1. Ki Sarita (3:13)
Ki Sarita, sarita vah-tu-chal.
For you have wrestled with God and man,
And you have won

The angel of the Lord wrestled with you.
He had to be gone before the sun broke through.
but you held on till a blessing he gave you.

For you have wrestled with God and man, and you have won.
And your name shall no longer be Jacob, for you are Israel now.

2. Shalom Achshav (3:35)
Shalom Achshav, lo machar achshav,
Peace we want today, not tomorrow, today
Peace everlasting, nevermore to fade away.
Let us sit and talk my brothers, what else can we do?
But kill each other senselessly, let's try something new.

Let's try peace together, peace we want today.
Let us stand together, and together find the way.
Arab, jew and christian, let's do it right this time.
We don't need politicians whose verses have lost rhyme.

Let's burn no more bridges, either real or in the heart,
And bring together people, and make a brand new start.

So let's have peace brothers, sisters in all lands.
Let's have peace children, let us all join hands.
And put an end to death and war and bloodshed for a day,
Perhaps we'll start a rumor that war has stopped today.

3. Oseh Shalom (12:30)
Oseh shalom bimromav, hu yaaseh shalom aleynu.

4. Massada (5:15)
Massada, (we remember you well)
Massada, (and the story you tell)
Massada, (we hear it so clear)
The place is so far away, but
You are so near.

It's a story of people, they fought bravely, they fought bold,
All the while knowing they would all die young and old,

The challenge of the story is the telling of it here,
To find a moral purpose in the sadness, oh so clear

Chorus

Massada is a story, an imposing silent tale,
The job is ours to tell it, to see they didn't fail.
We remember what they've taught us,
the lesson that we've learned,
That by the giving of their lives,
Our history was turned.

Chorus

The struggle to win freedom is a fight that's always on,
Neither life nor death can stop it,
though it's martyr's are all gone,
We all have our massada, a wall we cannot climb,
The prison that is holding us is time.

In Israel and the Persian Gulf, the struggle it moves on,
Our children are the martyr's;
some are right and some are wrong.
But the battle it goes forward, as it always will,
The memory of the righteous will drive us to that hill.

Chorus

5. Shalom Rav (3:00)
Shalom rav ah yisrael amcha, tasim l'olam.

Ki ata hu melech adon, l'chol hashalom.
V'tov b'eyneycha lvarech et amcha yisrael,
B'chol eyt uv'chol sha-ah, bishlomecha.

Great peace have you given your people Israel,
Your people, Israel you've given peace all the years.

6. Be With Us (2:34)
Be with us in this holy place,
Be in the circle you have made of us.
Hold us in the hollow of your hand,
And teach us, enfold us, in the love
That makes the circle round.
7. L'cha Dodi (5:15)
Chorus:
L'cha dodi likrat kala, p-nei shabbat n-kab-lah (2x)
Likrat shabbat, l-chu v'nelcha
Ki hi m'kor hab'rchacha.
Merosh mekedem n'sucha, sof ma-aseh,
Sof ma-aseh b'ma-chashavah t'chi-lah.

Chorus

Hit-o-rari! hit-o-rari!
Ki vah orech, kumi ori,
Uri, uri, shir daberi,
K'vod Adonai alayich niglah.

Chorus

Bo-ee v-shalom, ateret bah-alah,
Gam b'simcha uv'tza-ha-lah,
Toch emunay am s'gulah.
Bo-ee chala! bo-ee chala!

8. Wedding Song (3:325)
We come together and we stand together.
At the joining of this woman and this man.
We give our blessings in this house of the Lord,
We bless them with all the love that we have.

And two souls come together, and they bond together,
As the writings in the zohar say they do,
We wish them blessings in their lives together,
Their search has ended, yet begins anew.

Baruch haba b'shem Adonai, bayrachnuchem mibait Adonai,
Mi adir al hakol, mi baruch al hakol, mi gadol al hakol,
Hu y'varech et hechtatan, v'et hakalah.

Ah.......

As they stand before us, let us wish in chorus,
For all good things to come their way,
Let their life as one, face the rising sun,
and never ever let them turn away.

