



**It's hard to find** good Hanukkah songs beyond the classics, "Oh Hanukkah" and "Dreydl, Dreydl." When Panorama bandleader Ben Schenck needed one for Panorama's annual tribute to the Festival of Lights, he called New Orleans chanteuse Meryl Zimmerman who recommended he check out a Sephardic number, "Ocho Kandelikas." Ben took a listen, discovered a tune that is right in the Panorama wheelhouse, and they banged out an arrangement to feature her with the band.

"Ocho Kandelikas" ("Eight Little Candles") is sung in Ladino, the Jewish language of medieval Spain which is still spoken in Sephardic communities around the Balkans, Turkey, the Middle East and North Africa. The lyrics tell that "beautiful Hanukkah is here." There will be a lot of parties with joy and happiness and we'll eat little almond and honey pastries. After the horns set up the groove and accordionist Michael Ward-Bergeman lays down the red carpet, Meryl delivers the verse, refrain and second verse. Michael then returns to play a verse before alto saxophonist Tomas Majcherski rips a solo over a riff pattern from the clarinet and trombone.

### Lyrics:

"Ocho Kandelikas"

Hanukah linda sta aki  
 Ocho kandelas para mi,  
 Hanukah linda sta aki  
 Ocho kandelas para mi, O...

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas  
 Tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas  
 Sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas  
 Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi

Muchas fiestas vo fazer  
 Kon alegria i plazer

Muchas fiestas vo fazer  
Kon alegria i plazer

Los pastelikos vo kumer  
Kon almendrikas i la myel  
Los pastelikos vo kumer  
Kon almendrikas i la myel, O...

Una kandelika, dos kandelikas  
Tres kandelikas, quatro kandelikas  
Sintyu kandelikas, sej kandelikas  
Siete kandelikas, ocho kandelas para mi.

English translation:  
"Eight Little Candles"

Beautiful Hanukkah is here  
Eight candles for me  
Beautiful Hanukkah is here  
Eight candles for me, oh...

One little candle, two little candles  
Three little candles, four little candles  
Five little candles, six little candles  
Seven little candles, eight candles for me.

There will be a lot of parties  
With joy and happiness  
There will be a lot of parties  
With joy and happiness.

We're going to eat little pastries  
With almonds and honey  
We're going to eat little pastries  
With almonds and honey, oh...

One little candle, two little candles

Three little candles, four little candles  
Five little candles, six little candles  
Seven little candles, eight candles for me.

## Credits:

Recorded October 13, 2017 at Oak Street Recording, New Orleans, LA

Panorama Jazz Band feat. Meryl Zimmerman

Meryl Zimmerman - Vocal

Ben Schenck - Clarinet

Tomas Majcherski - Alto Saxophone

Charlie Halloran - Trombone

Michael Ward-Bergeman - Accordion

Patrick Mackey - Tenor Banjo

Matt Perrine - Tuba

Doug Garrison - Drum Set

Music Traditional (PD) and arranged by Ben Schenck (Snack Daddy Music/ASCAP) and Meryl Zimmerman.

Recorded, edited, mixed and mastered by Lu Rojas at Oak Street Recording, New Orleans, LA

Cover photo by Greg Miles. Photo of Meryl Zimmerman by Julie Verlinden.

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