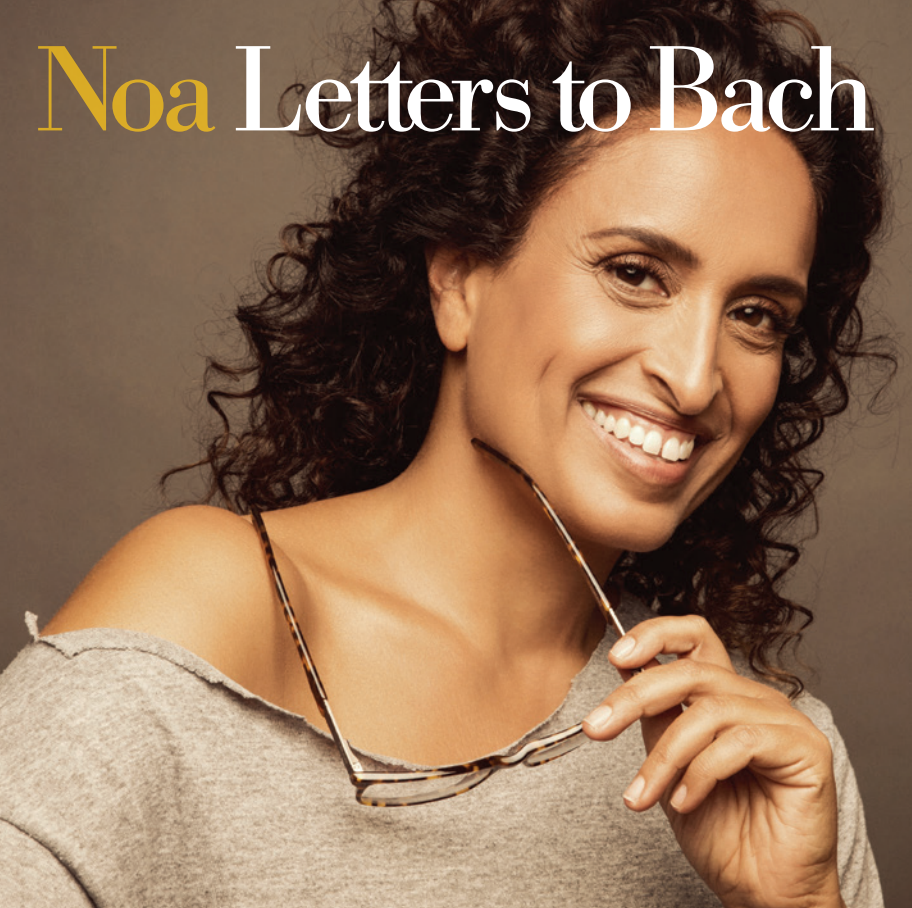


# Noa Letters to Bach





## Dear JSB,

300 years have passed since you wrote that amazing music that came out of you... or shall I say, burst out of you in an explosion of dazzling beauty, profound mystery, and condensed humanity...

300 years... and still, that music thrills us. It humbles us, ennobles us, breaks our hearts and mends them, and makes us believe in something greater than ourselves, uniting us all in one, magnificent, fragile human song.

Ahhhh... J... What a wonder you are!

What a wonder that in an age of apps and appendages, clicks and likes, bots and cyborgs, genetic engineering and driverless steering, an age of tiny attention spans and huge egos... still... that Mass in B minor, that Air on G String, that Chaconne or Concerto or fugue... or any of the millions of notes that you wove into tapestries of light... penetrate the virtual night, the cold steel walls we build to protect and isolate ourselves, penetrate the stories we tell ourselves of what was and what will be, penetrate the lonely AI world hungry for love... penetrate... and illuminate!

You have illuminated my heart too, J. Deeply, profoundly. I've been dreaming about you, you know? And wondering about you... your life, your family, your dreams and fears.

Because, although so much has changed, much has not. Humans still cry and laugh for the same reasons. We still fight bloody wars, bury our sons and daughters, cry and mourn and make peace all too often only after great loss.

Many of us worry about where our next meal will come from, we worry about our children and their future... we worry about strong winds, huge waves, earthquakes and drought... we often hang our hopes on leaders who mislead, on stories we misread, on men of cloth who betray their creed... we seek knowledge and understanding, we rise and fall, but above all... we long to love and be loved.

