

## "Hava Nagila"

My friend, who resides in Tel-Aviv, went on "Aliyah" 48 years ago. I have known him since his birth 68 years ago. Noam Seligman is his name, his brother and family have adopted me over the years as a member their family - their hospitality is beyond words of praise. My sister whom they loved dearly, was their aunt by marriage.

I received a letter from Noam, a heavy envelope and thought that its contents would be with regard to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, - as I am already organizing to send all my father's books to them. - The contents of the letter were three newspaper pages headed by large heading of "Hava Nagila" by Amos Kaminer and many passages were underlined in red ink - I quote:  
"In short Hava Nagila became the most lovable song in the Universe. The lively song, which portrays joy of living is suitable especially in the 90th years to rejoice again and again"

Collected, Classified and Edited  
by Prof. A. Z. Idelsohn

Gave the Jews their own Song.

Noam wrote in Hebrew and I am translating his (Hebrew writing) contents.

"Last Saturday, the 19th of April I read an article in the paper on the song "Hava Nagila" which attained world-wide fame! Your father's name was mentioned throughout the long article, and his outstanding research which acclaimed A. Z. Idelsohn, as a famous Musicologist, Scholar, Teacher and a famous Chazan.

"Hava Nagila" is also mentioned in his 10 Vol. Thesaurus of Hebrew Oriental Melodies, and an example of Chassidic<sup>Chassidic</sup> intonation the Lyrics have enriched the tune with their happy interpretation, The writer explains "Hava Nagila" is regarded as the world's most popular song - portraying the spirit of the land of Israel."

I looked at my fathers photograph; he left this world 58 years ago - a disabled man I remember him as a father, a scholar, a beloved Chazan, and a world renowned Musicologist - He collected single handed 5000 traditional melodies, which would have been lost - wrote Hebrew lyrics for his two Operas, Jephthah (Judges) and Elijah (the Pro) Composed music for all Festivals & Shabat, hundreds of solo songs; for Primary schools for all occasions and Choirs. - On my visit to Israel in 1961 I met his students, Prof. Zalman Rivlin and Advocate Moshe Levin who sang in father's Choir.

Today A. Z. Idelsohn's lives on in  
"Hava Nagila" Let us rejoice  
by Yiska