

Hava Nagila

Let Us Rejoice

Hava Nagila is undoubtedly the best known Jewish Folk Song. Interestingly, the composer is often listed as “Traditional”, however it was most probably written by Nathanson/Idelsohn in the early 20th century with the song’s roots traceable to older Hebrew traditional music. It was popularized in the 1950’s by the non-Jewish American singer Harry Belafonte who used it as his closing number. From a musical theory viewpoint, this song is written in the “Phrygian Dominant” scale, giving a Middle Eastern sound to the piece.

Performance notes: Firstly, remember that **Hava Nagila** is a dance number! Keep it light and steady. The left hand chording is what keeps the dancers’ feet in step, so make the 1,3 basses as dominant as you can. So the left hand doesn’t overwhelm the simple melody, keep that accompaniment light and separate each note from the previous.

Moderately ♩=110

Am

Mellowood Studio

5 *This is page 1 of 2, for complete score*

8 E Am E Dm E

Buy Me A Coffee!

12 E Dm E