You know J, like you, I too am a musician (though it seems ridiculous to say that...! "like you"... Ha! There is no such thing and never will be...) But, yes... like you... I have dedicated my life to that miracle called music. And you are my hero!

I thought you would be surprised to learn that I live, create and perform in Zion. Yes, yes! The same Zion you wrote about in your illustrious Cantata 140: "Zion hears the watchmen singing." Today Zion is called Israel, and I am a watchwoman, singing and working for peace.

Here, on these pages, is my "lyrical offering" to your genius. I humbly tried to string words along to your musical lines, words that explore, ask, and laugh. Words that illuminate your beauty like raindrops, fireflies, icicles and pearls. Words that shyly... invite you to dance.

Will you dance with me, JSB? :)

With love and endless admiration,  
Noa

## The Race

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Invention #1, Johann Sebastian Bach

This is a ditty by Johann Sebastian Bach,  
It's very pretty in the way it sways my heart,  
Now look, a melody will start,  
And send an arrow or a dart,  
Into an unsuspecting heart,  
While cupid plays his classic part,  
And then...

The other melody will start a race,  
That puts a smile upon my face  
That I can't seem to erase!  
Oh Mr. Bach, you blow my mind,  
Though I may search I'll never find,  
A way to understand that race,  
The way your melodies embrace,  
Like lovers do, so deep so true,  
And then they start anew,  
To chase each other  
And to imitate and emulate and dive...  
I'm getting dizzy but oh God...  
This makes me feel alive!  
Like lovers everywhere on earth,  
Your melodies will sometimes fight,  
But after tears, there is rebirth,  
And you find ways to make things right,  
Those melodies are you and me,  
We trip and fall, we're blind we see,  
We thank the Gods that we are free!  
Hallelujah!  
Our melodies have found their home,  
And so must we, and say: Shalom

## Vertigo

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Invention #5, Johann Sebastian Bach

Every day I love you, more and more I love you,  
Now you've got me chattering away in tongues,  
I've got to fill up my lungs,  
So I can tell you any way I can:  
גם בעברית זה מצלצל, שאין כמוך בתבל  
ואיך לפתע באת!...  
וכל חיוך שלך מזכיר, שהעולם מואר, מאיר  
Wish I could always have you near,  
אז כל יום הופך לשיר!  
Every day I love you, more and more I love you,  
Shamelessly I love you...  
תני לי להסביר, אהובתי  
שכל הרע והכואב, והמביא עצבות ללב  
נמס כקרח על מחבת, והסיבה לכך היא את!  
זה את, הכל כך נפלאה, שמחדשת ממלאה  
ומרגשת, אהובה!  
Here I am before you, utterly adore you, like in every  
silly song of love I heard, my heart sings, just like a  
bird, I sing and then i spread my wings in flight  
הייתכן שעולמי?  
A song that echoes in the night!  
סובב כולו בינך, ביני  
And every wrong becomes a right!  
ואיך מלבד את ואני  
Every day I love you, more and more I love you...  
גם כשזה כואב לי בחזה, אין שום דבר אשר ישווה  
לסם הוורטיגו הזה, שרק אתה בי מחולל  
Let my arms encase you, and my voice embrace  
you, now you've heard me chattering away for days,  
of all the many many different ways I love you...it  
never ends!  
So guess I will press... "send..." :)

## All of the Angels

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Cantata #140, Johann Sebastian Bach

If all of the angels sang together surely, they'd say:  
we need you!  
If all of the angels stood together  
They would embrace and greet you.  
Some say, everything has always been this same,  
But they wouldn't if they had a chance to meet you...  
Now daylight is fading, and I will be waiting,  
For you to send a sign from where the wind  
has taken every song every smile your spirit  
has awakened, Sunlight birds singing out  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

When all of the angels wondered how your  
curious eyes had found them, Then all of the angels  
understood you'd wrapped your arms around  
them... Through strong winds and thunder, they'd  
spread wings and wonder... They'd try tenderly to  
rally in your soul, but your spirit and conviction  
would astound them, When all of the angels  
wondered how your curious eyes had found them...  
Then of the angels understood you'd wrapped your  
arms around them... They'd try tenderly to rally in  
your soul, But your courage and conviction would  
astound them... And I won't be crying, for you dear,  
are flying, into a place of light, a place of freedom,  
You've escaped the dark bitter night, you went  
believing in the sunlight, birds singing out  
Hallelujah... Hallelujah...

