

Vilne (*Vilna*)

Text: A.L. Wolfson; Music: Alexander Olshanetsky

Vilna, Lithuania, was a center of Jewish cultural and spiritual life for hundreds of years. Written in the early 1930's, this song was performed at almost every musical program in the Vilna ghetto during the Nazi occupation.

Refrain: Vilna, Vilna, our hometown, our longing and desire. Ah, how often your name brings a tear to my eye!
Vilna streets, Vilna rivers, Vilna forests, mountains, and valleys. Something gnaws at me, something yearns for the days of long ago.

Verse 1: Vilna, city of spirit and innocence. Vilna, conceived in Jewish ways, where quiet prayers are murmured, quiet nocturnal secrets. I often see you in my dreams, my dearly beloved Vilna, and the old Vilna ghetto, in a foggy glow.

Verse 2: I see the Zakret forest enveloped in its shadows, where teachers secretly slaked our thirst for knowledge.
Vilna sewed the first thread in our flag of freedom and inspired its children with a gentle spirit.

Refrain

Vilna Vilna our hometown, our longing and desire
VILNE VILNE UNDZER HEYMSHTOT, UNDZER BENKSHAFT UN BAGER

Oh, how often it calls your name from my eye forth a tear
AKH, VI OFT ES RUFT DAYN NOMEN FUN MAYN OYG AROYS A TRER

Vilna streets, Vilna rivers, Vilna forests, mountains, and valleys
VILNER GESLAKH, VILNER TAYKHN, VILNER VELDER BARG UN TOL

Something aches, something yearns for the days of long ago.
EPES NOYET, EPES BENKT ZIKH NOKH DI TSAYTN FUN AMOL.

Verse 1

Vilna, city of spirit and innocence, Vilne, Jewish ways conceived
VILNE, SHTOT FUN GAYST UN TMIMES, VILNE, YIDISHLEKH FARTRAKHT,

Where it murmurs quiet prayers, quiet secrets of the night.
VU ES MURMLEN SHTILE TFILES, SHTILE SOYDES FUN DER NAKHT.

Often see I you in dream, hot-beloved Vilna my
OFT MOL ZE IKH DIR IN KHOLEM, HEYS-GELIBTE VILNE MAYN,

And the old Vilna ghetto in a foggy glow.
UN DI ALTE VILNER GETO IN A NEPLDIKN SHAYN.

Verse 2

I see the dear forest Zakret in its shadows enveloped,
'KH ZE DEM VELDELE ZAKRETER IN ZAYN SHOTN AYNGEHILT,

Where secretly it had teachers our thirst for knowledge slaked.
VU GEHEYM ES HOBN LERER UNDZER VISNDURSHT GESHTILT.

Vilna had the first thread of our freedom-flag woven
VILNE HOT DEM ERSHTN FODEM FUN DER FRAYHEYTS-FON GEVEBT

And the dear children its with a gentle spirit gave life.
UN DI LIBE KINDER IRE MIT A TSARTN GAYST BALEBT.

VILNE LYRICS

Vilne, shtot fun gayst un tmimes, vilne, yidishlekh fartrakht,

Vu es murmlen shtile tfiles, shtile soydes fun der nakht.

Oft mol ze ikh dir in kholem, heys-gelibte Vilne mayn,

Un di alte vilner geto in a nepldikh shayn.

CHORUS

Vilne Vilne undzer heymshtot, undzer benkshaft un bager

Akh, vi oft es ruft dayn nomen fun mayn oyg aroys a trer

Vilner geslakh, Vilner taykhn, Vilner velder barg un tol

Epes noyet, epes benkt zikh nokh di tsaytn fun amol.

MINIS ONLY

‘kh ze dem veldele zakreter in zayn shotn ayngheilt,

Vu geheym es hobn lerer undzer visndursht geshtilt.

Vilne hot dem ershtn fodem fun der frayheyts-fon gevebt

Un di libe kinder ire mit a tsartn gayst balebt,

CHORUS

Vilne Vilne undzer heymshtot, undzer benkshaft un bager

Akh, vi oft es ruft dayn nomen fun mayn oyg aroys a trer

Vilner geslakh, Vilner taykhn, vilner velder barg un tol

Epes noyet, epes benkt zikh nokh di tsaytn fun amol.

Vilner geslakh, Vilner taykhn, vilner velder barg un tol

Epes noyet, epes benkt zikh nokh di tsaytn fun amol.

