

Bay mir bistu sheyn (I Think You're Terrific)

by J. Jacobs and Sholom Secunda

arranged for unaccompanied SATB

by Mark Zuckerman

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Bay mir bistu sheyn (I Think You're Terrific) was written for the 1932 Yiddish show *Men ken lebn nor men lost nisht* (You could live, but they don't let you) by Jacob Jacobs and Sholom Secunda. Composer Sammy Cahn and lyricist Saul Chaplin wrote an English adaptation, with different music for the verse, that was recorded by The Andrews Sisters with the Germanicized title *Bei mir bist du schön*. It became famous both in the U.S. (winning the ASCAP award for the most popular song of 1938) and internationally. It was popular even in Nazi Germany -- until its Jewish origin was discovered.

This a cappella choral arrangement goes back to the original Yiddish version with an adaptive English translation of the verse (at the request of Chicago A Cappella) that preserves the sense of the original while updating its obscure references. The first chorus is a mixture of Yiddish and English, while the second chorus pays homage to The Andrews Sisters version but in Yiddish. It ends accompanied by Yiddish scat singing, spelling out the vowels Oy and Ay.

YIVO Yiddish-English Transliteration

Vowels:	A	L <u>Q</u> T
	E	more L <u>E</u> T than L <u>Q</u> T
	I, Y	between L <u>I</u> T and L <u>E</u> EK
	O	L <u>A</u> WN
	U	L <u>Q</u> OT
Diphthongs: (pronounce each component vowel separately)	AY (A-Y)	L <u>I</u> FE
	EY (E-Y)	L <u>A</u> TE
	OY (O-Y)	L <u>Q</u> ITER
Consonants: (as in English, except:)	R	(guttural or dental roll; otherwise more 'D' than 'R')
	KH	(guttural; not like German)
	ZH	PLEA <u>S</u> URE
	-N	(GN, TN, etc.) nasal; no vowel sound

Bay mir bistu sheyn (I Think You're Terrific)

for unaccompanied SATB

J. Jacobs (English by Mark Zuckerman)

Sholom Secunda (arr: Mark Zuckerman)

Andantino e rubato (♩ = 56)

Soprano: *p* DU DU DU DU DU DU DU DU

Alto: *p* DU DU DU AH

Tenor: *p* DU DU DU *mf* DU DU DU If your im - age broke ev'-ry mir - ror, to me you

Bass: *p* DU DU DU DU DU DU AH AH

Soprano: AH AH AH AH AH

Alto: AH AH AH AH AH

Tenor: could-n't be a-ny dear-er. Or if your ta-ble hab - its were like those of rab - bits, it would-n't both-er

Bass: AH AH *mf* if your ta-ble hab - its were like those of rab - bits, it would-n't both-er

Soprano: AH

Alto: AH AH AH

Tenor: me. Or if you smiled like a fool for the a-ges or e-ven if you were smart like the sa-ges, and e-ven

Bass: me. Or if you smiled like a fool for the *mf* a-ges or e-ven if you were smart like the sa-ges, and e-ven

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 4 -

16

S DU DU DU DU DU DU DU DU DU Tell me why you feel this *mf*

A DU DU DU DU DU DU DU DU DU Tell me why you feel this *mf*

T if you were skit - tish when I speak in Yid - dish, it would-n't both-er me. AH *p*

B if you were skit - tish when I speak in Yid - dish, it would-n't both-er me. AH *p*

21

S way. AH *p* *mf* *con moto* BAY MIR BI-STU SHEYN I'll make it more

A way. AH *p* *mf* BAY MIR BI-STU SHEYN I'll make it more

T AH You'll know when you hear me say: BI - STU SHEYN I'll make it more *mp*

B You'll know when you hear me say: MIR BI - STU SHEYN make it *mp*

27

S plain: To me you're the great - est on earth. DU DU DU DU DU DU BAY *mf*

A plain: To me you're the great - est on earth. BAY

T plain: To me you're the great - est on earth. DU DU DU DU DU DU DU DU *mf*

B more plain: To me you're great-est on earth. BI - - - STU SHEYN

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 5 -

32

S MIR HO-STU KHEYN. I've said it a - gain: To me there's no end to your

A MIR HO-STU KHEYN. I've said it a - gain: To me there's no end to your
mp

T HO - STU KHEYN. I've said it a - gain: To me there's no end to your

B MIR HO - - STU KHEYN. said it a - gain: To me no end to your

38

S worth. DU DU DU DU DU DU DU DU wo-man fas - ci - nates me quite like you
mp

A worth. DU DU DU wo-man fas - ci - nates me quite like you
f

T worth. No oth - er wo - man fas - ci - nates me quite like you do.

