Adon ‘Olam
A Hebrew Hymn
For Choir, Organ, Harmonium or Pianoforte
Sydney, 1867

Lewis Moss
c. 1805 – Melbourne, 1875

Edited by
Richard Divall

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Introduction

Australia’s first notable Jewish composer was Isaac Nathan. A musician, journalist and composer, he was born in 1790 in Canterbury, England, the son of a Polish cantor. Nathan arrived in Sydney in 1841. However, several other composers wrote works for Jewish services or for special occasions such as the consecration of Synagogues in Hobart, Launceston, Ballarat and Sydney. This volume contains one of three early works that are known to us. The music is simple, but of social importance to the development of organised Judiac religion in early Australia.

Lewis Moss died in 1875, aged seventy, and had arrived in Sydney from San Francisco in the 1850’s. In 1854 he advertised in the Sydney Morning Herald as being a ‘Music and Music Instrument Importer’ and his shop was based at 5 Hunter Street, Sydney. He composed little music, but he was featured as a pianist at concerts and a reed organ imported by him from Alexandre Pere et Fils (Paris), is held in the Powerhouse Museum. The Hymn Adon ‘Olam (Adon Gnolam on the original score), is a well-known Hebrew text, still in use today. The profits of the publication were devoted to the Sydney Hebrew School, founded in Pitt Street in 1868. Lewis’s son, Sydney, went on to have a distinguished career in music in Sydney. Born in the Hunter Street shop on 9 January 1854, he was sent to the Royal Conservatory in Leipzig, studying composition with Reinicke and E F Richter. Returning to Sydney in 1874 he took part in the laying of the foundation stone of the Great Synagogue on Hyde Park on 26 January 1875, where the Hymn Adon ‘Olam was sung by the choir. It is likely that this was the same piece written eight years before by his father Lewis, who died later that same year. Sydney Moss died on 16 May 1902.

Other composers followed in writing works for Synagogues in Australia, and these include Alfred Hill’s works for the Great Synagogue in Sydney, and Felix Werder’s imaginative psalm settings, written in Melbourne, and now held in the National Library of Australia.

1 Sydney Morning Herald 27 January 1875.
ADON GNOLAM
A HEBREW HYMN
FOR
FOUR VOICES WITH AN ACCOMPANIMENT FOR THE
Organ, Harmonium, or Piano Forte.
COMPOSED BY
LEWIS MOSS.
The Profits of this Publication to be devoted to the Sydney Hebrew School.

Sydney:
L. ROSE, MUSIC & MUSICAL INSTRUMENT IMPORTER, 5. MINTER STREET.

Facsimile of the opening page of Adon 'Olam
National Library of Australia. nla. Mus-an5863743
CRITICAL NOTES

The original title on the front page is *Adon Gnolam.*
On page 1 of the music the title is printed in Hebrew.
The Hebrew text of the vocal lines is in archaic English transliteration. I have adopted this text to the Modern Hebrew spelling of the Hymn.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Richard Divall
June 2014

The Editor

Frà Professor Richard Divall AO OBE is a Vice-Chancellor’s Professorial Fellow at Monash University, an Honorary Principal Fellow in Music at The University of Melbourne, and Visiting Professor at The University of Malta. He is Chairman of the Marshall-Hall Trust and is a Knight of Malta in Solemn Religious Profession. He was awarded a D.Lett. (Hon Causa) in 1992 by Monash University, and a Doc. Univ. (Hon Causa) by the Australian Catholic University in 2004. He holds a PhD in Theology from the University of Divinity on eighteenth-century sacred music on Malta that includes an edition of the complete sacred works of Nicolò Isouard (1773-1818), and is an Honorary Research Fellow at the same university. Richard Divall has edited early Australian music since 1967.
Adon 'Olam
A Hebrew Hymn - Sydney 1867

Attr. Solomon ibn Gabirol c.1021 - c.1058
[The original spelling on the score has been transcribed into modern Hebrew].

Lewis Moss [arrived Sydney] 1852 - 1875
Edited by Richard Divall

Harmonium or Pianoforte

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

chef-tzo kol, a- zai me-lech sh'mo ni- kra. V' a- cha- rey kich- lot ha- kol, l' v- a- do yim li tach- lit, v' lo ha' oz v' ha- mis- rah. V' hu E- li, v' chai goa' li, v' tzurchev- li b'

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im ru-chi g'vi-ya-ti, Adonai li v'-l-o i-ra.

im ru-chi g'vi-ya-ti, Adonai li v'-l-o i-ra.

im ru-chi g'vi-ya-ti, Adonai li v'-l-o i-ra.

im ru-chi g'vi-ya-ti, Adonai li v'-l-o i-ra.

ad libitum