, gib undz nokh!"

Hintl bilt, shrayt un shilt, Skripet beyz an alte tir, Nor di beste Fun di greste Zingers, kinder, dos ze'mir! A dog is barking, Yelling and cursing, An old door is creaking angrily, But the best Of all the singers Are we, the children!

FLATERL

BUTTERFLY

Fun blat tsu blat, From leaf to leaf, Fun blum tsu blum, From flower to flower, Flaterl, flaterl, Butterfly, butterfly, Flying around. Flit arum. "Red and green, "Royt un grin, Yellow and blue, Gel un blo, Ot bistu dort, Now you're there, Now you're here. Ot bistu do.

Tra-la-la-la...

Ot bistu do, Ot bistu dort, Kenst nisht aynshteyn Afn ort. Flaterl, flaterl, Sheyn bistu, sheyn! Kh'vil dikh nisht khapn, Neyn, o neyn! Now you're here, Now you're there, You can't stay put In one place. Butterfly, butterfly, You're so pretty! I don't want to catch you, No, oh no!

Tra-la-la-la...

Tra-la-la-la...

Tra-la-la-la...

(hemshekh)

FLATERL (hemshekh)

BUTTERFLY (continued)

Fli zhe, flaterl, Flater avek, Di velt iz groys, Hot nisht keyn ek." Fun blat tsu blat Fun blum tsu blum, Flaterl, flaterl Flit arum.

Tra-la-la-la...

Fly then, butterfly, Flutter away. The world is big, It has no end." From leaf to leaf, From flower to flower, Butterfly, butterfly

Flying around.

Tra-la-la-la...

DER FOYGL UN IKH

Er shrayt (mentshn meynen az zey zingen) Vi ikh kum nor aroys Shrayt er S'iz der gortn zayner Meynt er Ikh entfer im op Af mayn eygenem shteyger Er farshteyt Un er beyzert zikh vayter Ikh tu mir mayns Tsi se gefelt im Tsi nisht A foygl a beyzer S'vert zayn kol nisht Farvisht Mir farshteyen zikh voyl Zayn shpitsiker shnobl Hilekht in der velt arayn Un hakt un pikt Pikholts! Shray ikh un pruv Im farshteyn A kol klingt mit S'iz zayns tsi neyn? Ver ken dem feyglishn sod Dergeyn?!

THE BIRD AND I

He yells (people think they sing) As soon as I come outside He yells It's his garden He believes I answer him In my own way He understands And he is still angry I do my own thing Whether he likes it Or not An angry bird His voice will not be Erased We understand each other well His pointy beak Echoes everywhere And bangs and pecks Woodpecker! So I yell and try To understand him A voice joins in Is it his or not? The birdlike secret – Who can figure it out?!

SHVARTSE VORONES

Di shvartse vorones, zey vern nisht mid Tsu krakeven shtendik dos eygene lid: Iz kra-kra-kra-kra krakevet men Dos eyntsike lidele vos me ken.

Libe vorones, efsher, lemay, Tsi volt ir nisht pruvn a zing tun vos nay? An andern trel, a frishn tra-la, Vayl opgenutst shark iz ayer kra-kra.

Di shvartse vorones...

Libe vorones, heybt a mol on An origineln shnit un fason. Azoy iz di mode – zi kumt un zi geyt, Me vert opgeshtanen ven me fargest zikh un shteyt.

Di shvartse vorones...

Khapt uf di klangen tsezeyt arum aykh, Klaybt zey fun vald, fisht zey fun taykh,

Shept zey fun himl, tsi fun unter der erd,

Un mer keyn kra-kra zol nisht vern gehert!

Di shvartse vorones...

BLACK CROWS

The black crows never tire They keep on cawing the same old song: Kra-kra-kra-kra they're cawing on The only song they've ever known.

Dear crows, how about Trying to sing something new? A different trill, another tra-la, Since your constant kra-kra is very worn out.

The black crows...

Dear crows, start for once An original style and fashion. Fashion is like that – it comes and it goes, You're left behind if you don't move ahead.

The black crows...

Catch the sounds scattered around,

Gather them from the woods, fish them from the river,

Draw them from the skies or from under the ground,

And let's hear no more this kra-kra-ing sound!

The black crows...

GENDZELEKH

Gendzelekh geyen In gendzene reyen, Gendzelekh mit frendzelekh, Ga, ga, ga! Foroys get der goner, Feter Kaperoner,

Un nokh im di gendzelekh,

Ga, ga, ga!

Eyns a kleyns, eyns a sheyns, Eyns a brudiks, eyns a reyns, Gendzelekh mit frendzelekh, Ga, ga, ga!

Tsum taykhl, tsum taykhl, Banetsn zikh dos baykhl, Bavashn zikh, bavishn, Derkvikn zikh, derfrishn.

Ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga! Ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga Gendzelekh mit frendzelekh, Ga, ga, ga!

GOSLINGS

Goslings are walking In gosling-like rows, Goslings with feathery fringes, Ga, ga, ga! The gander takes the lead, Uncle Kaperoner, And the goslings follow him, Ga, ga, ga! A little one, a pretty one, A dirty one, a clean one, Goslings with feathery fringes,

Ga, ga, ga!

To the stream, to the stream, To wet their bellies, Wash themselves, dry themselves, Take delight, freshen up.

Ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga! Ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga, ga! Goslings with feathery fringes, Ga, ga, ga!

Letter to Beyle on her 100th Birthday from Ethel Raim

Dearest Beyle,

Last Friday would have been your 100th birthday. I always have such fond memories of your birthday, mostly the many times we gathered together to celebrate with you.

