



Opinion

Hanukkah Bangers to Chag Your Sameach

LILY CABIBI-WILKIN
OPINION EDITOR



Lily Cabibi-Wilkin is a senior music composition major from Hot Springs.

Traditional Songs:

Between the two Dreidel songs (“I have a little dreidel” and “sivivon sov sov sov”), “Oh Hanukkah Oh Hanukkah” and “Light One Candle,” there are plenty of songs to choose from, with both English and Hebrew lyrics.

Kids Music:

Lots of Jewish music is specifically for kids. There are entire CDs of music written to be played at Sunday schools. “Chanukah Bamba” by Shira Kline is one example.

“Judah Maccabee, The Hammer” by Peter & Ellen Allard is groovy enough to be enjoyed by all ages.

Celebrity Pops:

Barenaked Ladies had three Hanukkah songs on their “Barenaked for the Holidays” album: “Hanukkah Blessings,” “I Have A Little Dreidel” and “Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah.” The first has a very Jimmy Buffet feel, while the other two are just covers of the traditional music.

Daveed Diggs’ “Puppy for Hanukkah” has a solid beat and a clarinet solo, and is definitely something to listen to if you want something new.

Peter, Paul and Mary wrote “Light One Candle” in 1986, and it’s such a classic I’ve included it on the Traditional Songs list.

“Feast of Lights” by They Might Be Giants is a bit sadder, but still nice.

“Oh Hanukkah” has been covered by numerous artists, including Jack Black, the cast of Glee, and Erran Baron Cohen, all with different feels.

Walk Off The Earth has a casual “Happy Hanukkah”.

Sha Na Na has “The Rockin’ Dreidel Song” on their “Rockin’ Christmas” album.

The Gay Men’s Chorus of Washington, D.C. has a “Music of Hanukkah” medley.

Hanukkah 2021: Nov. 28 – Dec. 5
Hanukkah 2022: Dec. 18 – Dec. 26
Hanukkah 2023: Dec. 7 – Dec. 15
Hanukkah 2024: Dec. 25 – Jan. 2

Funky Jams:

“Hanukkah in Santa Monica” is a fun 90s jingle by Tom Lehrer.

Jewish music pillar Debbie Friedman has “The Latke Song” and “Not by Might Not by Power” (and once you’ve listened to that you should go listen to the rest of her music!).

The “Chanukah Song” series by Adam Sandler is great if you’re a bit older, since the songs are essentially lists of famous Jewish people.

Matisyahu released “Miracle” in 2010, and it fits right in with the pop music of that era. (You may have heard the Maccabeats cover of this. More on them later.)

“8 Days (of Hanukkah)” is an R&B/Soul tune from Sharon Jones & the Dap-Kings that gives off old Sesame Street vibes.

The LeeVees have rock song “How Do You Spell Channukkahh” with a grungy feel.

Woody Guthrie’s 1944 “Hanukkah Dance” is also nice for a calmer country

sound.

“Happy Joyous Hanukkah” by The Klezmatiks is a cheery tune that will definitely get stuck in your head.

“Hanukkah Snowman” by Phranc is a fun ukulele tune.

“A Convert Jig” by Mare Winningham has a nice bluegrass feel to it.

“Dreidel Trap” by Kosha Dillz lives up to its name.

If you want a choir piece, “Likhtelekh” by Leo Low is very pretty.

Michelle Citrin has the jazzy “Pass the Candle.”

Parodies:

I will admit that I’m not a huge fan of The Maccabeats, but if you’re looking for some fun music to play at a holiday party their covers are a good choice. Six13 is a similar group of vocalists. Both sing parodies with an a capella flair.

There are other humorous parodies like “Hanukkah Hey Ya!” by Eric Schwartz or “I Want a Hippopotamus for Hanukkah” by The Jimmies.

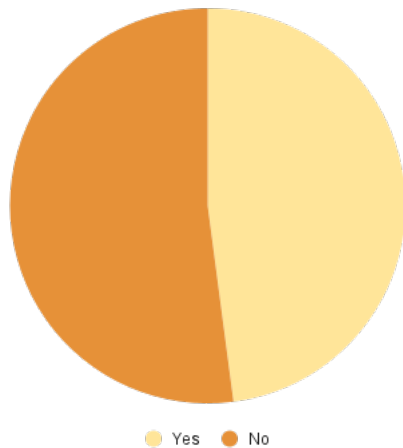
For those interested in the music who don’t want to google these individually, I’ve compiled them into a YouTube playlist, which can be found here: <https://tinyurl.com/chanukkahsongs>.

