

Ochila La'el

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Ochila La'el is a personal prayer which the chazzan reads during the Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur Mussaf, beseeching God to support him in conveying the following prayers. It was probably composed in the period of the Amoraim and is based on several verses from Tanach (notably Proverbs 16).

The chazzan petitions "O Lord, open my lips" because "eloquent speech comes from the Lord". Whilst the text of our prayers are prescriptive, a chazzan must use music and feeling to express the deeper meaning of the words and to inspire his congregation, and for this he asks for heavenly assistance. There is an old Nusach for this prayer, but it has become customary in many communities in our time to use this recent melody by Rabbi Hillel Paley, and thereby transform Ochila into a more communal request.

Em Em Am4 Am Em Em Am4 Am Em+5

Soprano
 Alto
 Tenor
 Bass

O - chi - la la - el
 O - chi - la la -
 O - chi - la la -
 O - chi - la la -

10 Bmb9 Am9 1. Em4

S.
 A.
 T.
 B.

a - cha - le - - - - - fa - nav e - sha - la mi - me - nu - - - - - ma - a - nei la - shon
 - el a - cha - le - - - - - fa - nave - - - - - e - sha - la mi - me - nu - - - - - ma - a - nei la - shon
 - el a - cha - le - - - - - fa - nave - - - - - ma - a - nei la - shon
 - el a - cha - le - - - - - fa nave - - - - - e - sha - la mi - me - nu - - - - - ma - a - nei la - shon

18 2. Em4 G2

S.
 A.
 T.
 B.

nei la - shon a - sher bik - hal am a - shi - ra u - zo
 nei la - shon a sher bik - hal am a - shi - ra u -
 nei la - shon a sher bik - hal am a - shi - ra u -
 nei la - shon a - sher bik - hal am a - shi - ra u -

24 Am9 Em4 Am

S. a-shi_ ra u - not_ b'-ad_ mi-fa - lav l' - a - dam_ ma - ar-chei

A. -zo_ b'ad mi-fa - lav l' - a - dam_ ma - ar-chei

T. -zo_ b'ad mi-fa - lav l' - a - dam_ ma - ar-chei

B. -zo_ b'ad mi-fa - lav l' - a - dam_ ma - ar-chei

31 Em9 Am4 D7 G G#° Am4 Am/F#

S. lev_ u - mei a - do - nai_ ma - a - nei - la - shon_ a - do - nai_ s' - fa - tai - tif -

A. lev_ u - mei a - do - nai_ ma - a - nei - la - shon_ a - do - nai_ s' - fa - tai - tif -

T. lev_ u - mei a - do - nai_ ma - a - nei - la - shon_ a - do - nai_ s' - fa - tai - tif -

B. lev_ u - mei a - do - nai_ ma - a - nei - la - shon_ a - do - nai_ s' - fa - tai - tif -

39 Em9 Em/D Caddb5 D9 Bm Em+5 Bm Em Am Em

1. 2.

S. -tach u - fi_ y - gid_ t' - hi - la - te - cha _ t - hi - la - te - cha

A. -tach u - fi_ y - gid_ t' - hi - la - te - cha _ t - hi - la - te - cha

T. -tach u - fi ya - gid t' - hi - la - te - cha gid t' - hi - la - te - cha

B. -tach u - fi ya - gid t' - hi - la - te - cha gid t' - hi - la - te - cha