In their joy we love them, so we'll give and take some,
For sharing love is the greatest gift of all.
In our love we bless them as they start from here,
With the knowledge it grows stronger thru the years...

Baruch haba b'shem Adonai, bayrachnuchem mibait Adonai,
Mi adir al hakol, mi baruch al hakol, mi gadol al hakol,
Hu y'varech et hechtatan, v'et hakalah.

9. Yihyu L'Ratzon (2:50)
Yihyu l'ratzon imre fee,
V'hegyon libi l'fanecha,
Adonai tzuri v'goali.

Oseh shalom bimromay who
Ya-aseh shalom aleynu.
V'al call yisrael.
vim'ru amen.

10. Shehecheyanu (3:33)
Let the earth rejoice
And the heavens be glad- tonight!

Baruch ata Adonai elohenu,
Melech ha-olam,
Shehecheyanu, v'ki'manu, v'hige'anu,
Laz'man haze, laz'man haze.

Pitchu li sha-arei tze-dek,
open up the gates of righteousness- tonight!

Let the earth rejoice
And the heavens be glad- tonight!

Where there is hatred, may we bring love,
Where there is pain, may we bring healing,
Where there is darkness, may we bring light,
Where there is despair, may we bring hope,
Where there is discord, may we bring peace.
Make this a better world, and begin with us.

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I did it with you in my heart, and as always, I present this to all in your name, with thanks for who you were and still remain.

To those of us who loved and adored you — this one’s for you.

It is also in honor of my Mother, Ruth, who remains a stable and constant source of strength for us all. From youth group overnights to the neverending “Drive us here - drive us there,” she nurtured our love for Judaism and found for herself a place next to all the matriarchs of Israel — Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, Leah, my Mother and yours.

There are so many people to remember when an album is finished, for some technical advice, some played these songs in their infancy and sat patiently while I worked them out, were friends there to lend an ear, or a late dinner, some just wanted their name on a tape or C.D. and so I will oblige them as well. What follows is a list of the above, in no particular order: Jessica Benson; Neal, Sherri, Ben, Rachel, Chris and Jon Benson; the Allens; Glenn, Micki, Anna and Becky Groper; Adrienne, Jessica and Abbey Herman; The Ehrmanns; Judy Leventhal; Dorothy Moscowitz-Falarski; Deanna, Harvey and Matt Freedman; Ann and Byron Turnoff; Dworfs and Herb Groper; Sherri and Kristin; Shirl; John Sanders; Sarah Karl; Kalman Goldener; Randee Friedman; The Castines; Rabbi David Davis; The Kutz Camp-Warwick, New York; The Financial Group; Steve at the Sub Club; Andrea Warnke.

Some Notes...
The shofar you hear at the end of L’Cha Dodi is real. As I blew the shofar, Larry sampled the sound into a synthesizer...

Listen carefully to the melody the shofar plays... Does it sound familiar?
The swirling sounds (affectionately called god n'da boyz) at the beginning and end of shalom rav were created by computer and synthesizer in an attempt to replicate the sound I heard on a mountaintop outside of Palm Springs, CA. There was no sound to be heard but the breeze blowing through the trees and up the side of the mountain to the top.

It sounded as if the voices of cherubim and seraphim were calling on humanity to become partners in the creation of a “shalom rav.” A great peace.

It was written for my father in the hopes that his eternity is blessed with great peace. “Be with us” was written for reverend Polly Hilsabeck, who has taught me so much through the years about how to live as a caring, concerned and loving being on this planet. There are far too few Polly’s in this world. They need to be here for the rest of us.

Somewhere, hidden amongst the notes, I have used tropical melodies from:
High Holidays, Megillat Esther and Torah Cantillation.
See how many you can find. Let me know how you do.

For further information regarding concerts or songbooks, please contact Bruce Benson at: 973-442-3040

Also available from Bruce Benson:
THE JAZZ SERVICE - Written and performed with jazz legend Kenny G
Available on cassette or CD.
1. Ki Sarita
2. Shalom Achshav
3. Oseh Shalom
4. Massada
5. Shalom Rav
6. Be With Us
7. L’cha Dodi
8. Wedding Song
9. Yihyu L’Ratzon
10. Sheheheychanu
11. Better World

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