But there is one birthday that stands out for me; your 70th birthday, which we celebrated in Elkins West Virginia, when we co-taught a class in Yiddish singing at the Augusta Heritage Folk Arts Program in 1990.

I remember vividly our 10-hour drive from New York City to Elkins; the students you enthralled in our singing class over the course of a week; how receptive they were to your songs and stories, and how there wasn't a dry eye in the room after you sang your song *Mayn khaverte Mintsye*.

I also remember how Peggy Seeger, who was also teaching that week at the Heritage Program, would stop you in the hall, on the grounds, in the cafeteria, or just about anywhere and would ask you to say your "reysh" which she could not get over how fabulous the sound was. And Beyle, you did have the most amazing, delicious "reysh."

Suffice it to say you had a huge impact on our class, many of whom had never heard Yiddish, sung a Yiddish song, met a native Yiddish speaker, and no less encountered such a beautiful and compelling traditional singer as yourself with such an unassuming magnetism. And what an extraordinary and rewarding opportunity it was for me to share this experience with you.

Beyle, I cherish every moment I ever spent with you, and feel eternally grateful to have been in the right place at the right time to connect with you in such a deep way and to have spent as much time as I did with you.

With enduring love, Ethel

MAYN KHAVERTE MINTSYE

Ven kh'brekh durkh di tirn fun ort un fun tsayt, Shteystu far mir in farneplter vayt; Un fun unter di tsamen farleygte afir Du shmeykhlst an eybikn shmeykhl tsu mir, Mayn khaverte Mintsye.

> Gevoksn in eynem af der zelbiker gas, Kinder tsefloygn in shpil un in shpas, Keshenes ful mit gelekhter un freyd, Di gore velt far undz ofn un greyt.

Nu, ver volt gerikht zikh, afile getrakht, Az no'nt ba der shvel vart a fintstere nakht,

Un undzer shteyngas vi a fayeriker shtrom Vet vern farshlungen in fintstern t'hom... Mayn khaverte Mintsye.

Ver in gehenem Transnister farshikt,

Ver in di getos fartsamt un farshtikt, Ver s'iz antlofn ibern Nester vu het, Du bist gefaln dershosn in veg.

MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND MINTSYE

- When I break through the portals of time and space,
 You stand before me in a faraway mist;
 And from behind the barriers
 You smile an eternal smile at me,
 My childhood friend Mintsye.
 - Raised together on the same street,
 - Children wrapped up in games and fun,
 - With pockets full of laughter and joy,
 - The whole world was open and waiting for us.

Who could have known, or even dreamed,

That right on our doorstep was the darkest night,

And our Shteyngas in a river of flame

Would be swallowed up in a black abyss...

My childhood friend Mintsye.

Some to the hell of Transnistria were sent,

- Others in stifling ghettos were trapped,
- Some beyond the Dniester fled,

You were shot down on the way.

(hemshekh)

MAYN KHAVERTE MINTSYE (hemshekh)

MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND MINTSYE (continued)

Nokh der milkhome, ikh gey durkh dayn hoyz, Pust vi a khurve un hoyl zet es oys, Un af di trep zitst farnyuret un gro: A shotn, dayn mame, nor du bist nishto, Mayn khaverte Mintsye.

After the war, I passed by your house,

An empty, desolate ruin it was,

And on the steps a gray shadow huddled:

Your mother, but you were not there,

My childhood friend Mintsye.

AZOY LANG

Azoy lang, azoy lang Zogn mir zikh "zay gezunt," Shoyn kemat funem ershtn bageg'nen. S'iz di zun ufgegan Mit ir gantsn tseflam Un di shotns fun undzer gezeg'nen.

> Zay gezunt, zay gezunt, Tsayt tsu geyn, muz men geyn. Zay gezunt, tsayt tsu geyn, Muz men geyn.

Fliyen reges avek, Fun eyn tog vern teg Un se zenen gor plutsem shoyn yorn. Un mir shteyen nokh alts Un gezegenen zikh, Khotsh s'iz, dakht zikh, shoyn shpetlekh gevorn.

Zay gezunt, zay gezunt...

SO LONG

So long, so long We've been saying farewell, Almost from the very first meeting. The sun rose With all its flaming And the shadows of our parting.

> Farewell, farewell, Time to go, I must go. Farewell, time to go, I must go.

The moments fly, One day becomes many And suddenly it's been years. And we're still here Saying goodbye, Although, it seems, it's getting rather late.

Farewell, farewell...

MAYN HEYM NYU-YORK

Shemst zikh oystsuzogn, Az der koyln-porekh, Gazolin-roykh, Der vilder getuml, hastik getrib Iz dayn heym – un du host zi lib. Vilst nisht tsugebn Az oykh dayn lebn Vi der brukirter asfalt Iz gevorn farglivert, shteyn kalt. Nisht oystsuredn a vort mit keynem Teg lang. Un dos iz gevorn dayn shteyger lebn, Afile farlang. Un vos iz do zikh tsu barimen? Di vos farshteven es nisht

Afile farlang. Un vos iz do zikh tsu barimen? Di vos farshteyen es nisht Veln mit mir nisht aynshtimen; Un di andere – say vi say meynen: S'iz di beste fun ale heymen.

MY HOME, NEW YORK

You're ashamed to confess it, That the coal dust, The gasoline smoke, The wild noise, the impetuous tumult Is your home – and you love it. You won't admit That your life, Like the paved asphalt, Has become congealed, stone cold. Not uttering a word to anyone For days on end. And this has become the pattern of your life, In fact, your preference. What is there to boast about? Those who don't understand Won't agree; And the others – in any event – think: It's the best home anywhere.

