

## Hanukah Songs: Traditional and New

Susan Shane-Linder and Lisa Baydush

**H**anukah is months away, but there's no time like today to start expanding your holiday repertoire. From traditional oldies but goodies to newer songs by contemporary artists, there's much more to Hanukah than "Oh Hanukah" and "I Have a Little Dreidel!" The *Complete Hanukah Songbook*, published by Transcontinental Music Publications, is a good starting point to delve into the holiday spirit. In addition, there are many resources for finding music online, such as Jewish Learning Matters, Oy Songs, YouTube, and iTunes.

Creating a Hanukah repertoire for the K-5th grade classroom involves striking a balance between old and new. It's important to continue to teach the traditional songs of the past, while also infusing exciting new melodies into the mix. While traditional songs (such as *Maoz Tzur* and *Al ha-Nisim*) connect our students to our communal past and to Jewish people around the world, newer songs (such as *Light One Candle* and *We Kindle the Lights*) offer interpretation of the holiday and relevance in modern times.

Here are some favorite Hanukah songs that are successful with our students and families (see list below). We have created Spotify and YouTube playlists so that you can listen to and learn these songs, which were taught at our NewCAJE 9 workshop. Next to each title is a code to let you know if the song is on YouTube (YT) or Spotify (Sp), as well as if it is included in *The Complete Hanukah Songbook* (CCS). If a song has not been recorded professionally, we have provided information on where to find the sheet music or audio. We encourage you to continue to seek out new Hanukah music on your Jewish music journey, and we are happy to be a resource at any time!

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### SONGS:

1. "A Great Miracle Happened There." by Ellen Allard (sheet music at [www.EllenAllard.com](http://www.EllenAllard.com))
2. "Al ha-Nisim Hanukah Liturgy," music by Dov Frimer (YT; Sp; CCS)
3. "Cha Cha Hanukah," by the Shirettes (audio at <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/shirettes2#>)
4. "Hanukah (Chag Yafeh)," folk tune, lyrics by L. Kipnis (YT; Sp; CCS)
5. "Hanukah Catch," by Stephen Richards (YT; Sp; CCS)
6. "Hanukah Lights," by The Ba'al Shem Tones, Helene and Michael Kates (YT)
7. "Hanukah's Here," by Lisa Baydush (audio at <http://bit.ly/HanukahsHere>)
8. "The Hanukiah (How Many Candles?)," by Jackie Cytrynbaum (Sp)
9. "Hanukah Blessings" (YT; Sp; CCS)
10. "Hanukah in Santa Monica," by Tom Lehrer (YT; Sp)
11. "In the Window (My Candles)," by Judith K. Eisenstein (YT; Sp; CCS)
12. "I Have a Little Dreidel," by S.E. Goldfarb and S.S. Grossman (YT; Sp; CCS)
13. "Judah Maccabee," by Joe Black (YT; Sp; CCS)
14. "Judah Maccabee the Hammer," by Ellen Allard (YT; Sp)
15. "Kindle a Candle," by Dan Crow (YT; Sp)
16. "The Latke Song," by Debbie Friedman (YT; Sp; CCS)
17. "Light Eight Candles," by Lisa Baydush (Shir Synergy) (YT; Sp)
18. "Light One Candle," by Peter Yarrow (YT; Sp; CCS)
19. "Light the Menorah," by Debbie Friedman (YT; Sp)
20. "Lots of Latkes (English folk tune)," arranged by Cantor Allen Lieder (YT; Sp; CCS)
21. "Maccabees," by Sam Glaser (YT)
22. "Maoz Tzur (Rock of Ages)," traditional, English by G.

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- Gottheil, Music arranged by A.W. Binder (YT; Sp; CCS)
23. "Mi Y'malel (Who Can Retell?)," folk tune arranged by Eric Werner, English by Judith K. Eisenstein (YT; Sp; CCS)
  24. "Nes Gadol Haya Sham," by Debbie Friedman (YT; Sp)
  25. "Not By Might," by Debbie Friedman (YT; Sp; CCS)
  26. "Nun Gimel Hay Shin," by Debbie Friedman (YT)
  27. "O Hanukah O Hanukah," traditional (YT; Sp; CCS)
  28. "Sufganiot," by Ellen Allard (YT; Sp)
  29. "S'vivon music," by Wolli Kaelter, lyrics by M. Kipnis, English by S. Gewirtz (YT; Sp; CCS)
  30. "We Kindle the Lights," by Ellen Allard (sheet music at [www.EllenAllard.com](http://www.EllenAllard.com))
  31. "We Light the Lights," by Sam Glaser (YT)
  32. "Yodlelay Do Potato," by Ellen Allard (YT; Sp; CCS)

## RESOURCES:

Spotify playlist: <http://bit.ly/NewCAJEHanukah>  
YouTube playlist: <http://bit.ly/HanukahSongs>  
Downloadable playlists, props, curriculum: [www.LisaBaydush.com](http://www.LisaBaydush.com)

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES:

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

## NOTATED AND RECORDED MUSIC:

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

## RECOMMENDED HANUKAH ALBUMS:

*Celebrate Hanukah* – various artists  
*Hanukah: A Singing Celebration* – Cindy Paley  
*Hanukah at Home* – Fred Sokolow  
*Hanukah Collection, The* – Six13  
*Drew's Famous Presents Kids Happy Hanukah* – The Hit Crew  
*Eight Days of Hanukah* – Doda Mollie  
*Hanukah Sing-Along for Kids* – Brentwood Kids  
*Hanukah Songs* – Don Cooper  
*Hanukah Songs of Light and Hope* – Deborah Katchko Gray  
*Hanukah Swings* – Kenny Ellis  
*It Was a Miracle* – Andi Joseph  
*It's Hanukah Time* – Julie Silver  
*Light These Lights* – Debbie Friedman  
*Maccabeats Hanukah, A* – Maccabeats  
*Magic of Hanukah, The* – Paul Zim  
*Miracles and Wonders* – Debbie Friedman  
*Rockin' Hanukah Revue* – Sam Glaser  
*Shine Little Candles* – Rachel Buchman  
*ShirLaLa Hanukah!* – Shira Kline