

# הלל וזמרה Hallel v'Zimra

**Jewish Liturgical Music, Present + Future**

**Chicago  
2019**

**Conference  
March 10-11**

**Shabbaton  
March 8-9**

Co-sponsored by the Department of Jewish Studies of McGill University, the Cantors Assembly, the American Conference of Cantors, Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership, KAM Isaiah Israel, Congregation Rodfei Zedek, Mishkan Chicago, The University of Chicago Newberger Hillel Center, the Women Cantors' Network, and Reconstructing Judaism.

PRESENTING SPONSORS:



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## Acknowledgements

We are honored to dedicate this conference and Shabbaton to the memory of the gifted Jewish musicologist Dr. Judith Kaplan Eisenstein (1909-1996), z”l.

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### We thank the members of our conference planning committee:

Cantor Matthew Austerklein

Cantor David Berger

Dr. Eric Caplan

Dr. Judah Cohen

Ms. Mili Leitner Cohen

Rabbi Joshua Feigelson

Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller

Ms. Jane Susswein

Mr. Daniel Goldman Cedarbaum, Chair

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### We thank the members of our *Shabbaton* planning committee:

Cantor Miriam Eskenasy

Ms. Shirley Holbrook

Ms. Christine Kelner

Mr. Douglas Kelner

Ms. Joan Pomaranc

Cantor David Berger

Rabbi Anna Levin Rosen

Cantor Rachel Rosenberg

Mr. Daniel Goldman Cedarbaum, Chair



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## Sunday, March 10, 2019

AT SWIFT HALL ON THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO CAMPUS, 1025 EAST 58TH STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60637

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10:00-11:00

### Roundtables and Workshops (Concurrent Sessions)

***Present at the Creation: Debbie Friedman and the Birth of a New American-Jewish Song***  
Jeff Klepper

***Listening to Otherness in Singing***  
Elie Holzer

***A New Piyyut Collection for Communal Singing***  
Jack Kessler

***Hasidic Music: Spiritual Heights and Worldly Challenges***  
Gordon Dale and Yudi Sufrin

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11:00-11:10

### Formal Welcome

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11:10-11:45

**Framing Talk: Liturgy as Literature: Song and Sound in the Spaces of Jewish Modernity**  
Philip Bohlman

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11:45-12:30

### Lunch

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12:30-2:30

### Plenary 1: The Future of Cantorial and Other Worship Leadership – Stream and Trans-Stream Perspectives

#### Panel A: Institutional Perspectives

Nancy Abramson (Conservative), Richard Cohn (Reform), Jack Kessler (Renewal), and Brian Mayer (Hebrew College)

#### Panel B: Other Voices

Merri Lovinger Arian, Matthew Austerklein, Elizabeth Bolton, Elli Kranzler, and Ebn Leader

Moderator: Daniel Cedarbaum (Kaplan Center)

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2:30-3:30

### Roundtables and Workshops (Concurrent Sessions)

#### ***The Future of Hazzanut***

Alisa Pomerantz-Boro, Benjie Ellen Schiller, Azi Schwartz, and Benjamin Warschawski  
Moderator: Nancy Abramson

#### ***Chant as Spiritual Practice***

Shefa Gold

#### ***The Goals of Liturgical Performance***

Audrey Abrams, Ebn Leader, and Miriam Margles  
Moderator: Matthew Austerklein

#### ***Piyyut as Traditional Innovation (Part 1)***

Galeet Dardashti

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3:30-3:50

**Break and Mincha**

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3:50-5:15

**Plenary 2: Israeli and International Perspectives**

Joseph Alpar, Galeet Dardashti, Sarah Ross, and Edwin Seroussi  
Moderator: Eric Caplan (Kaplan Center and McGill University)

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5:15-6:15

**Roundtables and Workshops (Concurrent Sessions)**

***The Music of Emergent Israeli Prayer Communities***

Esteban Gottfried, Elie Holzer, Yoel Sykes, and Naomi Cohn Zentner  
Moderator: Mili Leitner Cohen

***Report from the Field: Ugandan Jewish Music Today***

Amanda Ruppenthal Stein and Jeremy Stein  
Moderator: Jeffrey Summit

***The Neuropsychological Effects of Liturgical Music***

Audrey Abrams and Jeffrey Wolfe

***Singing with:*** Benjie Ellen Schiller and Azi Schwartz

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8:00

**Halleluyah!, A Concert**

(at KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation, 1100 East Hyde Park Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60615)