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A NAY GEZETS IN NYU-YORK

Ir megt shoyn lebn fray on dayges un on zorg –

S'iz aroys a nay gezets in Nyu-york, A nay gezets frish fun der nodl atsind: Ir muzt opreynikn nokh ayere hint!

Zet ir eynem trogn a tsaytung zayn hintele nokh.

A getrayer birger, veyst ir, iz er dokh!

A getrayer birger, yo, a patriot!

Geyt er nokh zayn kelevl trot nokh trot...

O, sara khidesh!

Sara khidesh, sara vunder!

Ale gasn, ale hekn,

Reyn un sheyn un on shum flekn atsinder.

S'kumen mentshn, gest, turistn fun gor di velt,

Me bakukt di metropolye, un me kvelt.

Me shpatsirt in Menhetn, gas nokh gas,

Me shpiglt zikh in di vitrines ershte klas.

A NEW LAW IN NEW YORK

You may live free an easy, without a care -

There's a new law in force in New York,

A new law, hot off the press:

You've got to clean up after your dog!

So you see a man with a newspaper and his dog.

He is of course a dedicated citizen!

He's a good man, a true civilian, a good patriot!

He follows his dog every step of the way.

Oh, what a wonder!

What a wonder, what a marvel!

All streets, all back alleys,

Nice and clean now, without a smudge.

People, guests, tourists come from all over the world,

To observe our metropolis, and they're elated.

They walk through Manhattan, street by street,

Admiring their reflections in classy store windows.

(hemshekh)

A NAY GEZETS IN NYU-YORK (hemshekh)

A NEW LAW IN NEW YORK (continued)

different -

awful -

But one New York neighborhood is very

In The Bronx they just carry on as usual.

Under shrubs, on the sidewalk - oh, it's

You can find what to pick up...take it away!

Nor eyn kvartal in Nyu-york iz andersh gor –

Di Bronks firt zikh vi zi firt zikh, yor nokh yor. Unter kustes, af trotuarn – oy, a shrek –

Gefint zikh vos avektsusharn...nemt es avek!

O, sara khidesh...

Nor s'vet kumen aza tog, ikh garantir,

Az s'vet zayn a fargenign a Bronksshpatsir...

Ale gasn, ale hekn – ay, ay, ay –

Reyn un sheyn un on shum shrekn, alevay!

O, sara khidesh...

But I guaranty that the day will come

Oh, what a wonder...

When it will be a joy to walk through The Bronx...

All streets, all back alleys – oh, my –

Nice and clean and nothing to fear, may it be so!

Oh, what a wonder...

TSU BINYUMELES BAR-MITSVE

Tsi veyst ir voser tog s'iz haynt? S'iz Binyumeles bar-mitsve! Se kumen noente un gute-fraynd Af der groyser simkhe.

> Vayl a yatl voyl un fayn Der bar-mitsve-bokher, A guter yid vet er take zayn, Der bar-mitsve-bokher.

Di gedule iz gor groys Bay di tate-mame, S'vet fun zeyer zun aroys A groyser goen mistame!

Vayl a yatl voyl un fayn...

Tsugeyn zol es zingendik, Loz men zikh nisht ayln. Zingen iz dokh ikerdik, Zingendik farvayln.

Vayl a yatl voyl un fayn... Lomir zikh mesameyekh zayn Af Binyumeles bar-mitsve, Esn, un trinken a glezl vayn – S'avade dokh a mitsve.

Vayl a yatl voyl un fayn...

FOR BINYUMELE'S BAR MITZVAH

Do you know what day's today? It's Binyumele's bar mitzvah! Folks from near and far away Have come to the celebration.

> For a swell young guy is he, The bar mitzvah boy, A good Jew he will surely be, The bar mitzvah boy.

There is great rejoicing For Binyumele's parents, There is no doubt that their son Will be a great man!

For a swell young guy is he...

Let's raise our voice in song, Let's not be in a hurry. Singing is the main thing, Singing and rejoicing.

For a swell young guy is he...

Let's all be merry At Binyumele's bar mitzvah, Eat, and drink a glass of wine – It surely is a mitzvah.

For a swell young guy is he...

TUNKL GRIN

Shoyn lang gehat fargesn Dem tunkl grinem reyekh Fun sosnebeymer. Vi er nemt dikh durkh Biz di vortslen fun di hor Un viklt dikh ayn In valdishe balzamen. S'vaksn oys bay yedn trot Kveytn fun dermonen. Krekhtst a tsvayg, a feyglish kol Ruft dikh tsurik: a mol. Sheptshet der vint: Adort, ahin! Sharf un kil un Tunkl grin.

DARK GREEN

I had long forgotten The darkly green scent Of pine trees. How it permeates you To the roots of your hair And enwraps you In woody fragrance. At every step Blossoms of remembrance. A branch creaks, a bird's trill Calls you back to a time past. The wind whispers: Yonder, there! Cool and keen and Darkly green.

VOS KUKT ES DORT AROYS FUN DR'ERD?

Vos kukt es dort aroys fun dr'erd? A blimele, a blimele! Vos zingt es afn boym dort, hert? A feygele, a feygele! WHAT'S THAT PEEKING OUT OF THE GROUND?

What's that peeking out of the ground? A flower, a flower! Who's singing in the tree there? A bird, a bird!

A blimele blit, a feygele zingt, A flaterl flit, a zhabkele shpringt, Der friling iz shoyn do, Der friling iz shoyn do.

