

El Ginat Egoz (Into the Walnut Garden)

Text: Song of Songs - chapter 6: v.11; chapter 7: v.12-13 Music: Moshe Denburg

Hebrew Pronunciation Guide for Singers (with CD)

Track 1. Midi realization of the work

Track 2. First Reading

Here is a reading of the entire text. Please follow the transliteration.

^{6:11} El ginat egoz yarad'ti, lir'ot b'ibei hanakhal,
lir'ot hafar'kha hagefen, heineitsu harimonim.

^{7:12} L'kha dodi netsei hasade nalina bakfarim.

^{7:13} Nashkima lakramim, nir'e im par'kha hagefen,
pitakh has'madar, heineitsu harimonim; sham eten et dodai lakh.

Track 3. Meaning of the Text

The meaning of the text is as follows, I will read first in Hebrew and then in English:

El	-	into
ginat	-	the garden of
egoz	-	walnut
yarad'ti	-	I went down
lir'ot	-	to see
b'ibei	-	the fruits of
hanakhal	-	the valley

El ginat egoz yarad'ti, lir'ot b'ibei hanakhal,
I went down into the walnut garden to see the fruits of the valley,

lir'ot	-	to see
hafar'kha	-	whether flourished
hagefen	-	the vine
heineitsu	-	whether budded
harimonim	-	the pomegranates

lir'ot hafar'kha hagefen, heineitsu harimonim.
and to see whether the vine flourished, and the pomegranates budded.

L'kha	-	come
dodi	-	my beloved
netsei	-	let us go forth
hasade	-	into the field
nalina	-	let us lodge
bakfarim	-	in the villages

L'kha dodi netsei hasade nalina bakfarim.

Come my beloved let us go forth into the field; let us lodge in the villages.

Nashkima	-	let us get up early
lakramim	-	to the vineyards
nir'e	-	let us see
im par'kha	-	whether flourished
hagefen	-	the vine

Nashkima lakramim, nir'e im par'kha hagefen,

Let us get up early to the vineyards; let us see if the vine flourish,

pitakh	-	whether appeared (opened up)
has'madar	-	the tender grape
heineitsu	-	whether budded forth
harimonim	-	the pomegranates

pitakh has'madar, heineitsu harimonim;

whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth:

sham	-	there
eten	-	I will give
et dodai	-	my loves
lakh	-	to you

sham eten et dodai lakh.

there I will give you my loves.

Track 4. Vowels

The vowels are completely consistent, and are in accordance with the international phonetic alphabet.

the letter 'a' is always sounded ah
ginat, hanakhal, nalina, pitakh, sham, lakh, etc.

the letter 'e' is always sounded eh
el, egoz, hagefen, hasade, eten, etc.

the letter 'i' is always sounded eee
ginat, harimonim, dodi, nashkima, im, etc.

the letter 'o' is always sounded o
egoz, lir'ot, harimonim, dodi, dodai

the letter 'u' is always sounded ooo (as in lute)

Note that the vowel 'u' does not appear in this text; however, 'u' is utilized as a background sound (measure 86)

the diphthong 'ei' is always sounded 'ei' (as in 'they')
b'ibei, heineitsu

the diphthong 'ai' is always sounded 'ai' (as in 'eye')
dodai

Track 5. The Shva

There is one more vowel sound to learn, and it is always represented by an apostrophe. It is a short 'i' as in the word 'hid' or 'bit'. In Hebrew it is called a 'shva'.

Practice the words:

yarad'ti, lir'ot, b'ibei, hafar'kha, l'kha, nir'e, par'kha, has'madar

Track 6. Consonants

All consonants are as in the English except for the guttural 'h' which is always spelled 'kh' and pronounced 'kh' as in the German word for eight, 'acht'.

Practice the words:

hanakhal, hafar'kha, L'kha, par'kha, pitakh, lakh

Track 7. Final Practice

Here again are the words to the song. Repeat after me.

El
ginat
egoz
yarad'ti
lir'ot
b'ibei
hanakhal

*El ginat egoz yarad'ti,
lir'ot b'ibei hanakhal,*

lir'ot
hafar'kha
hagefen,
heineitsu
harimonim

*lir'ot hafar'kha hagefen,
heineitsu harimonim.*

L'kha
dodi
netsei
hasade
nalina
bakfarim

*L'kha dodi netsei hasade
nalina bakfarim.*

Nashkima
lakramim
nir'e
im
par'kha
hagefen

*Nashkima lakramim,
nir'e im par'kha hagefen,*

pitakh
has'madar
heineitsu
harimonim

*pitakh has'madar,
heineitsu harimonim;*

sham
eten
et
dodai
lakh

sham eten et dodai lakh.