For what is a life but shifting sky, the loneliest cry,  
a story? For what is a life, but love made gently,  
or in blaze of glory! The bliss of creation,

The Realization, that you wonderful as you could  
ever be, On the way to being free you find elation,  
Your arms reaching like the branches of a tree,  
To begin the journey to your destination  
Now daylight is fading, and I will be waiting,  
For you to send a sign from where the wind  
has taken every song every smile your spirit  
has awakened, Sunlight birds singing out  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah.

And I won't be crying...  
For you, wonderful as you could ever be, you are  
waiting to be free and you are trying...

To gather the angels 'round your soul  
And send them to those left hollow...  
My dear, I am fighting back a single tear,  
Though I said I wouldn't cry, she will not follow.  
It's hard to break free of the memory of thee, love,  
The loneliness, the black, the urge to whisper:  
How I wish we had you back, beloved sister,  
I will sing, Hallelujah,

But all of the angels know you now,  
Your stubbornness so beguiling  
And fear melts into a puddle at your feet,  
For your spirit and your eyes are always smiling...  
Forever the giver,  
You flow like a river,  
Into a place of light, a place of freedom  
You've escaped the dark bitter night, you went  
believing in the sunlight, birds singing out  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah!



## Oh, Mama Dear (Enea's song)

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Invention #13, Johann Sebastian Bach

Oh. mama dear,  
Do not expect me to comply,  
I'm in the middle of a "story!"  
My body's doing things I can't understand  
My mind is banging like a big bright brass band  
As for my mouth, well  
As we can both tell,  
It's making Bolt look slow...!

Oh, mama dear,  
Don't ask me to calm down, I can't!  
I try to answer you politely then I rant!  
Believe me this is nothing I can control!  
And besides the both of us are playing our role,  
You are trying to save me from myself,  
It's for my own health,  
And then we both yell,  
Until we sound like sirens rushing to a fire!...

Oh, mama dear,  
There is so much that you can't see,  
I'm caught into a loop and everything is me,  
I'm taught to think that I can tear the world apart,  
And every selfie is a stunning work of art!

Oh, mama dear,  
It's very clear we're lost inside  
A world that tells us that  
The "other" is a thing we need to buy  
That global warming is a joke at best, or a blatant lie  
And plastic islands floating in the sea  
Are far away so why,  
Why worry?

Oh, mama dear,  
Just look at me,  
I'm smarter than you'll ever be!  
Got a heart of gold,  
I'm brave and bold,  
I'll save the world like mommy's girl,  
Common now mama...  
Let's just hold each other very tight  
And say good night...

(Good night, mama...)



## No, Baby

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: The Badinerie, Johann Sebastian Bach

No, baby no baby no baby, no!  
Don't you ever say ya gonna go ahead and leave me!  
No baby no baby, don't ever go!  
When I'm with you I'm elated  
All the rest is overrated  
Every word you say and every moment of the day,  
The Scooby Doo, the Shoooby Dooba,  
Gets me shinin' like a tuba,  
Gets me sailin' to Aruba every single day...!  
  
So, baby so baby so baby, so...  
Whaddaya say we take a little stroll around the city?  
Go baby go baby go baby go!  
Sip and shake and hit the shoppin'  
Then go dancing till we drop, and  
Whirl around and wiggle,  
I can always make you giggle,  
When the two of us are movin'  
All the universe is groovin',  
And the rhythm gets to soothin' all our cares away!

Hey baby, hey baby, you know it's true,  
You and me gotta both stay together  
Stay baby, stay baby, do what you do,  
People say you're crazy,  
Disconnected maybe hazy,  
But they haven't got a notion  
Of the power in your motion  
And the simmer in your potion  
Takes my breath away!

Don't walk out that door, I'm sayin'  
Life's a song and we are playin'  
Ding Dibidibong, Dibidibidong,  
You can change it, but it's never really wrong,  
Short and sweet, with a beat, with a bong,  
Make it short, make it long  
But tell me that you're stayin'...

Hey baby, hey baby, you know it's true...

You are all my eyes are seeing  
Now that we're "Badinerie-ing"...  
Ding Dibidibong, Dibidibidong,  
Bach was smiling when he wrote this little song,  
So I'll smile and again I will say, every single day,  
Will you stay? Aw, baby are you're stayin'...?

