

Lesson 03 · LESSON PLAN

“Ani Ma'amin”

Ages 13 and up · 45 minutes · Faith under the worst conditions

"I believe with complete faith in the coming of the Messiah, and even though he may delay, I will wait."

THE STORY BEHIND IT

“Ani Ma'amin” is an old declaration of faith that Jews are documented to have sung on the way to the camps. Cecelia composed her own setting of it. In September 2023 it was released again in an arrangement that blends the previously unreleased voice of Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach with the young singer Eli Levin. It has since been heard more than a million times.

THE HISTORY TO TEACH ALONGSIDE IT

Spiritual resistance is part of the historical record alongside armed resistance: prayer, teaching children in secret, keeping a diary, singing. A class that only learns about victims and perpetrators is missing what people did to stay human.

QUESTIONS FOR THE CLASS

- What does it mean to sing about faith while being taken to your death? Is that resistance?
- A melody recorded decades ago now sings with a living artist. What does that say about how memory travels?
- Are there songs your own family carries across generations?

CLASSROOM NOTES
