

Ahuv sheli-program notes

Poet Nathan Yonathan (1923- 2004) had two children, Ziv and Lior, of whom the eldest, Lior, was killed in the Yom Kippur war. This aching loss has colored Yonathan's later works and has become his hallmark.

As an artist, it was an emotional experience for me to set Yonathan's beautiful poetry to music, trying to express through melody and harmony what he had so hauntingly articulated in words. Thus, the piece starts in unison, to symbolize the uniting grief felt by those who know the pain of losing a child. The is immediately divides into four parts, as we are all different in the way we deal with loss.

One beautiful and heartbreaking phrase that has moved me is "A sad dream of beauty" (chalom atzuv shel yofi)- similar to Nathan Yonatha's way of writing about feelings without being melodramatic, I have tried to deal with this phrase in a unique way at the end of every verse; the first two times in a delicate, self-reflected way, but then eventually, the author is crying out his pain, and the music cries with him. Yet, he immediately quiets down to the final statement, knowing that his son will not come back, slowly ending the same way it started, with those simple, yet painful words, "ahuv sheli", my beloved.

Sharon Farber