Sing-Along with Professor Elie Wiesel
A recording from his 70th Birthday Symposium on Oct. 27, 1998

Rikki Lippitz's

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray, "travel guitar", small tape recorder, and a room full of teaching assistants, presenters, and friends.

This informal sing-along was magical- Martha Hauptman, his loyal and wonderful then assistant, thought it would be a good idea to just come to his office and sing together after this three day conference in his honor. Most were sitting on the floor, and the music just flowed. No one wanted it to end.
The spirit and love in the room was infectious- we all felt we were part of a truly holy moment we would never forget. Rabbi Nehemia Polen had a few remarkable comments retained in the recording-
" He's outside the door (the Baal Shem Tov)"
" Boston Univeristy will never be the same!"
" you could wipe the floor with that song! (so full of tears..)"

Rabbi Polen described Hassidic music brilliantly in a recent lecture given in a class of Prof. Wiesel's.
"When I hear Hassidic music today I hear the amplification, dynamism, a pride of survival, and a pride in rebuilding. However something very precious is lost when you hear the pre-war Hassidic music- One hears nobility, sublimity, gentle, quiet, understated grace."

It is this nobility and grace that I had hoped to capture through Prof. Wiesel's beautiful and moving voice-
This sing-along captures the pre-war Hassidic music that must never be forgotten.

I hope this recording can be made into a professional product that can create funds for the Elie Wiesel Center for Judaic Studies, The Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity, and the BU Hillel.