

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

The musical score is presented in a grand staff format, consisting of three systems of two staves each (treble and bass). The tempo is marked 'Moderately' with a quarter note equal to 110 beats per minute. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and dynamic markings. Chords are indicated by letters (E, Am, Dm, M, m) above the treble staff and below the bass staff. A large, semi-transparent watermark 'Mellowood Studio' is overlaid diagonally across the entire page.

Hava Nagila

16 E Dm E

M m M

20 Am Dm Am

m m m m

23 E E7 E

M 7 M

26 Dm Am

M m