B worth. no end No oth - er wo - man quite like
mp

43

S do. of them all I've known I just want you. BAY MIR BI-STU
mf

A do. of them all I've known I just want you. BAY MIR BI-STU
mf *mp*

T So of them all I've known and ad-mired I just want you. BAY MIR BI - STU
mf *mp*

B you So of them all I've known I just want you. BAY MIR BI -

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 6 -

49

S SHEYN BAY MIR HO-STU KHEYN BIST EY-NE BAY MIR AF DER

A SHEYN BAY MIR HO-STU KHEYN BIST EY-NE BAY MIR AF DER

T SHEYN BAY MIR HO - STU KHEYN BIST EY-NE BAY MIR AF DER

B STU SHEYN MIR HO - - - STU KHEYN BIST EY - NE MIR AF DER

swing tempo

54

S VELT. DU

A VELT. DU DU DU DU DU

T VELT. DU DU DU DU

B VELT. DER VELT. DU DU BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

57

S

A

T

B HO - STU KHEYN BIST EY - NE AF DER VELT I - BER GELT

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 7 -

59

Soprano: - - - - -

Alto: - - - - -

Tenor: *mf* BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

Bass: NOR DIKH BIST EY - NE AF DER VELT BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

61

Soprano: - - - - -

Alto: - - - - -

Tenor: HO-STU KHEYN BI - STU SHEYN HO - STU KHEYN

Bass: HO - STU KHEYN BIST EY - NE AF DER VELT I - BER GELT

63

Soprano: *mf* BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

Alto: *mf* BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

Tenor: BI - STU SHEYN

Bass: NOR DIKH BIST EY - NE AF DER VELT BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 8 -

65

S BAY MIR HO - STU KHEYN BIST

A BAY MIR HO - STU KHEYN BIST

B HO-STU KHEYNBIST EY-NE AF DER VELT I-BER GELT NOR DIKHBAY MIR BIST

68

S EY - NE BAY MIR AF DER VELT

A EY - NE BAY MIR AF DER VELT

T

B TA - YE-RER FUN GELT EY - NE DER GAN - TSE VELT

70

S BAY

A BAY

T *mf* BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN BI-STU GIT

B BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN BI - STU EY - NE AF DER

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 9 -

72

S MIR BI - STU GIT BAY

A MIR BI - STU GIT BAY

T BI - STU GIT

B VELT BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN HO - STU KHEYN BIST EY - NE

74

S MIR HO - STU "IT" BAY MIR BI - - STU

A MIR HO - STU "IT" BAY MIR BI - - STU

T HO-STU "IT" BI-STU TA - - -

B AF DER VELT I-BER GELT NOR DIKH BAY MIR BIST TA-YE-RER FUN GELT

77

S TAYE - RER FUN GELT

A TAYE - RER FUN GELT

T YE-RER FUN GELT *f* FIL SHEY-NE

B EY-NE DER GAN-TSE VELT BI - STU TA-YE-RER FUN GELT *f* FIL SHEY-NE

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 10 -

80

mp *f*

S OO UN FUN ZEY

A OO UN FUN ZEY

T MEYD - LEKH HO - BN SHOYN GE - VOLT NE - MEN MIKH

B MEYD - LEKH HO - BN SHOYN GE - VOLT NE - MEN MIKH

84

S A - LE OYS - GE - KLI - BN HOB IKH NOR DIKH

A A - LE OYS - GE - KLI - BN HOB IKH NOR DIKH

T *mp* OO

B *mp* OO

87

mf *f* *mf*

S A VOV UN A YUD: OY

A A VOV UN A YUD: OY

T *f* BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

B *mf* BI - STU EY - NE AF DER VELT BAY MIR BI - STU SHEYN

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 11 -

89

S OY OY OY! A PA-SEKH TSVEY YU - DN: AY

A OY OY OY! A PA-SEKH TSVEY YU - DN: AY

T BAY MIR HO - STU KHEYN

B HO - STU KHEYN BIST EY - NE AF DER VELT I - BER GELT

91

S AY AY AY! OY! AY! OY! AY!

A AY AY AY! OY! AY! OY! AY!

T BIST EY - NE BAY MIR AF DER

B NOR DIKH BAY MIR BIST TA - YE-RER FUN GELT EY - NE DER GAN - TSE VELT

94

S A PA-SEKH TSVEY YU - DN: VOV UN A YUD: BIST *f*

A A PA-SEKH TSVEY YU - DN: VOV UN A YUD: BIST *f*

T VELT. *f* BIST

B BI - STU SHEYN HO - STU KHEYN BI-STU SHEYN BIST

Bay mir bistu sheyn - 12 -

96

S
EY - NE BAY MIR AF DER VELT. BI - STU SHEYN

A
EY - NE BAY MIR AF DER VELT. BI - STU SHEYN

T
EY - NE BAY MIR AF DER VELT. BI - STU SHEYN

B
EY - NE BAY MIR BAY MIR AF DER VELT. BI - STU SHEYN