

# 17 For the 36 A Hymn

FOR: OCARINA  
SOPRANO SAX (IN Bb)  
FLUTE WITH OPTIONAL  
SLIDEWHISTLE  
FEMALE SPEAKER

♩ ≈ 30-45

Ocarina and sax play freely, slowly, very softly. Pitches need not be salient. Flutist may play slide whistle if (s)he is careful.

**SPEAKER:** (SOFTLY, HALF-WHISPERED AT TIMES)

**GRIMLY**

“According to a tradition that goes back to Talmudic times there are, in every generation, thirty-six righteous men who are the foundations of the world. If the anonymity, which is part of their very nature, were broken, they would be nothing. One of them is perhaps the Messiah, and he remains hidden only because the age is not worthy of him. Especially among the Hasidim of Eastern Europe, later generations spun endless legends about these most obscure of men, whose acts, because they are performed so entirely beyond the ken of the community, are free from the ambiguities inseparable from all public action. In a truly sublime sense the ‘hidden saint’ makes religion a private affair; and because he is by definition barred from communication with other men, he is unaffected by the problems involved in all dealings with society. Let us make no mistake. Inestimable as may be the worth of these mute, anonymous, saints, a history of religion is not concerned with them.”

Gershom Scholem

SPEAKER SHOULD TAKE A SLIGHT BOW

♩ ≈ 30-45

L. Polansky

# LARRY POLANSKY