Der friling iz gekumen, yo! Der friling, der friling! Der liber friling iz shoyn do! Der friling, der friling! A flower is blooming, a bird is singing, A butterfly is fluttering, a frog is leaping, Spring is here, Spring is here.

Spring has come, yes! Spring, spring! Our dear spring is here! Spring, spring!

A blimele do, a flaterl dort, Se zingt un shpringt af yedn ort, Der friling iz shoyn do, Der friling iz shoyn do. A flower here, a butterfly there, There's singing and leaping everywhere, Spring is here, Spring is here.

AF A MIDBER-VEG

Ven du host keyn mol nisht lib gehat, Geystu af a pustn midber-veg. On a zinen, on a tam iz, Host umzist opgelebt di teg.

> Vayl du zest nisht un du filst nisht Vi se shprotst aroys der griner tsvit, Un eyder vos un ven, far dayne oygn,

Hot dayn velt in gantsn opgeblit.

Vos zhe toyg mir dare kortshes, Vos zey shvimen af di khvalyes um? Hobn oykh a modne sheynkeyt, Zeyer hoyt iz ober toyt un shtum.

> Ze nor, bruder, vi se shmeykhlen Un se finklen shtern arum dir! Pak dayn rentsl mit sheyne zakhn, Kum nisht on keyn bidner pasazhir!

ON A DESERT ROAD

If you have never loved, You walk on a desert path. Without sense or savor, You have wasted your days.

Because you don't see and you don't feel The buds that sprout green, And before you know it, before your very eyes,

Your world has withered away.

What need have I for dried-out driftwood, Bobbing upon the waves? Theirs is also a strange beauty, Their skin, though, is lifeless and mute.

Look, my friend, at the smiles And twinklings of the stars around! Pack your bags with lovely things, Don't arrive a sorry traveler!

FRILING

Ikh shmeykhl mit freyd dem friling antkegn, A shmeykhl farshpreyt iber dekher un vegn. Un ze nor di erd, di kalte vi shteyn – Sara vunder mit ir iz geshen...

Zi hot zikh tseefnt un fun shpaltn afir Hot zikh tsefinklt der griner kolir. Grezer un blumen, bletelekh kleyn – Sara vunder mit ir iz geshen...

Un du un ikh, vi alding arum, Frish zikh tseyungt vi di ershte blum.

In dayne oygn kh'hob a finklen derzen – Sara vunder mit dir iz geshen...

SPRING

I smile with joy in the face of spring, A smile that spreads over roofs and roads. Look at the ground, cold and stone – What a miracle has happened to her...

She opened herself up and from every crack A green glow radiated. Grasses and flowers, leaves so small – What a miracle has happened to her...

And you and I, like all around us,

Refreshed and young again like the first flower.

I saw the sparkle in your eyes –

What a miracle has happened to you...

TU BISHVAT

Tu bishvat, tu bishvat, A gut yor aykh, boym un blat! A gut yor, a gut yor, Gut yor aykh, grine beymer!

> Boksers, teytlen un marantsn, Lomir geyn haynt beymer flantsn! Lomir geyn, lomir geyn, Flantsn griner beymer!

Iber barg un iber tol, Vaksn beymer in yisrol, Vaksn beymer, vaksn beymer Vaksn grine beymer.

> Lomir grobn un farzetsn Un mit vaser zey banetsn, Beymer, beymer, beymer, beymer, Zetsn grine beymer!

Tu bishvat, tu bishvat, Lomir zingen a vivat! A vivat, a vivat, Tsu di grine beymer!

TU B'SHEVAT

Tu b'Shevat, Tu b'Shevat, Happy New Year, trees and leaves! A good year, a good year, Good year to you, green trees!

> Carob, dates and oranges, Let's go plant trees today! Let's go, let's go, Plant green trees!

Over hill and over dale, Trees are growing in Israel, Trees are growing, trees are growing, Green trees are growing.

> Let's dig and plant And moisten them with water, Trees, trees, trees, trees, Planting green trees!

Tu b'Shevat, Tu b'Shevat, Let's sing hooray! Hooray, hooray, To the green trees!

S'IZ MATSE DO

S'iz matse do, kharoyses do Un koyses royter vayn. S'iz peysekh dokh. S'iz seyder dokh. Vos ken nokh ziser zayn?

S'iz kidesh do, kashes do, Maykholim mole-tam. S'iz yontev dokh, friling dokh. Vos ken nokh shener zayn?

> Ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay, Ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay.

Afikoymen do, elye-novi do, Mishpokhe, gute-fraynd. S'iz yontev dokh, banayung dokh, Vos ken nokh beser zayn?

Hagode do, bonim do, Der khokhem un der tam, Der vos veyst nisht vos tsu fregn, Un der vos fregt nisht stam.

THERE'S MATZAH HERE

Matzah is here, charoset is here And cups of red wine. It's Pesach, of course, and it's the seder. What could be sweeter?

Kiddush is here, the four questions are here, Delicious dishes. Of course, it's a holiday and springtime. What could be nicer?

> Ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay, Ay-ay-ay-ay-ay-ay.

The afikomen is here, Elijah is here, Family and friends. Of course, it's a holiday and renewal, What could be better?

The Haggadah here, the sons here, The wise one and the simpleton, The one who doesn't know what to ask, And the one who doesn't ask at all.

(hemshekh)

S'IZ MATSE DO (hemshekh)

Der meylekh do, di malke do, Kneydlekh, fish muz zayn. Kraytekhtser un khreyn avade. Vi ken es andersh zayn?

