

Bim Bam

Jewish (from the Nigun tradition)

Musical score for 'Bim Bam' in D minor, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff has a Dm chord above it. The lyrics are: Bim bam, bi - ri bi - ri bam, bi - ri bi - ri bim bam bi - ri - bi - ri bam, . The second staff has Gm, Dm, A, and Dm chords above it. The lyrics are: Bim bam ____ bim bam ____ bim bam bi - ri bi - ri bam.

Additional harmony lines:

Additional harmony lines for 'Bim Bam'. The first system shows two staves with lyrics: Bim bam bi - ri bi - ri bam, bi - ri bi - ri bim bam bi - ri bi - ri bam, . The second system shows two staves with lyrics: Bim bam ____ bim bam ____ bim bam bi - ri bi - ri bam. The third system shows two staves with lyrics: Bim bam ____ bim bam ____ bim bam bi - ri bi - ri bam.

According to a Hasidic saying,

Silence is better than speech,
but song is better than silence.

The singing of *nigunim*, an inspirational and largely extemporaneous vocal tradition, has its roots in the Hasidic movement of 18th century Eastern Europe. At that time, Hasidic Jews were viewed as radical; their reaction to the more intellectual Judaism of the day was to bring joy and a mystical dimension back into their spiritual life. In fact, within their beliefs, the exuberant expressions of joy were a religious duty.

Nigunim, or wordless melodies, are considered to be spontaneously expressed prayers. Melody is felt to be the expressive vehicle of the soul; the addition of words interrupts the flow of emotion. Through the singing of *nigunim*, one can rise to increasingly higher spiritual planes until a sublime level of ecstatic exaltation is reached.

Within the Hasidic community, *nigunim* continue to be sung exclusively by men. Today, in many other branches of Judaism, both women and men incorporate this beautiful musical tradition into their spiritual practice.