Featuring: Nancy Abramson, Laurie Akers, Noah Aronson, Matthew Austerklein, Roslyn Barak, David Berger, Elizabeth Bolton, Gerald Cohen, Richard Cohn, Galeet Dardashti, Susan Lewis Friedman, Jennifer Frost, Gayanne Geurin, Shefa Gold, Esteban Gottfried, Rayna Green, Joshua Jacobson, Jeff Klepper, Elli Kranzler, Eliana Light, Miriam Margles, Brian Mayer, Alberto Mizrahi, Jay O'Brien, Eden Pearlstein (ePRHYME), Alisa Pomerantz-Boro, Ben Rosner, Deborah Sacks Mintz, Basya Schechter, Benjie Ellen Schiller, Azi Schwartz, Yoel Sykes, Eliot Vogel, Benjamin Warschawski, Josh Warshawsky, and Joey Weisenberg

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## Monday, March 11, 2019

AT CONGREGATION RODFEI ZEDEK, 5200 SOUTH HYDE PARK BOULEVARD, CHICAGO, IL 60615

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7:30-8:30

**Shacharit**

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9:00-10:15

**Plenary 3: Laboratories for New Liturgical Music**

Joyce Rosenzweig, Basya Schechter, Josh Warshawsky, and Joey Weisenberg  
Moderator: Joshua Feigelson (University of Chicago)

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10:15-11:15

**Roundtables and Workshops (Concurrent Sessions)**

***Encountering Sephardi-Mizrahi Song Traditions***

Mark Kligman and Samuel Torjman Thomas

***Composing New Liturgical Music: Inspiration and Brass Tacks***

Gerald Cohen

***Liturgical Music and Theology***

Margaret Moers Wenig

***A Master Class for Cantors***

Alberto Mizrahi

***Singing with:*** Deborah Sacks Mintz and Joey Weisenberg

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**11:15-12:30**

**Plenary 4: The Impact of Women's Voices**

Roslyn Barak, Marlena Fuerstman, Vanessa Ochs, and Sarah Ross

Moderator: Rachel Adelstein

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**12:30-1:00**

**Lunch**

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**1:00-2:15**

**Plenary 5: Diverse Sounds and Styles, Inside and Outside the Synagogue**

Laurie Akers, Noah Aronson, Hankus Netsky, and Eden Pearlstein (ePRHYME)

Moderator: Judah Cohen (Indiana University)

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**2:15-3:15**

**Roundtables and Workshops (Concurrent Sessions)**

***Musical Innovation in "Mainstream" Congregations***

Jamie Arnold, Gil Ezring, Gayanne Geurin, Andrea Rae Markowicz, and Deborah Sacks Mintz