If you plan on having any holiday parties or playing any holiday music at public events, consider slotting at least a few of these songs into your playlists. It’s sweet, it’s inclusive, and it sure beats listening to “All I Want for Christmas is You” on loop.

What’s Your Opinion?

We asked students if they felt confident about passing their finals this semester.

Out of 48 responses:
Yes – 23
No – 25



Next Poll:

I Want To Break Free

What are you most looking forward to doing over winter break?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald’s Instagram page, [@astateherald](https://www.instagram.com/astateherald). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [the-herald.home.blog/category/opinion/poll/](https://herald.home.blog/category/opinion/poll/). Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to heraldopinion1921@gmail.com.

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald’s website. All comics and memes can be found in the Comics section.

Freedom of Gender Expression Leads to a Fashionable Self-Exploration

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OPINION EDITOR

When you start up a video game and design your character, most games will ask you to choose your character’s gender: male or female. Many of these games will lock certain clothing items to certain genders; for example, a female character may not be able to wear a suit or a male character may not be able to wear a dress.

Animal Crossing, however, has subverted this binary. The option to wear clothing that didn’t “match” your gender became available in New Leaf, though villagers would remark on your clothing choice if you did so. New Horizons, however, does away with gendered clothing altogether. The gender you choose at the beginning of the game does not impact gameplay, and you can change your gender in a mirror at any time. In the English game, where there are gender-neutral pronouns, it is unclear what the

gender choice does, though I’ve seen it more as a presentation thing.

This complete removal of gender binary means you can dress your character up in any way you wish. Want to wear a full beard and a maid costume? Sure! Want to wear a muscle suit and a princess crown? Absolutely! The possibilities for outfits are endless, and thus the ways you can present yourself are endless.

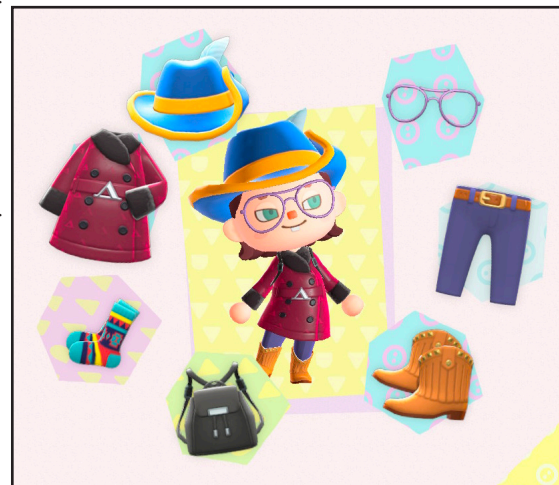
I started out my New Horizons experience dressing my character similarly to how I dress in real life, with a similar hairstyle and face mask. Over time, however, I’ve found it fun to experiment with different outfits and presentations. In one outfit I may dress like a hipster, in another I may be a cowboy, in yet another I may be a princess. I am large, I contain multitudes. If an outfit sparks joy, it sparks joy.

Dressing up my Animal Crossing character has begun to influence how I perceive myself and dress in real life. In

the last year or so I’ve started going by she/they pronouns (meaning you can refer to me with she/her or they/them). I’ve also started challenging myself to create an outfit in Animal Crossing and then dress in a similar manner in real life, using what I have in my closet already.

I don’t think the clothing options in New Horizons made me present myself differently. (In other words, if you’re anti-LGBT you shouldn’t be worried that New Horizons will make your kids gay or trans. Let your kids play Animal Crossing.) But I do think they gave me room to express myself that my admittedly pretty bland closet can’t. I can change my hair length and style in two seconds in New Horizons, rather than waiting for months for my hair to grow out in real life. I can wear whatever crazy outfit my goofy heart desires.

If you’ve been playing New Horizons and haven’t taken full advantage of the clothing options, I implore you to do so. Wear something absolutely ridiculous. Wear what you would want to wear in real life if you could. You may wind up discovering something about yourself, even if it’s just your fashion sense.



Screenshot taken by Lily Cabibi-Wilkin | Opinion Editor
One of my favorite outfits from New Horizons.

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