Der nign do, dayeynu do, Dos tsigele khad-gadyo. Mertseshem, leshono habo. Vos ken nokh neenter zayn?

Ay-ay-ay...

THERE'S MATZAH HERE (continued)

The king is here, the queen is here, Matzah balls and fish – a must. Bitter herbs and horseradish, of course. How could it be any different?

The tune is here, Dayenu is here, And the little goat – Chad Gadya. God willing, leshanah ha-ba'ah, What could be any closer?

Ay-ay-ay...

LEVONE, LEVONE!

Levone, levone, du bist azoy sheyn Ven du shaynst in der finsterer nakht! Nor zog mir far vos du host nisht keyn noz Un di oygn haltstu farmakht?

Levone, levone, vos bistu azoy freylekh Ven du shaynst in der fintsterer nakht? Bistu a malke, tsi bistu a meylekh? Zits ikh baym fentster un trakht.

Levone, levone, afn himl dort oybn Hitstu undz, vi mir dakht, Ven ikh in mayn betl un zi in ir betl Shlofn di gantse nakht?

Levone, levone, du kumst mir tsu kholem, Ven kh'halt nor di oygn farmakht. Kh'ze vi aleyn du tust dortn shteyn On a heym in der fintsterer nakht.

MOON, MOON!

Moon, moon, you are so lovely As you shine in the dark night! But tell me why you have no nose And you keep your eyes closed?

Moon, moon, why are you so cheerful As you shine in the dark night? Are you a queen, or are you a king? I sit by the window and ponder.

Moon, moon, in heaven above, Are you guarding us, as it seems, When I in my bed and she in her bed Are sleeping through the night?

Moon, moon, I dream about you, While my eyes are closed. I see that you are out there alone With no home in the dark night.

ZILBER-SHTERN

O, ir mayne zilber-shtern, O, ir himlen mayne blo! O, ir mayne yunge yorn, Yunge yorn mer nishto, Nishto, nishto, nishto, O, yunge yorn mer nishto.

> Kh'bin dergangen bizn shpits barg, Shnaydn zikh di vegn op. Shtey ikh itster afn shpits barg, Firt a tifer barg arop, Arop, arop, arop.

Kum tsu fliyen, du, mayn odler, Nem mikh af di fligl dayn In di bloe, vayte himlen, Loz mikh nisht in tol arayn, Arayn, in tol arayn, O, loz mikh nisht in tol arayn.

> Ikh vel zitsn do un vartn, Gleybn, az du kumst ot bald. Kh'vel nisht zen vi se vert tunkl, Kh'vel nisht filn vi s'vert kalt, O neyn, o neyn, o neyn.

SILVER STARS

Oh, you silver stars of mine, Oh, you skies of blue! Oh, you youthful years, Youth that is no more, No more, no more, no more, Oh, youth that is no more.

> I have reached the summit And the road ends here. I stand now at the summit And see the steep decline below, Below, below, below.

Fly to me, my eagle, Take me on those wings of yours To the distant blue skies, Don't leave me down in the valley, Down in the valley, Oh, don't leave me down in the valley.

I will sit here and wait,
Believing that you'll come soon.
I won't see when it gets dark,
I won't feel when it gets cold,
Oh no, oh no, oh no.

(hemshekh)

ZILBER-SHTERN (hemshekh)

SILVER STARS (continued)

O, ir mayne bloe himlen, Oh, you blue skies of mine, *O, ir zilber-shtern mayn!* Oh, you silver stars! Nem mikh dort tsu zey, mayn odler, Take me there to them, my eagle, Zikher muzn zey vu zayn, Surely they must be somewhere there, О уо, о уо, о уо, Oh yes, oh yes, oh yes, O, zikher muzn zey vu zayn. Oh, surely they must be somewhere there.

BA MAYN MAMES SHTIBELE

Ba mayn mames shtibele Bin ikh mir geshtanen, Biz es zenen yingelekh tsvey Derekhgegan(g)en.

Mit zeyere shvartze eygelekh Hobn zey mikh gefangen. Zey hobn dokh mir dem kop fardreyt, Arger vi gehangen.

Kh'gey in gey in gey in gey, Fal in fal in fal. Farlibt hob ikh mikh in a yingele, S'platst in mir di gal.

Er kimt tse mir in shtibele (shtib aran), Zugt er hot mekh lib. (Er) geyt avek tsin an ander meydele, (In) grubt af mir a grib.

Az me grubt af yenem a gribele, Falt men aleyn aran. Er vet zikh nokh beytn bam tayern, zisn got Az er zol zan man man!

AT MY MOTHER'S HOUSE

At my mother's house I was standing, When two boys Passed by.

With their dark eyes They captured me. They turned my head, Worse than a hanging.

I walk and walk and walk and walk, Fall and fall and fall. I've fallen in love with a boy, And I'm feeling really spiteful.

He comes into my house, Tells me he loves me, Goes off with another girl, Makes me a grave.

When you dig a grave for someone else, It's you who falls into it. He will only pray to dear, precious God For me to marry him!

A REGE

Ven du zolst keyn mol mer nisht zayn Un ikh bin keyn mol mer nisht dayn, Bistu gevezn eyn mol mayn, Eybik mayn a rege, A rege, a rege, Eybik mayn a rege.

Du geyst avek, avek in vayt, An and're gas, a fremde tsayt, Nor eybik zenen mir tsu tsveyt Gegangen far a rege, A rege, a rege, Gegangen far a rege.