Moderator: Mark Kligman

***The Unlimited Potential of Guitar in Synagogue Music***

Ben Rosner and others

***Participation in Tension with Performance: Choirs and Cantors and Congregational Singing***

Joshua Jacobson and Judah Cohen

***Singing with:*** Eliana Light and Josh Warshawsky

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**3:15-3:35**

**Break and Mincha**

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**3:35-4:35**

**Roundtables and Workshops (Concurrent Sessions)**

***The Dangers of Innovation***

Ebn Leader and Alden Solovy

***Piyyut as Traditional Innovation (Part 2)***

Ramón Tasat

***The Meaning and Experience of Biblical Chant***

Jeffrey Summit

***Singing with:*** Eden Pearlstein (ePRHYME) and Basya Schechter

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## Biographies

**Cantor Audrey Abrams** is Hazzan for Beth El synagogue in Minneapolis, MN. She holds a bachelor's degree in Music Therapy from Michigan State University and a Master's in Music Education and Therapy from the University of Minnesota. She has worked as a music therapist in both hospital and community settings, making the move to the Jewish Professional world as Regional Youth Director for EMTZA Region USY in 1985. In 1990, Cantor Abrams began serving as Hazzan Sheini for the High Holydays at Beth El; in 2001, she received her official cantorial certification from Hebrew Union College. She was hired as Beth El's first Associate Cantor in 2002, then succeeded Emeritus Neil Newman as Cantor in 2007. Cantor Abrams is an alumnus of the first cantorial cohort from the Institute for Jewish Spirituality and a graduate of Kol Zimra with Rabbi Shefa Gold. She leads the Mind, Body, Spirit programming at Beth El including monthly sessions of Sacred Chanting, Jewish Art for the Heart, Meditation Circle, Spiritual Drumming, and Iyun Tefillah Shabbat Meditation Minyan; and facilitates multiple Va'adot at the synagogue. She also conducts a local chapter of HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir and loves helping to excite a new generation of young adults about the beauty of Jewish choral music. Cantor Abrams and her husband, David, have two grown daughters.

**Cantor Nancy Abramson** serves as director of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary and the director of the Women's League Seminary Synagogue at JTS. She trains future hazzanim in prayer, *nusah* and religious leadership, and oversees the School's curriculum development in Jewish education and teaching, pastoral care, and modern Israel. Cantor Abramson's love of Jewish music was originally nurtured by Max Janowski, who worked with her childhood synagogue's choirs. Some of her fondest memories are of sitting on the piano bench next to Max during rehearsals. She went on to receive undergraduate degrees from the joint program of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary; a master's degree from Columbia University's Teachers College; and cantorial training at JTS. Cantor Abramson is a past president of the Cantors' Assembly and was the first female president in the Assembly's history. She has performed at Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall; with the Selah Vocal Ensemble; and with the Rinat Choir in Israel. She has been a cantor/scholar-in-residence in communities throughout the United States and teaches every summer at the North American Jewish Choral Festival. Cantor Abramson is married to Mitch Glenn. They have three children and one delightful grandson.

**Dr. Rachel Adelstein** is an ethnomusicologist based in New Haven, Connecticut. She received her Ph.D. in 2013 from the University of Chicago, where she completed her doctoral dissertation entitled "Braided Voices: Women Cantors in Non-Orthodox Judaism." Dr. Adelstein is currently in the process of

expanding this research into a monograph that examines the relationship between women cantors and an emerging American style of Jewish ritual practice. Between 2014 and 2017, she was the Donnelley Research Fellow at Corpus Christi College, University of Cambridge, where she conducted fieldwork for a project exploring the musical lives of British synagogues. She has produced a short series of podcasts on music in Jewish life around the world and has presented her research internationally to academic and public audiences. She has recently begun to explore issues surrounding the identification and attribution of hymns and other liturgical compositions and examine the implications of different styles of attribution for composers and worship communities. Of particular interest is the tension between desires for "traditional" repertoire and the erasure of individual liturgical composers, as well as challenges to congregational participation in prayer and understanding the role of change and diversity in the sonic space of the synagogue.

**Joseph Alpar** is a doctoral candidate in ethnomusicology at The Graduate Center, City University of New York where he is completing his dissertation entitled, "Ambivalent Melodies: Synagogue Liturgy, Music-Making, and Religious Renewal in Istanbul's Jewish Community." His doctoral field research in Istanbul was funded by fellowships from the American Research Institute in Turkey and The Graduate Center. The founder and director of Philadelphia-based Sephardic music ensemble, David's Harp, Joseph is an accomplished singer and instrumentalist of Turkish, Greek, and Middle Eastern music. He plays santouri (a hammered zither from Greece) darbuka (goblet drum), and bağlama (a long-necked Turkish lute) among other instruments. Joseph has taught at Swarthmore College, Bennington College, and Hunter College, CUNY. He is currently an adjunct instructor at the Boyer College of Music at Temple University.

**Rabbi Heather Altman** created Tefilla Yoga and has led Jewish and prayerful yoga sessions and retreats in Chicago and beyond since 2003. She's an advocate and activist for LGBTQ+ inclusion in schools, trauma informed spaces, domestic violence survivors and mental health awareness. Heather was ordained by The Jewish Theological Seminary of America and is a certified yoga teacher and a Spiritual Director. Heather is a solo mom of 10 year old triplets and they still think she's cool most of the time.