Vilne (verse)

A. L. Wolfson

Alexander Olshanetsky (arr: Mark Zuckerman)

Andante

1st Verse: Tacit, hmm m.9.
2nd Verse: Tutti, hmm at m.9

mf Vil - ne yi - dish - lekh far -
 In zayn sho - tn ayn - ge -

mf Vil - ne yi - dish - lekh far -
 In zayn sho - tn ayn - ge -

mf Vil - ne, shtot fun gayst un tmi - mes,
 Kh'ze dem vel - de - le za - kre - ter

mf Vil - ne yi - dish - lekh far -
 In zayn sho - tn ayn - ge -

4 *mf* Vu es murm - len shti - le tfi - les,
 Vu ge - hey - es ho - bn le - rer

mf Shti - le soy - des fun der nakht.
 Un - dzer vi - sn - dursht ge - shtilt.

trakht, hilt, Vu es murm - len shti - le tfi - les,
 Vu ge - hey - es ho - bn le - rer

mf Shti - le soy - des fun der nakht.
 Un - dzer vi - sn - dursht ge - shtilt.

trakht, hilt, Vu es murm - len shti - le tfi - les,
 Vu ge - hey - es ho - bn le - rer

mf Shti - le soy - des fun der nakht.
 Un - dzer vi - sn - dursht ge - shtilt.

9 *f* Oft mol ze ikh dikh in kho - lem,
 Vil - ne hot dem ersh - tn fo - dem

f Heys - ge - lib - te vil - ne mayn,
 Fun der fray - hayts - fon ge - vebt

mf Oft mol ze ikh dikh in kho - lem,
 Vil - ne hot dem ersh - tn fo - dem

mf Heys - ge - lib - te vil - ne mayn,
 Fun der fray - hayts - fon ge - vebt

mf Oo *mf* Oo

m.9: Tutti, "hmm"

13 *mf*

Un di al - te vil - ner ge - to In a ne - pl - di - kn shayn.
Un di li - be kin - der i - re, Mit a tsar - tn gayst ba - lebt.

A *mp* *mf*

Oo In a ne - pl - di - kn shayn.
Mit a tsar - tn gayst ba - lebt.

T *mp* *mf*

Oo vil - ner ge - to In a ne - pl - di - kn shayn.
kin - der i - re, Mit a tsar - tn gayst ba - lebt.

B *mp* *mf*

Oo In a ne - pl - di - kn shayn.
Mit a tsar - tn gayst ba - lebt.

m. 13-14: tacit (both times)

m.15-16: sing words (both times)

Sing in E minor

for Di Goldene Keyt, The Yiddish Chorale
Zaimen Mlotek, Music Director

Vilne (refrain)

A. L. Wolfson

Alexander Olshanetsky (arr: Mark Zuckerman)

Tacit:
until m.17

p *mf*

S
VIL-NE, UN-DZER BENK-SHAFT UN BA - GER.

A
mf
VIL-NE, VIL-NE, UN-DZER HEYM-SHTOT, UN-DZER BENK-SHAFT UN BA - GER.

T
p
VIL-NE, UN-DZER BENK-SHAFT UN BA - GER.

B
mf
VIL-NE, VIL-NE, UN-DZER HEYM-SHTOT, UN-DZER BENK-SHAFT UN BA - GER.

⑤

S
AKH, VI OFT ES RUFT DAYN NO-MEN FUN MAYN OYG A-ROYS A TRER.

A
AKH, VI OFT ES RUFT DAYN NO-MEN FUN MAYN OYG A-ROYS A TRER.

T
AKH, VI OFT ES RUFT DAYN NO-MEN FUN MAYN OYG A-ROYS A TRER.

B
AKH, VI OFT ES RUFT DAYN NO-MEN FUN MAYN OYG A-ROYS A TRER.

⑨

S
VIL-NER GES-LAKH, VIL-NER TAY-KHN, VIL-NER VEL-DER BARG UN TOL.

A
VIL-NER GES-LAKH, VIL-NER TAY-KHN, VEL DER BARG UN TOL.

T
VIL-NER GES-LAKH, VIL-NER TAY-KHN, VIL-NER VEL-DER BARG UN TOL.

B
VIL-NER GES-LAKH, VIL-NER TAY-KHN, VIL-NER VEL-DER BARG UN TOL.

13

S E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT ZIKH NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

A E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT ZIKH NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

T E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT ZIKH NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

B E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

17

S VIL - NER GES-LAKH, VIL - NER TAY-KHN, VIL - NER VEL-DER BARG UN TOL

A VIL - NER GES-LAKH, VIL - NER TAY-KHN, VEL - - DER BARG UN TOL.

T VIL - NER VIL - NER TAY-KHN, VIL - NER VEL-DER BARG UN TOL.

B VIL - NER VIL - NER TAY-KHN, VIL - NER VEL-DER BARG UN TOL.

21

S E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT ZIKH NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

A E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT ZIKH NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

T E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT ZIKH NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

B E - PES NO-YET E - PES BENKT NOKH DI TSAY - TN FUN A MOL.

**m.17: Sing
Tutti al fine**

Return to beginning of score for verse 2