



The Joy of Peri Smilow



February 4, 2010



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Although I can't carry much of a tune, I certainly do enjoy listening to them. The ones I click to most often on my iPod are those on the "Jewish" playlist – everything from [Beth Schafer](#), [David Broza](#) and [Julie Silver](#) to [Debbie Friedman](#), [Kol B'Seder](#) and the liturgical songs on the [Union's Biennial](#) CDs. If I'm not listening to Jewish music, sometimes I'm writing about it. You can read some of my musical musings [here](#) and [here](#) and [here](#).

Over the weekend, I received a copy of Blessings, [Peri Smilow](#)'s new CD and, needless to say, I've listened to it a few times since then. With its beautiful music, lyrics and sentiments dancing in my head, I've decided that [Nachshon ben Aminadav](#), the title character from One Small Step on the [Freedom Music Project](#) CD has to take a back seat at least for now (sorry, Nachshon) to Joy, my new favorite offering on the Blessings CD.

Of course the lyrics alone can't begin to do justice to Peri's rich, clear voice or the deep, smooth piano that accompanies it, but here they are nonetheless:

I wish you roses in the spring,
Fledgings on the wing,
Fireflies that sing your name.
I wish flowers in the grass,
Memories that last,
Shelter from the passing rain.
I wish you joy.
I wish you joy.
I wish you joy.
I hope the wind is at your back,
Keeping you on track,
That you never lack for love.
I hope you'll walk beside your heart,
Even in the dark,
Guided by the stars above.
I wish you love.
I wish you love.
I wish you love.

So wherever you may roam,
Out there on your own,
Home is just a heart away.
I wish you joy.
I wish you joy.
I wish you joy.

Better than imagining these tender words set to music, [get a copy of the new CD](#) and listen for yourself. I know you won't be disappointed.



About JanetheWriter

JanetheWriter writes and edits for the Union for Reform Judaism. She is pursuing a master's degree in public administration (MPA) at Baruch College, part of the City University of New York. When she's not writing and editing, JanetheWriter enjoys many of the usual pastimes of New Yorkers including hanging with friends, poking around the city, people watching, going to the movies, visiting museums, browsing in bookstores, dining out, and perusing the Sunday paper. Her writings can also be seen on her blog, [JanetheWriter Writes](#).