Ikh tseyl di tropns in mayn hant Oysgeperlte banand, Heng zey uf af mayn gevant, Eybik iz di rege, Di rege, di rege, Eybik iz di rege.

A MOMENT

If you were no more And I were no longer yours, Yet you were once mine, Forever mine for a moment, A moment, a moment, Forever mine for a moment.

You go away, far away, Another street, a strange time, Yet we were eternally Together for a moment, A moment, a moment, Together for a moment.

I count the drops in my hand, A strand of pearls, Hang them on my garb, Eternal is the moment, The moment, the moment, Eternal is the moment.

KH'HOB FARGESN VI AZOY TSU ZINGEN

Kh'hob fargesn vi azoy tu zingen, Kh'hob fargesn dem klang fun mayn kol, Kh'hob fargesn vi azoy se klingen Tener mutne fun a mol.

Kh'her dem foygl ba mayn fentster – Epes iz er beyz af mir. Ver se meynt az feygl zingen, Nor ikh meyn s'iz nisht keyn shir.

Red ikh tsu im af zayn loshn: "Foygl, nar eyner vos du bist, Ikh derken dayn emes ponim – Beyzerst zikh af mir umzist.

Ikh bin oykh geven a foygl Un gezungen tsuker zis, Hot a duner mikh getrofn Un tsu shtumkeyt mikh farshmidt."

Hob ikh shoyn mayn lid fargesn Un farloyrn dem foygls fli. Kh'bin a vanderer a shtumer On a veg un on a tsil.

I'VE FORGOTTEN HOW TO SING

I've forgotten how to sing, I've forgotten the sound of my voice, I've forgotten the sound of Faint tones from the past.

I hear the bird at my window – Somehow he is angry with me. Some think that birds sing, But I believe it's not a song.

So I speak to him in his language: "Bird, silly one that you are, I recognize your true self – It is useless to be angry with me.

I was also once a bird And sang so sweetly, But a disaster came And shackled me to silence."

But now I've forgotten my song And lost my way to fly. I'm a mute wanderer With no path and no purpose.

A ZEMERL AZA

Trya da bam bam bam, un trya da bam bam ba, Zing ikh mir a zemerl, a zemerl aza. A zemerl mit freyd, a zemerl mit tam, A zemerl, a zemerl, a zemerl ful flam.

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

Me trakht azoy aher, me trakht azoy ahin, Un vos merer me trakht, alts veyniker der zin. A bletl un a harts, se tsitert yeder shorkh. Vos iz den der mentsh – mer vi ash un porekh?

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

Itster iz atsinder, nekhtn shoyn geven, Un vos zhe hot dos oyg den nokh nisht gezen. Iz trya da bam bam ba, trya da bam bam bam, ZIngen mir a zemerl mit fayer un mit flam.

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

Un az nisht baym rebns tish, un az nisht in shil, Un fort brumt men unter a zemerl in der shtil... A nigndl tsevakst zikh, fligl laykhte fli'n,

Flit men mitn nigndl in di himlen 'hin.

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

A SONG LIKE THIS

Trya da bam bam bam, un trya da bam bam ba, I sing myself a zemerl, a zemerl like this one. A zemerl with joy, a zemerl with feeling, A zemerl, a zemerl, a zemerl full of fire.

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

You can think up and you can think down, But the more you think, the less sense it makes. A leaf and a heart, every sound trembles. What is a person, after all, but ash and dust?

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

Now is the moment, yesterday is gone, And what have these eyes not seen? So *trya da bam bam ba, trya da bam bam bam*, I sing a *zemerl* full of fire and flame.

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

Since we're not at the rebbe's table, or in shul, We sing a *zemerl*, a *zemerl* in the silence...

A melody melts away, weightless wings take flight,

And I too fly with the *zemerl* up to the heavens.

Ay dam, tray ray ray dam...

SHOYN FARENDIKT ZIKH DOS LIDL FUNEM TOG

Shoyn farendikt zikh dos lidl funem tog, Kh'her zikh ayn, trakht arayn zikh in dayn zog. Kh'veys a mentsh halt nisht vort vi er zol,

Bist arayn in der nakht far ale mol.

S'hot a kholem mikh getoret, gevekt, A koshmar, a beyzer mikh geshrekt, S'hot nisht umistn ver a shtoys dir geton Bistu gefaln vi a snop afn lan.

Ta-ra-ra-ra...

Kh'hob gepruvt dikh oyfheybn, nor umzist Bist gelegn, nisht gevust ver du bist. Bist avek, nisht gevorn, nisht gedakht Un a lets iz geshtanen un gelakht.

Ta-ra-ra-ra...

THE SONG OF THE DAY IS DONE

The song of the day is done,
I listen in, deliberate on what you said.
I know a person doesn't keep promises as he should,
You're gone into the night forever.

A dream nagged at me, woke me, A nightmare, a bad one, frightened me, Someone accidentally gave you a shove, You fell like a sheaf on the meadow.

Ta-ra-ra-ra...

I tried to pick you up, but in vain, You lay there, not knowing who you were. You were gone, as if never there, And a clown stood and laughed.

Ta-ra-ra-ra...

Lemplekh tsinen af der gas zikh royt un grin,Red and green lights illuminate the street,Heysn geyn ven me darf un vuhin,Telling when to go and where,Un ikh ze vi zey pintlen mir tsu:And I see them winking to me:Tsayt shoyn geyn, kum shoyn, kum, nu shoyn,
nu.Time to go, let's go now, come on, come.
Bbbb

(hemshekh)

SHOYN FARENDIKT ZIKH DOS LIDL FUNEM TOG (hemshekh)

Un ikh pruv shteln trit, gikher gikh, Nor ot bayt zikh dos likht vi fun zikh Un ikh shtey shoyn in mitn gelaf S'yogt di velt, flit adurkh un ikh gaf?