**Merri Lovinger Arian** serves on the faculty of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in New York. She has directed music programs and consulted with Synagogue 2000 and Synagogue 3000, leading trans-denominational institutes on revitalizing synagogue life. Merri has also been artist-in-residence and consultant to clergy teams in congregations across the country, exploring ways to enhance worship. A long-standing

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faculty member for Hava Nashira, the Reform Movement's premier songleading training institute, Merri also frequently serves on the faculty of the North American Jewish Choral Festival. Her recordings include *Nefesh: Songs for the Soul*, a CD for Synagogue 2000; and *NFTY in Harmony*, an album with an accompanying songbook of original choral arrangements. She was a contributing writer to *Teaching Tefilah: Insights and Activities on Prayer* by Rabbi Bruce Kadden and Barbara Binder Kadden; and to *Who By Fire, Who By Water: Un'taneh Tokef*, edited by Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman. Merri's newest book, just released by Transcontinental Music Publications, is entitled *Leveling the Praying Field: Methods and Melodies to Elevate Congregational Worship*. Merri holds an MA in Teaching, a BFA in Music Education, and a Certificate in Music Therapy.

**Rabbi Jamie Arnold** has served Congregation Beth Evergreen in the Colorado Rockies since 2005, where the monthly 'mostly music' erev shabbat services have harnessed a creative and participatory approach to foster connection, healing, awareness and joy. Jamie adapts familiar songs from various genres into meaningful liturgical experiences. A graduate of Kenyon College and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, he also writes original liturgy and music, and is currently working on a project called Psalms Resung in a Mussar mode.

**Noah Aronson** is a musician and composer of Jewish sacred music. After earning a degree in Jazz Composition and Piano from Berklee College of Music, he was Composer-in-Residence at Temple Beth Elohim in Wellesley, MA where he produced four albums of Jewish communal music with his mentor Cantor Jodi Sufirin. As a solo musician, he has released three full-length albums and songbooks entitled *Am I Awake*, *Left Side of the Page*, and, most recently, *More Love* featuring his five-member Israeli Berklee alumni band. Music from these albums has found a place in progressive communities worldwide and the curricula of progressive Cantorial schools in the US. Noah's contributions to Jewish education include an innovative, music-based curriculum, *Hebrew in Harmony*, produced in conjunction with Behrman House; educational and liturgical music featured on compilations from the PJ Library series and Transcontinental Music Publications; and videos including his acclaimed Goofy Guf children's movement song. Noah continues to generate new projects, tours widely, and is on the faculty of Jewish music institutes and retreats including Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion's Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in Manhattan, and Shirei Hagigah in London, England. Noah lives in New York City.

**Matthew Austerklein** is the cantor of Beth El Congregation in Akron, OH, where he is co-spiritual leader with his wife, Rabbi Elyssa Austerklein. Hazzan Matt received a Master of Sacred Music degree and cantorial investiture from JTS in 2011. He is

a founding member of the cantorial quartet, *The Wizards of Ashkenaz*, and has performed in recital and concert with regional ensembles including *Zemer Chai*, *the William & Mary Middle Eastern Music Ensemble*, and *Machaye Klezmer Band*. Hazzan Matt is an up-and-coming scholar, innovator, and leader among American cantors. He has served on the Cantors' Assembly's Executive Council, and as its representative to the Committee on Jewish Law & Standards from 2013-2015. He lectures at both universities and seminaries and has mentored cantorial students across the non-orthodox world, including at JTS, HUC-JIR, Hebrew College, and the Aleph Cantorial program. Hazzan Matt's writings have been published by Hebrew College Blog and Times of Israel. His academic works include *Tefillat Shmuel: Selected Writings of Samuel Rosenbaum* (2018), and an upcoming book chapter entitled "The Jewish Cantor 1500-1750: Professionalization & Conflict," (Brill 2019). His newest book, *Ilu Finu: A Cappella for Jewish Prayer*, will be published by the Cantors' Assembly this May.

