

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE

Nobody knows where this tune came from, but you can find it hiding in Jewish and in Russian music, and in the music of Spain. When the Czech composer, Smetana, wanted to describe the Moldau, a beautiful river in his country, he used the tune in this rhythm:



In Jewish synagogues the Hebrew doxology, always sung at the beginning of the morning service, and at the close of the evening service, uses the same tune, but it sounds like this:
The Precentor sings:



and the congregation answers:



One time Thomas Olivers visited a great synagogue in London. He heard the Hebrew doxology sung by a precentor named Meyer Leoni, who had a big, beautiful voice that filled the whole sanctuary. Thomas thought, "What a wonderful hymn that would make," so he made an English poem out of the Hebrew words. The tune was called "Leoni" in honor of the singer who inspired Thomas.

THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE is a wonderful hymn for a festival; the more people singing, the better it sounds.

Do you know what these words mean?

Doxology _____

Synagogue _____

Precentor _____