Dodi Li

Music by Nira Chen (b. 1924) Text: Solomon: Song of Songs, 2:16, 3:6, 4:9 Arranged by Doreen Rao

Translation and Pronunciation

/mizot o-lamin ha-mid-bar/Mizot olamin hamidbarwho (is) this coming upfrom the desert

/mɛ-ku-tɛ-rɛt mor mor u-lɛ-vo-na/ M'kuteret mor, mor ulevona perfumed with myrrh, myrrh and frankincense

/li-bav-tI-ni a-xo-ti ka-la/ Libavtini achoti kala you have captivated my heart my sister my bride

/u-ritsa-fonu-vo-ite-man/Uritsafonuvo'iteimanawakenorthand comeo south wind

Refrain:	Refrain: My beloved is mine and I am
Dodi li va'ani lo Haro'eh bashoshanim	his, the shepherd grazing his flock among the lilies.
Vs. 1	Vs. 1: Who is this who goes up from
Mi zot ola min hamidbar	the wilderness perfumed with myrrh
M'kuteret mor, mor ulevona	and frankincense?
Vs. 2	Vs. 2: You have captivated my heart,
Libavtini achoti kala	my chosen sister and bride.
Libavtini kala	

Vs. 3 Uri tzafon uvo'i teiman (2x)	Vs. 3: Awake North Wind and come South Wind. ¹
	from Song of Songs, 2:16, 3:6, 4:9

Background

Israeli composer Nira Chen composed the love song *Dodi Li* using text from the Biblical Song of Songs. At the beginning of the twentieth century, European Jews began to return to the area of land now known as Israel. They wanted to create an ideal new life, based on the ancient Hebrew civilization. One of the forms this took was the creation of a body of popular songs with Old Testament texts, and melodies based on the rhythms and scales of Middle Eastern music. This song comes directly out of that practice, and uses the hora (a circle dance of celebration often used at weddings, bar mitzvahs and bah mitzvahs) for its musical materials.

Dodi Li

Refrain: My beloved is mine and I am his, the shepherd grazing his flock among the lilies.

Vs. 1: Who is this who goes up from the wilderness perfumed with myrrh and frankincense?

Vs. 2: You have captivated my heart, my chosen sister and bride.

Vs. 3: Awake North Wind and come South Wind. from *Song of Songs*, 2:16, 3:6, 4:9

Analysis

key: e minor meter: 4/4

Structure: Verse/Chorus

MEASURE	EVENT AND SCORING
1-2	piano introduction
3-6	chorus in unison
7-10	chorus in two parts – upper voices (ST) on descant, lower voices (AB) on melody

¹ Doreen Rao, ed., *Dodi Li*, Boosey & Hawkes, 1992, n.p.

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11-18	verse 1 in unison
19-26	chorus - exactly like 3-10
27-30	verse 2 – sung twice in unison; addition of C# shifts this to Dorian
	mode
31-38	chorus – exactly like 3-10
39-42	verse 3 – sung twice in unison; addition of C# shifts this to Dorian
	mode
43-50	chorus – exactly like 3-10
51-54	repeat chorus as in 7-10