



# Chagim Center

Home for the holidays

## You Planted Melodies – Man and Tree

- How do you feel about the statement: "For the tree of the field is a man"? How does a man resemble a tree and how does he differ from a tree?
- Have the statement read several times and explained.

"When you besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, you shall not destroy the trees thereof by forcing an axe against them: for you may eat of them, and you shalt not cut them down for the tree of the field is man's life to employ them in the siege"

### Deuteronomy 20, 19

A tree in general and a fruit tree in particular, is valuable and it ought not be harmed even in a situation of war and there is motivation to damage the fruit in order to harm the enemy. A tree is not a man, and it is not to be blamed and it is not the one that is to be under siege.

- Read the Song. it is worthwhile to focus on the first stanza.

Explain difficult words: *Schuchim* - forgotten, old, *Nasa* - carried, took with him. *Pe'erot* – branches. *Orek* – blood vessels. *Shluvim* – attached and integrated. *Dofki* – my pulse, heart beats. *Neorim* – awaken.

### Melodies

Lyrics: Fania Bergstein Melody: David Zehavi

You planted in me melodies mother and father  
Melodies, tunes, forgotten  
Seeds, seeds – has my heart carried,  
Now they rise and grow  
Now they extend their veins in my blood  
Their roots in my arteries are bound  
Your melodies father and your songs, mother  
in pulses awaken and come back

Let me listen to my far-off lullaby  
My mouth has uttered, mother to daughter  
Here will shine with tears and laughter  
"Eicha" and the chants of Shabbat  
Every utterance shall cease and every tone shall be silenced  
In me your far voices will stir  
I shall shut my eyes and I am with you  
From above the darkness below.





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- Mark words connected to man and to his body in red and mark words associated with trees in green.
- Were there words that were difficult to categorize? Which?
- What do the various parts of the trees in the poem symbolize and what are the roots? The branches? The act of planting?
- Are trees and people similar or different according to the poem? How is the similarity reflected?
- Why, in your opinion, had Fania Bergstein chosen the symbol of the tree? What does the tree symbolize for her?
- Choose an excerpt from the poem and draw a picture of it.