**Cantor Roslyn Barak** is Emerita at Congregation Emanu-El of San Francisco, where she served from 1987-2015. She began her career as a concert recitalist and opera singer, receiving her Bachelor's degree at the Manhattan School of Music in New York, and performing in the United States and in Israel, where she lived and concertized for three years. Subsequently she entered Hebrew Union College in New York City, and moved to California one year after her graduation and investiture. Aside from her numerous cantorial duties at Congregation Emanu-El, Cantor Barak has appeared regularly in concerts in the U.S., Europe, and Israel; and been scholar-in-residence and given master classes and seminars at organizations including the Academy for Jewish Religion in Los Angeles, the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, and Hebrew Union College. She is a visiting professor and vocal coach at the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, Germany. Cantor Barak was honored to receive a Doctor of Music, *honoris causa*, from the Hebrew Union College in 2011 for her years of service as a full-time cantor. In 1996, Cantor Barak earned an M.S. in Clinical Psychology, and has served on the board of Shalom Bayit, which aids families dealing with domestic violence issues. Cantor Barak's latest album release is *My Spirit Sings*, available on iTunes, Amazon, CD Baby and Spotify.

**Cantor David Berger**, of KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation in Chicago, also serves as Scholar in Residence for the American Conference of Cantors and is pursuing his Ph.D. in Medieval Rabbinics at the Chicago Theological Seminary. He earned his Cantorial Ordination and Master of Sacred Music degree at the Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion, as well as an MA in Jewish Philosophy at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Known nationally for his unique combination of scholarship and musical excellence, Cantor Berger has taught at the Hebrew

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Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion at the Jerusalem, New York, and Los Angeles campuses, at the Ziegler School of Rabbinical Studies in Los Angeles, and is a regular faculty member at the North American Jewish Choral Festival. Recognized particularly for his knowledge of Jewish musical traditions from around the world, Cantor Berger works towards the creation of a Jewish musical culture filled with appreciation and exploration of the past matched with inspiration and innovation for the future. Learn more at [www.cantordavidberger.com](http://www.cantordavidberger.com).

**Dr. Philip V. Bohlman** is Ludwig Rosenberger Distinguished Service Professor in Jewish History in the Department of Music at the University of Chicago and Honorary Professor at the Hochschule für Musik, Theater und Medien Hannover. Among his recent publications are *Hanns Eisler – In der Musik ist es anders* (with Andrea F. Bohlman; Hentrich & Hentrich, 2012); *Song Loves the Masses: Herder on Music and Nationalism* (with Johann Gottfried Herder; University of California Press, 2017); *Wie sängen wir Seinen Gesang auf dem Boden der Fremde! Jüdische Musik zwischen Aschkenas und Moderne* (LIT, 2019); and with the New Budapest Orpheum Society the 2015 Grammy Award-nominated CD, *As Dreams Fall Apart: The Golden Age of Jewish Stage and Film Music, 1925–1955* (Cedille). For his work as performer of commemorative music from the Shoah Philip Bohlman received the Noah Greenberg Prize from the American Musicological Society and, with Christine Wilkie Bohlman, the Donald Tovey Memorial Prize of Oxford University.

**Rabbi Elizabeth Bolton** was born in Montreal and began her career as a singer of classical music. Following a serendipitous opportunity to serve a Reform congregation as cantor, she reoriented her vocation and applied to the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College (RRC) in Philadelphia. She served as rabbi with Congregation Beit Tikvah in Baltimore, MD from 1999–2012, directing the Music and Liturgy Project for the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation during her tenure there. Her singing is featured on a number of recordings, including the CD series keyed to the *Kol Haneshamah: Shabbat Vehagim* prayer book, and with storyteller Gail Rosen in the DVD of *For Tomorrow .. the Poetry and Words of Hilda Stern Cohen*, a prayerful and poetic account of a Holocaust survivor's journeys. She provides learning and communal singing experiences by creating "instant choirs" at conventions, retreats, and shabbatonim, and through teaching the history, evolution and practice of the music of the Jewish people. She returned to Canada in 2013 to serve Or Haneshamah: Ottawa's Reconstructionist Community, becoming Ottawa's first woman and first queer congregational rabbi. Rabbi Bolton was named one of the Forward's most Inspirational Rabbis of 2016 and serves on the board of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association. Her writing can be found in *Words of the Spirit* at [www.orh.ca](http://www.orh.ca) and in the *Ottawa Jewish Bulletin*.

**Dr. Eric Caplan** is an associate professor of contemporary Judaism and Jewish education at McGill University. He is the author of *From Ideology to Liturgy: Reconstructionist Worship and American Liberal Judaism*, published by Hebrew Union College Press in 2002. Eric is currently assembling an anthology of Jewish social activist thought and preparing for publication two volumes of excerpts from the diaries of Mordecai Kaplan, 1951–1978. He is vice-president of the Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood.

