



SECRET CHORD CONCERTS

Episode 3 - Neta Elkayam

Song List, credits and explanations:

Black is the Color / khal I3ayun (the black eyed beloved) / כחאל לעיין / كحل العيون (English, Judeo-Moroccan Arabic)

- Written by Albert Suissa, Inspired by Nina Simone, Arranged by Amit Hait Cohen, Lyrics Performed in English and Judeo-Moroccan Arabic by Neta Elkayam
- *A nod to Nina Simone's "Black is the Color of my True Love's Hair" mixed with "khal I3ayun," a song about dark eyes by Albert Suissa, a Jewish Moroccan composer and lyricist born in 1930's Casablanca.*

Muhal Nensa (I will never forget) / מוחאל ננסה / محل نנسى (Judeo-Moroccan Arabic)

- Written by Samy Elmaghribi, Arranged by Amit Hai Cohen, Lyrics Performed by Neta Elkayam in Judeo-Moroccan Arabic
- *A 1960's love song by musician Samy Elmaghribi, a Moroccan Jewish musician born in the city of Safi in 1922. This is the first recording of the duo arrangement for Neta and Amit. There are several recordings of Neta and her band performing the song, including an electro-jazz version originally recorded at one of the last Moroccan Jewish shops in Jerusalem's Machaneh Yehudah Market - a video which has garnered more than a million views.*

Shitafon (Flood) / שיטפון (Hebrew)

- Written by David ben Hassin, Arranged by Amit Hai Cohen, Lyrics Performed by Neta Elkayam in Hebrew
- *A Piyyut by Rabbi David ben Aharon Hassin, a Jewish poet born in the city of Meknes considered to be one of the great Moroccan poets of all time. The lyrics talk about the struggle of ben Aharon Hassin's to survive a great flood from which he was eventually saved. The 17th century poem is written in Hebrew and is rich with symbolic images from the Torah and the Midrash.*

Muima (Mommy) / מווימה / ميمة (Judeo-Moroccan Arabic)

- Written by Moshe ben Hamo, Arranged by Amit Hai Cohen, Lyrics Performed by Neta Elkayam in Judeo-Moroccan Arabic
- *This song is based on a poem by Moshe Ben Hamo and was originally recorded in the 1970's by singer Jasmine Almagribia. In this arrangement, Elkayam intends for the lyrics about abandoning our mothers to act as an allegory of our tendency to forget deeply rooted traditions (like our mother tongue) and to call for change.*