

## Bizakodó

From: Hetven Kanon (Seventy Canons) arranged by Lajos Bardos (1899-1986)

and Judith Cook Tucker

### Translation and Pronunciation Guide

[ʃe hɔj hɔj]  
Sej, haj, haj.  
hey ho

[ʃe hɔj nɪŋk-ʃɛn bɔj]  
Sej, haj, nincsen baj,  
hey ho nothing bad

[ʃut mɛ raŋk ɒz iʃ-tɛn nɒp-jɒ]  
süt még ránk az isten napja.  
warm still on us the God day

Sej, haj, haj. Sej, haj, nicsen baj, süt még ránk az isten napja.	Hey Ho Hey Ho all is fine, God still warms us today. <sup>1</sup>
---	---

### Background

1945, January. The Russian Red Army was engaged in a bitter house to house fight with the German Wehrmacht in Budapest. Our family, along with others in our apartment building, was in the coal cellar. Terrible times: constant explosions, machine gun fire, fear, desperation, death, uncertainty...these were the only things we experienced.

No food, no water at times.

---

<sup>1</sup> Translation and IPA by Elizabeth Pauly.

Then my father started humming, then singing quietly: “sej haj nincsen baj; sut meg rank az Isten napja”... literally, “Hey, there is no trouble: God’s Sun will be shining on us yet!

Slowly others joined in, we forgot our fears for a minute and old timers wiped off their tears...

Yes, we believed! There *will* be a day when we can crawl out of the dark dungeon and see sunshine!!! It took faith, but we wanted to believe there would be good times ahead.

He gave the biggest gift of all: hope.

He was right.

I love sunshine.....<sup>2</sup>

### About Lajos Bárdos

“Lajos Bárdos (1899-1986), a composer, music teacher, and choir director was one of the most influential figures in twentieth century Hungarian music.

Lajos Bárdos was born in Budapest, Hungary on October 1, 1899. He studied music composition at the music academy with Albert Siklós for one year and with Zoltán Kodály for four years. While he was a music teacher at a secondary school he conducted the Cecília Choir at the Városmajor church, which, under his leadership, became an internationally recognized choir. At the age of twenty-eight he was invited by Artúr Harmat to teach at the Church Conductor Faculty of the Music Academy. Later he also taught as a member of the Secondary School Teachers and Conductors Faculty and with the Music Theory Faculty. He had to create most of his teaching materials.

“In 1929 he became the conductor of the Palestrina Choir which mainly performed oratorios. In 1941 he combined the Cecília and the Palestrina Choirs to create the Budapest Choir.

From 1942 until 1962 he conducted the choir and orchestra of the Matthias Church.

---

<sup>2</sup> Bardos, Dennis. “Bizakodó”. *World Music Press*, 1997, p. 0. This is taken from a note written to Judith Cook Tucker from Dennis Bárdos, the son of Lajos Bárdos.

In 1931 together with György Kerényi and Gyula Kertész he started the Magyar Kórus publishing firm. In the following 20 years they published 2,000 works of old masters and modern composers. Many schools organized concerts with this rich supply of music. With this they started the "Singing Youth" movement, bringing fresh blood into Hungarian choir life.

“In the Scout movement he spread the singing of folk songs among the young men of the towns. They published booklets of folk songs for this purpose.

His rich composing work included folk song arrangements, Choral Masses, motets, secular pieces based on poems, theatrical accompaniments, songs, and instrumental music (about 800 pieces altogether).

“He was also interested in music theory. He wrote school books, essays, and theoretical books. His investigations of Bartók, Kodály and Liszt are famous.”<sup>3</sup>

## Recordings

San Francisco Boys Chorus: [Bizakodó \(https://youtu.be/VwUxV2MzjXE\)](https://youtu.be/VwUxV2MzjXE)

## Analysis

Key: D harmonic minor, ending D Major

Meter: 4/4

Forces: SATB

Form: Four-voice canon with introduction.

SECTION	MEASURE	EVENT AND SCORING
Introduction	1-4	Based on materials in canon
Canon Melody introduced	5-8	This is a 4-measure melody. SAT sing in unison while basses sing a D pedal.
Canon	9-23	Order of entrances is STAB. Basses hold the D pedal until they come in on their part. Each voice enters after one measure. Each voice sings the melody completely 3 times, then sustains a pedal tone (D)
Coda	24-end	Once the basses have completed singing the canon

<sup>3</sup> “Lajos Bárdos – Biography”, *Lajos Bárdos Society*, N.D, <http://www.lajosbardos.org/en/biography.html>, accessed 9/20/2018.

		three times, each voice enters with a short melodic pattern – STAB, ending on a final D Major chord.
--	--	--