

## Ron Benvenisti's "Jewish Music Math Test"

*Adapted from Bill Anshell's "Jazz Math"*

1. How much should a gig pay, based on the following conditions:

Drive 90 miles outside of town in rush hour traffic through pouring rain; set up two hours in advance; load in through slimy kitchen accessed by treacherous outdoor staircase obstructed by 300 pound mashgiach on smoke break; and play four hours of continuous dance favorites for hundreds of drunk people apparently breaking a fast?

Answer: \$1000 to \$2000

- 1a. Would you take it for 1/2 that much?

Answer: (If yes): Desperation/pride > 1

- 1b. After you bid on the above gig for 1/3 your worth, a yeshivah student/nephew offers to play the same gig for 1/2 as much. You are 12 times as good as him, but 1/2 as frum looking. The client has a tin ear. Who will get the job?

Answer: Yeshivah student/nephew.

Extra Credit: Why do you bother practicing?

2. True or False: If  $x$  is the number of chord changes in a tune, and  $y$  is the tempo at which it is played, then  $xy = \text{decibels of guitarist's amp}$ .

Answer: True

3. What is  $(1m + 4m + b7 + 7 + 1m) \times (\text{price of Yeshivah bochur nephew's "Casio" in dollars (retail MSRP only, not wholesale), / percentage of annual income of Aderet & Sameach owners, in Swiss francs converted by Chosson's Yeshiva's accountant (at 10% plus wire transfer fees)})$ ?

Answer: Depends on who you ask.

4. What is the "Devil's Music" theorem?

Answer: (Lipa Shmelzcer + Mattisyahu = square root of all evil.)

5. Which formula best describes the "Medley From Hell"? (Answer in less than five seconds).

Answer:  $\{(Hava + Negilah) \text{ squared} - (Chicken + Dance)\}$  or  $\{Hully + 2 (Gully) - Men At Work\}$  divided by 2?

6. What should you do if the bassist plays a root, the keyboardist superimposes a major seventh chord built on the fifth, and the guitarist plays a 13th?

Answer: Check the address on your invitation. (Extra credit if you answered that you checked immediately upon seeing a real bassist).

7. True or False:  $(1/\text{vocalist's close relatives}) \times (\# \text{ of beats per measure}) \times 32 = \# \text{ of unintended modulations} + \text{skipped beats, per high part.}$

Answer: True

8. If  $x$  = expensive keyboard's price deviance from cheap Casio's,  $y$  = volume level of drummer,  $z$  = length of first dance set, and  $d$  = number of L'Chaims consumed by vocalist at Chosson's Tisch, then  $(d) (xyz / \text{pay of the gig, in shekels})$ , what is the probability of the keyboard player not having enough money to buy enough gas for his van to get home.

Answer: 50/50

9. What is the Achdus Theorem ("Rule of One")?

Answer: "Rule of One" Achdus theorem is  $(\text{Universe of Simcha vocalists}) / (\# \text{ of vocalists who sing "Modeh Ani"}) = 1$  which is = to the rank of "Modeh Ani" among tunes most despised by instrumentalists.

10. Which formula is used to calculate overtime?

Answer: The  $(\# \text{ of smorgasbord items consumed, per musician}) > (\# \text{ of invited guests coming for the Chuppah only who are still present}) + \text{number of L'Chaims consumed after Viennese table}$ , then argument about overtime will prevail unless  $(\text{cost per invited guest}) < 1/20$  (pay for gig).

11. If a trumpet player counts off a Freilach in 4/4 at a tempo of 180, and the drummer slows it down at a constant rate of deceleration over 8 measures to 150 which musicians other than the trumpet player notice it? Extra Credit: How many guests (sober only)?

Answer: None

12. Indicate the exact locations based on the following factors in the "Two Goluses" Buffet Theorem? Fresh salmon/vulcanized herring + prime rib/limp egg rolls + baby lamb chops/soggy chicken fingers.

Answer: Five Towns gig/Lakewood gig.

13. If  $(\% \text{ of Jews who buy Jewish Pop Music CDs} + \text{those who listen to Kol Beramah Radio}) < (\% \text{ of Jews who like chopped liver sculptures})$ , what is a Jew's most important indigenous art form?

Answer: Chopped liver sculptures