## Look at Me

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Largo from Concert #5 for Piano in F Minor, Johann Sebastian Bach

Look at me, across the border  
Beyond the wall,  
Look at me,  
The way you would observe yourself,  
In life's broken mirror.  
No, I refuse to bow,  
To those who say  
The world is changing now,  
And as it changes there's no way,  
To see the other  
Like a child lost in the loneliest night,  
Those who'd sentence us to fear and fight.  
Here is a woman in labor,  
Her child will soon be born  
But who knows if he'll find favor  
In the eyes of those who rule and rampage,  
Who dominate the earth and skies,  
With words of hate,  
They close the gates of hope...  
Come, we cannot let them blind us,  
For every woman in the world  
Knows what it's like  
When they cripple and bind us!  
Forever searching and waiting and anticipating,  
We ask ourselves, when?  
We ask again and again,  
When will we finally find freedom...?

Look,  
There is a crack and it's growing,  
There is a light and it's glowing,  
Through the sorrow,  
Beyond the tears, beyond tomorrow  
There must be something more that we can do!  
I can see you,  
Your beauty shows,  
Beyond your weakness and pain, it glows...  
The morning is near, now  
As the stars disappear,  
We'll shatter that wall,  
We'll watch it fall,  
Together, sister, we can!  
Come, give me your hand....



## Mars

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Invention #6, Johann Sebastian Bach

What shall I do to save the world from itself?  
Oh, this traffic is hell,  
It would help me to bore you,  
And what's more you will adore it...!  
There's sunlight, she's a generator,  
Free for all, gotta learn to tame her!  
Faze those rays on sunny days,  
In ways you and I can do,  
To make the best of what we've got!  
What do you say? I say, why not good people?  
Now that we've got the sunlight packed,  
We are free to address all the mess in the air,  
Up there smog and filth our ozone layer choking!  
But hey pal, why succumb to oldness?  
Don't PayPal, in an age of boldness,  
Try something you know is better for all,  
Beautiful, no noise, turns heads,  
So smart, so chic, so best!  
No fuel, no mess, the LA and TES together :)  
Now listen,  
You're missin' the most important story...  
How long can we carry on  
Here crammin' in on a small piece of land all of us,

Every woman and man, and the fuss,  
And the mountains of filth and the wars,  
And the rich turnin' backs, slammin' doors,  
And the rest getting angry and poor,  
No siree, this is not gonna last very long,  
I worry, and it's not very often I'm wrong,  
Let's hurry, make a plan!  
I am sure that we can for the future of man,  
You and I understand time is not our friend,  
So I suggest we'd best get on it!  
Darkness is falling  
Raise your eyes into the night!  
What a beautiful sight.  
That moon of millions of love songs,  
We've been trying to reach for so very long...  
There are endless stars!  
I have a thing for Mars :)  
Let's take our dreams and cars  
Far as they'll go!  
I don't believe in NO....  
If your dream is as big as your heart  
And you're bold and you're ready to start,  
Come join me!

## Little Lovin'

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Invention #4, Johann Sebastian Bach

Little lovin', just a little lovin'  
That is all I need  
Yes indeed,  
Little lovin' just a little lovin',  
And I'll start believing in the lord above,  
And all those stories 'bout that man,  
The arc, the dove,  
Moses bringing those tablets of ten,  
Love for all women and men,  
I don't need all of humanity, all I need is you!  
You, you, you!  
You make me feel the world is not a basket case,  
When through my tears I see your smiling face,  
A little lovin', just some love and passion,  
And I'll see the world in optimistic fashion,  
Though it seems that we are losin',  
I can't connect to what the world is choosin',  
I'd resurrect a simple way of lovin',  
Minus push and shovin',  
Ooooh! The angels sing!  
A little love, bring it in,  
A little lovin', just a little lovin',  
How elementary...!  
Little lovin', just a little lovin' every night and day,  
The anger melts away,  
Common, let's put our weapons down,  
Erase the fear the frown,  
And let the sun shine in.

## A Pair

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)

Music: Siciliana, Johann Sebastian Bach

Aren't we really a pair?  
Aren't we perfectly set into tune  
I go around in circles  
You follow, sometimes losing site  
Of where I'm going  
But your love remains unchanged

Listen, I'll sing you to sleep  
Listen, I'll tell you how deeply  
I appreciate your love and caring  
You are wearing all the smiles I gave to you  
Waves of you  
Keep pounding at my shore  
See how they tantalize and lure me  
In the maze we've chosen to exist in  
I will stand beside you  
Follow you and guide you  
Tell you softly how I love you...

