This week in Israel, it is Shabbat Qedosheem, and Maqam SABA or NAHWAND is applied.

MAQAM OF THE WEEK:

HIJAZ (נחום) or NAHWAND

Normally, for Shabbat Aharei Mot, Maqam HIJAZ is applied according to all Aleppo Syrian sources. This maqam gets its name from the 'HEJAZ' region, which is the western province of the Arabian Peninsula bordering the Red Sea. The melody of this maqam is associated with sad events, such as funerals. It relates here, because we open the Torah reading with the reference to the deaths of Nadab and Abihu, the two eldest children of Aharon. This year, however, Shabbat Aharei Mot also coincides with the Shabbat prior to Israel Independence Day (Yom Ha'Assmaut). As a result, most congregations will honor Israel by applying the melody of Israel's national anthem, "Kol 'Od BaLeba" (page 236), also known as HaTiqva (the Hope), to one of the pieces of prayers, such as SEMEHIM or NAQDISHAKH. In addition to this, some congregations will avoid the Maqam of the Week (HIJAZ) entirely, and apply Maqam NAHWAND for the entire morning service. This has been the practice of Hazzan Isaac J Cabasso in Congregation Beth Torah, as well as many other cantors in the Brooklyn Syrian community.

In regards to H Moshe Ashear's opinion on this matter, it is unknown, because he passed away in 1940, eight years prior to Israel's independence. It is well-documented, however, that he applied the melody of HaTiqva to the prayers on a regular basis throughout his life.

MAQAM SOURCES - מקורות

This week's maqam sources are:

**April 18, 2015**

HaZan Moshe Mosbacher

Maqam NAHWAND

Nishmat: אל על עם חסדך

Shir: ילקוט

Seforim: יום טוב ובר이며

**April 30, 2022**

Hazzan Isaac J Cabasso

Maqam NAHWAND

Nishmat: אל על עם חסדך

Shir: ילקוט

Seforim: יום טוב וברי

This week's maqam stems from the weekly publication "The Weekly Maqam" from K'nees Betesh Synagogue Geneeza.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Shabbat Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4/29/1939</td>
<td>سابת אחרין השבת, קבוצת מתפלי הickenוש ערב שבועת, ערב ת문화, מתפללי הכהנה</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/30/1938</td>
<td>سابת אחרון, מתפלי הכהנה ערב שבועת, מתפלי הickenוש ערב ת문화, ערב ת문화</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/24/1937</td>
<td>سابת אחרון, מתפלי הכהנה ערב שבועת, מתפלי הickenוש ערב ת문화, ערב ת문화</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 1940, Shabbat Aharei Mot coincided with Shabbat HaGadol, and Maqam RAHAW-NAWAH was applied.
PIZMON OF THE WEEK - פזמון של الأسبوع

MEROMI BAREKH - מرومיה ברך

This pizmon (HIJAZ, page 494), whose title can be translated as “From Above, Send Blessing to the Group, the Holy Congregation of Magen David,” is a song written in honor of Congregation Magen David of 67th Street in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn. It is composed by the community’s chief cantor, H Moshe Ashear (1877-1940), for the inauguration of the synagogue in December 1921. In addition to the repeating chorus, there are three stanzas to this song, and the acrostics spells out “Moshe Hai.”

The melody of this song is said to be from an “English opera,” but no definite identification of this melody is known to us. The melody of this song can be transposed into SEMEHIM BESSETAM on days when the services are conducted in Maqam HIJAZ. The content of this song praises the community for their hard work, day and night, especially when taking care of one another. The song blesses the members of this community that God should repay their hard work with success and prosperity. They should be numerous like the stars in the sky, and all groups, from youngest to oldest, should be included in this blessing. In the second stanza, it petitions God to bestow the people with the blessing of the forefathers, redeem them, and “like the times of old, renew their days” (a reference to the closing verses of Megillat Eikha). Just like the waves completely cover and overwhelm the ocean, so to shall peace and happiness completely cover the tents (homes) of all the members of this community. The song concludes by saying that this community, together with the angels, praise God’s generosity and proclaim the biblical verse "Barukh Hashem LeOlam," meaning: Blessed be God for all of eternity.

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