

“Adonay eloy izrahel”: A 15th-century notation of the Jewish *taḥanun* prayer in a Christian manuscript from Bohemia

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Jewish liturgy is mainly based on oral transmission and we know very few notations of Jewish liturgical music before the 18th century. The *Knihovna metropolitní kapituly* (Library of the Metropolitan Chapter) at Prague Castle owns a Latin manuscript (H XIV) from the first half of the 15th century that contains mainly medieval texts like novels and chronicals, but also a notation of a part of the Jewish penitential prayer *taḥanun* for one voice. The Hebrew text is written in Latin letters, partly complemented by apostils in Latin and German. The melody is notated in Bohemian cursive rhombic choral notation. It is one of the oldest known musical notations of a Jewish prayer.

This paper offers a detailed description and analysis of the musical notation and the text of this hitherto disregarded source. Based on the analysis of the notation, the context of the manuscript and the historical background it presents the hypothesis that this is a chant that was sung by a Jew and written down in musical notes by a Christian.