Ta-ra-ra-ra...

THE SONG OF THE DAY IS DONE (continued)

And I try to take steps, faster and faster, But the light changes now, as if by itself And now I'm standing in the middle of the rush The world races, flies by and I stare?

Ta-ra-ra-ra...

Shoyn farendikt zikh dos lidl, klang nokh klang. Shtil di nakht, shtil der tog un s'gezang, Nor dos fentster fun nakht, mayn guter-fraynd, Shmeykhlt mild, halt mikh vakh, vigt mikh ayn.

Shoyn farendikt zikh dos lidl, bist avek, Kh'red nokh alts tsu dayn shotn un ikh freg: Bistu take arayn in der nakht? Bistu geven vens? Tsi hob ikh dikh oysgetrakht?

Ta-ra-ra-ra....

The song is finished, sound after sound. Silent the night, silent the day, and the song, But the window of night, my good friend, Smiles gently, keeps me awake, rocks me to sleep.

The song is finished, you are gone, I still talk to your shadow and I ask: Did you really go into the night? Were you ever here? Or did I imagine you?

(hemshekh)

Ta-ra-ra-ra...

THE SONG OF THE DAY IS DONE (continued)

[BEYLE HOT TSUGEGEBN DI SHURES, ME ZOL ZEY ZINGEN NOKH IR PTIRE.]

O, zi iz geven a mol, yo geven, Gezesn ba ir fentster un gezen Vi der boym bayt zayn tsure tog far tog Un di toybn pikn zernes afn rog.

O, zi iz geven un zi iz avek Un gezen vi se kumt ir sof, an ek, Un zi hot farshribn yedn rir Vos di gas hot oysgeshpilt far ir.

Ta-ra-ra-ra....

[BEYLE ADDED THESE LINES TO BE SUNG AFTER SHE PASSED AWAY.]

Oh, she once was here, she was, Sat at her window and noticed How the tree changed its look day by day And the pigeons pecked kernels at the corner.

Oh, she was here and she is gone And realized how her time was coming, an end, And she recorded every action That the street performed for her.

Ta-ra-ra-ra....

HARBSTLID

Ze, s'iz harbst, Un vos gegrint fargelt, farvyanet. Ze, s'iz harbst, Un vos geblit fargeyt. Un ikh, vos kh'hob gemeynt s'iz shtendik friling, Un kh'halt in hant Di gantse eybikeyt.

> Oho, falndike bleter! Oho, fliyendike teg! Oho, vi vel ikh itster blondzhen, Ven s'ligt gedikhter nepl af mayn veg...

Kraken feygl, Zogn troyerik: "Zay gezunt dir!" Krekhtst in fentster Un se klogt der vint: "O, vi volt ikh itst avek fun danen Tsun a breg Vu nokh der friling grint…"

SONG OF AUTUMN

See, it's fall,

And all that greened has yellowed, withered.

See, it's fall,

And all that bloomed is gone.

And I, who thought that spring would last forever,

And in my hand I hold

Eternity.

Oh, falling leaves! Oh, flying days! Oh, how will I wander now, When thick fog settles on my way...

Sadly cawing birds Say: "Goodbye!" At the window The moaning, wailing wind: "I wish that I could get away from here To a shore Where there is still green spring..."

(hemshekh)

Oho, falndike bleter...

SONG OF AUTUMN

(continued)

Driving rain

Into my ear:

Oh, falling leaves...

Gallops on a wild horse,

Whispers secret love

When autumn offers

Baskets full of gold?"

Flit der regn, A galop af vildn ferdl, Roymt mir ayn a sod – Er hot mikh holt: "Tsu vos zhe darfstu vartn afn friling, Az s'hot der osyen Fule koyshns gold?"

Oho, falndike bleter...

Oh, falling leaves...

"Why do you need to wait for springtime

Comments by Shane Baker (Emcee)

Welcome to our concert today, BEYLE100, in honor of and in memory of Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman on her 100th birthday!

Beyle, an artist, Yiddish poet, and Yiddish songwriter, was born August 7, 1920 in Vienna. She grew up in Chernowitz with her parents and her younger brother, the linguist Mordkhe Schaechter.

Beyle's mother, Lifshe Schaechter-Widman, was herself an amazing folk singer who knew from memory literally hundreds of folk songs, not only in Yiddish, but also in Russian, Ukrainian, German, and other languages.

Beyle's father, Khayim-Binyumen Schaechter, a zealous Yiddishist, was sent to Siberia by the Soviets in 1941. He never returned.

During the Second World War, Beyle and her family were confined in the Chernowitz ghetto and miraculously avoided being sent to the camps in Transnistria.

After the war, Beyle lived for two years in Bucharest and then four years in a DP camp in Vienna, where her husband, Yoyne Gottesman, was the head doctor. Beyle, Yoyne, and their daughter Taube came to New York in 1951.

Only when she was in this country, Beyle started writing songs – first, children's songs, particularly for her own children, then poetry and songs for adults.

In 1998 Beyle was inducted into the People's Hall of Fame at City Lore in New York. In 2005 she received the National Heritage Fellowship award from the National Endowment for the Arts – the highest honor for folk artists in the United States. She was the first Yiddish poet to receive that acknowledgement.

She created around a hundred songs and published seven books of poetry. Today you'll hear only a small portion of her oeuvre, as well as reminiscences from those close to her. You'll also hear Beyle herself in three brief excerpts from the documentary about her.

