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mf cresc. a - val od lo ka - tsar - nu!

mp cresc. a - val od lo ka - tsar - nu, a - val od lo ka - tsar - nu!

mp cresc. a - val od lo, a - val od lo ka - tsar - nu!

sub. p cresc. a - val od lo ka - tsar - nu, a - val od lo ka tsar - nu!

sub. p cresc. *mf* *ff*

Duration 1' 50"

ARTSA ALINU

The words and music are traditional. They mean:
*We have come up to the land (of Israel);
 already we have plowed, and we have also seeded,
 but we have not yet harvested.* (Translation by Chana Lajcher)

Pronunciation:

Vowels are as in Italian.

Most **consonants** are as in English (g as in *give*, not *giant*; z as in *zebra*), with these two exceptions: **R** should be flipped or rolled, including when it is at the end of a syllable (be sure to pronounce the **r** in *artsa*). **Kh** is like the German **ch** in *Bach*—be aggressive and splashy about it!

The **apostrophe** is known as a *shva* ("shwa"), and has two possible pronunciations. In *k'var*, it doesn't really get any sound—it just separates the **k** from the **v**. In *v'gam*, it's a vowel somewhere between "eh" (as in English *bet*) and "ih" (as in English *bit*). If you know someone who actually speaks Hebrew, be aware that the sung *shva* is brighter (closer to *eh*) than how it is spoken.

Original Hebrew text:

אֶרְצָה עָלֵינוּ אֶרְצָה עָלֵינוּ
 כָּבֵד חַרְשָׁנוּ וְגַם זָרְעֵנוּ.
 אֲבָל עוֹד לֹא קָצַרְנוּ.

Hebrew typesetting by John Dumas

Etymological/linguistic items:

Artsa ("land") is related to *earth*.
Al, in *alinu*, means *up*: the Israeli airline, *El Al*, means *to up*.
Nu at the end of a verb means *we*.
V' at the beginning of a word means *and*.
Lo means *no*.