THE GREAT SHOFAR WILL BE SOUNDED. In a remarkable exercise of poetic license, the anonymous author of this treasured High Holy Day prayer has transformed the prophetic image of the end of days to today. Isaiah, preaching in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C.E., had predicted (27:13) that those exiled from the northern kingdom of Israel—the ten lost tribes—would return, and all the nations would gather on God's holy mountain. Later interpreters, from Second Temple times on, understood this as a vision of final redemption, a time of final judgment. In this prayer, judgment is not of an end time but in the present—now, even as we pray.

ON ROSH HASHANAH IT IS WRITTEN: בראשית יכתנה יכתנה יכתנה. This image of God writing each person's fate in a book appears already in the Jerusalem Talmud (Rosh Hashanah 1:3).

WHEN WE REALLY BEGIN.
Written by Stanley Rabinowitz and adapted by Shmuel Kanter and Jack Riemer.

(Solo)