Aren't we really a pair?  
Aren't we crazy to constantly  
Revolve around each other  
Though it seems impossible to love you,  
I could never love another  
Build a home and have a small family  
Day in, day out it's the flower of life so  
Come sweetly  
Come strongly  
My one and only one true love.

*Dedicated to E.M with love :)*

## Invention #1 (Hebrew)

Literal English translation: Noa (Achinoam Nini)  
Music: Invention #1, Johann Sebastian Bach

This is an invention by Johann Sebastian Bach,  
It's the first he wrote, and so as not to forget,  
He jotted it down then walked away, almost threw it in the trash!  
Like something obvious and trivial, and the ink had not yet dried!  
But fortunately, this little piece was saved,  
Short, simple, evasive, clever, and oh so beautiful!  
Congratulations, Sebastian Bach!  
Your creation is so lovely!  
Here is a soft, melodic phrase,  
Like a conversation with an angel,  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, I've been redeemed!  
I hardly noticed how dizzy I've become  
Under the influence of this composition,  
In fact, I've totally lost my breath!  
This is a bit high for me to sing,  
But I'll do it happily :)  
Here, the rhythm gets quite fast,  
And soon, the scale will climb way up!  
It's that daunting crescendo,  
Oh god, here it comes!  
Aaaaahhhhhhh!!!!!!  
The invention has finally come to an end,  
Thank you, say I, to strangers and friends :)

## אינוונציה מספר אחת

מילים: אחינועם ניני  
לחן: אינוונציה #1, יוהאן סבסטיאן באך

זוהי אינוונציה של יוהאן סבסטיאן באך  
הראשונה שהוא רשם, שלא ישכח  
רשם אותה ואז הלך, כמעט זרק אותה לפח,  
כמו דבר של מה-בכך, בעוד הדיו טרי ולח  
וכך... ניצלה לה יצירה קטנה,  
פשוטה חמקמקה, מתוחכמה, הו, יפה!  
כל הכבוד סבסטיאן באך  
היצירה יפה כל כך  
הנה משפט מלודי רך  
כמו דו-שיח עם מלאך:  
הללויה, הללויה, חזרתי בתשובה,  
כלל לא הבנתי מה קרה,  
בהשפעת היצירה  
ראשי סחרחר עלי, איבדתי את הנשימה!  
טיפה גבוה לי לשיר  
אך אעשה זאת בשמחה  
ופה הקצב קצת מהיר  
ועוד מעט העליה  
זה הקרנדרו הנורא,  
אוי לנפשי הנה הוא בא,  
אההההה!!  
טוב, האינוונציה הסתיימה  
ולכולכם, תודה רבה :)

## Ave Maria

Lyrics: Noa (Achinoam Nini)  
Music: Johann Sebastian Bach / Charles Gunod

Ave Maria,  
Where have you been hiding?  
Don't you know we need you?  
Things are looking pretty bad down here.

I know that there is beauty, gentleness and laughter,  
These are things you always stood for,  
Help us find them too.

Hey there, Maria, Santa Maria, Maria,  
May I take a liberty, and say that it's a shame to me,  
Not to live in harmony, we're all just hoping,  
Someone will step forward singing,  
Amen, Amen...

Come on let's join him, and sing...  
Ave Maria,  
Where have you been hiding?  
Don't you know we need you?  
Things are looking pretty bad down here...  
I know you hear the fighting,  
See the torch we're lighting,  
On our quest for peace and freedom,  
Help us see this through...

Hey there, Maria, Santa Maria, Maria,  
May I take a liberty, and say that it's a shame to me,  
Not to live in harmony, we're all just hoping,  
Someone will step forward singing,  
Amen, Amen,  
Come on let's join him  
And sing  
Amen.





Noa (Achinoam Nini): All lyrics, all vocals  
Gil Dor: Production, arrangements, all guitars, electric bass, editing

**Quincy Jones: Executive Producer**

Maya Belsitzman: Cello  
Shai Even: Recording and editing  
Gai Joffe: Mixing  
Aran Lavi: Mastering

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Mastered at Tan Tan Studios, Ramat Ha Sharon, Israel

Ofer Pesenzon: Management  
Mya Marshall: Production Manager

Ronen Akerman: Photography  
Helene Amouyal: Hair and Makeup  
Studio Doron Edut: Graphic Design

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# Noa Letters to Bach