

Montréal

©Wade Hemsworth, reprinted with permission

F D F D F D C A C A C

1. Mont-ré - al, Mont-ré - al, la vieille ville Ma-rie de Mont-ré - al. All things to

A C F D F D F D F

all men-schen, pea sou-per mau - dit bloke. 2. A Mont-ré - al, Mont-ré - al, toi vieille

D C A C A C A C F D F

vache lai - ti - ère in-do-cile; sowl quick-en - ing milk, but men lekt nisht kein hon-nik. Oh

Bb D Bb Bb6 A

Ch: 1. Ho - che - la - ga, sweet con - flu - ence of wa - ters; Ho - che - la - ga, my home chez
2. Ho - che - la - ga, quel doux mé - l - ange des fleu - ves, Ho - che - la - ga, my home chez

F D F D F D C A C

nous. 3. A Mont-ré - al, Mont-ré - al, la vieille ville Ma-rie de Mont-ré - al.
nous.

A C A C F D F D F D F

Bon - jour, good day, sha - lom, sa - go skan - e - go - go, Sa - go - ley, skan - e - go - go, Mont-ré

D F Fine D F D F D F D C A C

al! 4. Mont-ré - al, Mont-ré - al, ma vieille belle fri - pon - ne Mont-ré - al.

A C A C F D F D F D F

Mach nisht fun mir kein nahr, j'te dis, I tell you! 5. Mont-ré - al, Mont-ré - al, say you'd

D C A C A C A C

miss me - e - ven for a lit - tle while. Tu m'triche mais j't'aime quand même, I'm

F D F D.S. al Fine

lost and I love you. Oh

Hemsworth loves this city. This was apparent in the tone of his voice when he responded to our question about how he'd come to be aware of the music of India: "Well, I lived in a big city! I lived in Montreal...." Had we forgotten that or were we unaware of the significance? Introducing this paean in *The Songs of Wade Hemsworth*, Hemsworth notes that the full diversity of the city couldn't be captured in a song, so he restricted himself to the four most influential: French, English, Yiddish, and Iroquois. "Montréal" is a difficult song, perhaps, as the author himself says, "too difficult ever to become popular," but we agree with him that it's "fun," and we hope someday to hear it tackled by an art or jazz singer!

Unfamiliar phrases in Yiddish and Iroquois phrases may need pronunciation clues for most readers; herewith are the phrases, with Hemsworth's phonetics and some translations.

Iroquois:

Sago skan-e-gogo (say 'go skana '-go 'go), the formal greeting, "How do you do, sir?"

Sagoley, skan-e-gogo (sa-go '-ley skana '-go 'go), the informal greeting, "Hi! How you doing?"

Yiddish:

Menschen (like "mention"), "men," "people," or "good people."

Men lekt nisht kein honnik (as it appears in English, though *kein* is pronounced "kine"), "One licks not some honey," i.e., "Things aren't as good as they may seem."

Mach nisht fun mir kein nahr (*mach* rhymes with "lock," the "u" in *fun* as in "put," *kein* as before), "Don't make a fool of me."

Montréal, Montréal,
La vieille ville Marie de Montréal.
All things to all menschen,
Pea souper, maudit bloke.

À Montréal, Montréal,
Toi vieille vache laitière indocile;
Soul quickening milk,
But men lekt nisht kein honnik.

Oh Hochelaga,
Sweet confluence of waters'
Hochelaga my home
Chez nous.

À Montréal, Montréal,
La vieille ville Marie de Montréal.

Bonjour, good day, shalom, sago skan-e-gogo.
Sagoley, skan-e-gogo, Montréal!

Montréal, Montréal,
Ma vieille belle friponne Montréal.
Mach nisht fun mir kein nahr,
J'te dis, I tell you!

Montréal, Montréal,
Say you'd miss me—even for a little while.
Tu m'triche mais j't'aime quand même,
I'm lost and I love you.

Oh Hochelaga,
Quel doux mélange des fleuves,
Hochelaga my home
Chez nous.

À Montréal, Montréal,
La vieille ville Marie de Montréal.
Bonjour, good day, shalom, sago skan-e-gogo.
Sagoley, skan-e-gogo, Montréal.

Oh Hochelaga,
Quel doux mélange des fleuves,
Hochelaga my home
Chez nous.

À Montréal, Montréal,
La vieille ville Marie de Montréal.
Bonjour, good day, shalom, sago skan-e-gogo.
Sagoley, skan-e-gogo, Montréal.



Society members in the Toronto area will have the opportunity to join the celebration of Hemsworth's career and the new recording, which will be launched at the Tranzac Club on May 12, 1996. We wish we could be there—enjoy!