The youngest singers you'll hear today are Beyle's living heirs: a grandchild, a great-nephew, and two great-nieces.

Last but not least, I'll say this in English because it's relevant to those who don't understand our language:

A PDF has been prepared for today's concert which is available with the click of the link that has been provided in the Facebook and YouTube "Chat." This PDF contains the full translations of all the songs, poems, and of the brief words which you will hear spoken by two people who were close to Beyle; the entire PDF follows the sequence in which you'll be hearing them. So if you want to follow along with the translations, do click on that link.

Comments by Shane Baker (Emcee) (continued)

And now, to the concert and a greeting from Beyle's son, Itzik Gottesman.

[Before "Flaterl"]

Birds and other animals appear in many of Beyle's songs, and sometimes, as in the next song you'll hear, the main theme, "*di hoypt-teme*," is animals.

Speaking of *"teme"*: The next singer, Temma Schaechter, is more familiar to many people as the younger of the singing duo, *Di Shekhter-tekhter*, Beyle's grand-nieces, who, for the past ten years, as children and teenagers, travelled all over the world giving Yiddish concerts for both young and old. Later, you'll hear Reyna, the elder of the *Shekhter-Tekhter*.

[Before "Tsu Binyumeles bar-mitsve"]

Beyle wrote "Tsu Binyumeles bar-mitsve" to commemorate the bar mitzvah of her nephew Binyumen Schaechter, who, in those days, was still known as "Binyumele." (Beyle called him that throughout her life.) And the premiere of the song was sung at his bar mitzvah by the original "Shekhter-Tekhter" (Schaechter Daughters), Rukhl, Gitl, and Eydl Schaechter!

Years after Binyumele's bar mitzvah, the song became a hit because Yiddishists and people in the Yiddish music world substituted in their own child's name and sang it at their own bar- and bas mitzvahs. They sang "*Tsu Soreles bas-mitsve,*" *Tsu Daneeliks bar-mitsve,*" and so on. Alicia Svigals, at her son's bar mitzvah, accompanying herself on the violin, was the first to actually sing the original words again, because her son's name is Ben – in Yiddish, Binyumen!

[Before "Friling"]

Two of today's singers have recorded their own CDs consisting exclusively of Beyle's songs. One of them, Theresa Tova, whom you will hear later in today's concert, took previously recorded songs of Beyle's and came up with her own, fresh, unique interpretations and arrangements. The other, Lucette van den Berg, decided to record only songs of Beyle's that hadn't yet been recorded on a CD. You'll now hear Lucette sing one of those songs.

[At the conclusion]

And that's the end of our concert in honor of Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman on her 100th birthday.

Should you be interested in acquiring any of Beyle's CDs, songbooks, books of poetry, or a documentary film about her life and her work, you can see in the Chat, both on Facebook and on YouTube, how to order them.

Comments by Shane Baker (Emcee) (continued)

The PDF with translations (and transliterated lyrics) of today's concert will continue to be available in the link on Facebook and on YouTube, so you can download them from either of those places. And for the PDF, we can thank Paulette (*Pesye*) Schneider for her creativity and hard work.

And if we're already saying thank-yous....A big *yasher-koyekh* to all the participants, talented singers, musicians and readers, planning committee, and all co-sponsoring organizations for your participation and your help.

And an equally big *yasher-koyekh* to Alex Weiser of YIVO, who pieced together all the separate videos that were filmed in, and sent from, every corner of the world, so that one complete film can come out of it, in honor of and in memory of Beyle.

Last but not least, we want to thank all of you who were here with us for the premiere of the concert to celebrate her 100th birthday. I truly believe that she looked down at this concert with the greatest enjoyment and *nakhes*.

Stay well, and let's continue to meet at happy occasions, "af simkhes"!

BEYLE100

Celebrating a Century of the Yiddish Songs, Poetry & Artistic Vision of Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman

Conceived and produced by Binyumen Schaechter Videos compiled by Alex Weiser

Featuring:

Michael Alpert	Temma Schaechter
Shane Baker	Gitl Schaechter-Viswanath
Sharon Bernstein	Asya Vaisman Schulman
David Braun	Ilya Shneyveys
Lauren Brody	Lorin Sklamberg
Patrick Farrell	Alicia Svigals
Esther Gottesman	Paula <i>(Perl)</i> Teitelbaum
Itzik Gottesman	Theresa Tova
Matt Herskowitz	Lucette van den Berg
Sveta Kundish	Arun <i>(Arele)</i> Viswanath
Janet Leuchter	Josh Waletzky
Sasha Lurje	Jeff Warschauer
Sarah Myerson	Hy Wolfe
Ethel Raim	Shifra Whiteman
Binyumen Schaechter	Janina Wurbs
Reyna Schaechter	

BEYLE100

Celebrating a Century of the Yiddish Songs, Poetry & Artistic Vision of Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman

Event planning committee:

Shane Baker David Braun Itzik Gottesman Ethel Raim Pete Rushefsky Binyumen Schaechter Josh Waletzky Alex Weiser

Sponsors:

The Center for Traditional Music and Dance's An-sky Institute for Yiddish Culture Congress for Jewish Culture CYCO Books Forverts Hebrew Actors' Foundation Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus KlezKanada League for Yiddish Museum of Jewish Heritage Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center Workers Circle Yiddish New York Yiddish Summer Weimar YIVO Institute for Jewish Research Yugntruf - Youth for Yiddish

Program booklet created by Paulette (Pesye) Schneider