**Daniel Goldman Cedarbaum** is the Executive Director of The Mordecai M. Kaplan Center for Jewish Peoplehood ([www.kaplancenter.org](http://www.kaplancenter.org)). Organized at the end of 2010 and based in Evanston, Illinois, the Kaplan Center is a not-for-profit organization devoted to the transformation of Jewish community through the dissemination and promotion of the thought and writings of Mordecai Kaplan and the advancement of the agenda of the Kaplanian approach to Judaism in the 21st century. The Kaplan Center's perspective is explicitly trans-denominational. Before organizing the Kaplan Center, Dan served for almost 20 years on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Reconstructionist Federation (JRF), and for two years as the organization's Director of Movement Growth Initiatives and Special Projects. Dan has served as President of the JRF (2002–2006); and been a member of the Board of Governors of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and of the Executive Committee and the Board of Trustees of the United Jewish Communities. Dan has published several articles in *The Reconstructionist*, notably *The Role of Halakha in Reconstructionist Decision Making*, adapted as *Reconstructing Halakha in Reconstructionism Today*, and *Toward a Redefinition of Reconstructionism*, parts adapted as *Reconsidering Reconstructionist Liturgy in Reconstructionism Today*. Dan is a graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School.

**Cantor Dr. Gerald Cohen** received a B.A. in music from Yale University and a D.M.A in music composition from Columbia University. He has been at Shaarei Tikvah (Scarsdale, NY) for 32 years, is an assistant professor at the H. L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music of JTS and is on the faculty of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music of HUC. His opera, *Steal a Pencil for Me*, based on a true concentration camp love story, had its world premiere production by Opera Colorado in January 2018; excerpts were featured at Fort Worth Opera's *Frontiers Festival* in 2016. Cohen's earlier opera *Sarah and Hagar*, based on the story from the book of Genesis, has been performed in concert form. Cantor Cohen has written numerous liturgical pieces, from congregation melodies to full services with chorus. His setting of Psalm 23 has received thousands of performances from synagogues and churches to Carnegie Hall and the Vatican. Cohen has received support including commissioning grants from Meet the Composer and the National Endowment for the



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Arts, and residencies including those at Copland House and the MacDowell Colony. Cantor Cohen is the recipient of the Cantors' Assembly's Max Wohlberg Award for distinguished achievement in the field of Jewish composition. His compositions have been published by Oxford University Press, G. Schirmer and Transcontinental Music Publications. Learn more at [www.geraldcohenmusic.com](http://www.geraldcohenmusic.com).

**Dr. Judah M. Cohen** is the Lou and Sybil Mervis Professor of Jewish Culture and Associate Professor of Musicology at Indiana University. He has authored *The Making of a Reform Jewish Cantor: Musical Authority, Cultural Investment* (2009), *Sounding Jewish Tradition: The Music of Central Synagogue* (2011), and *Jewish Religious Music in Nineteenth Century America* (2019). He has also published extensively on Caribbean Jewish history, including his monograph *Through the Sands of Time: A History of the Jewish Community of St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands* (2004). His current projects explore World War II-era narratives in musical theater, 19th century American synagogue music, and American Jewish singer/songwriter/liturgist Debbie Friedman.

**Mili Leitner Cohen** is a 5th year Ph.D. Candidate in Music at the University of Chicago. She lives in Jerusalem where she is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Hebrew University in addition to holding a fellowship from the Chicago Center for Jewish Studies. She was born in the UK and trained as a violinist before turning to ethnomusicology. In her dissertation, Mili examines the political intentions and implications of prayer events occurring in Jerusalem's outdoor public spaces. She considers the ways in which diverse institutions, communities, and individuals sanctify space and time, and the particular role that vocality plays in Judaism for undertaking such processes. Mili also learns Talmud and halachah at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies and enjoys finding correspondence between anthropological and religious methods of studying Jewish liturgy.

**Cantor Richard Cohn** became Director of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion in July of 2015, following thirty-four years of service to Reform communities in Texas and Illinois. Over the course of his career, he has had an innovative impact on Jewish choral music as a conductor, arranger and composer. He has appeared as soloist and conductor in Jewish music programming throughout the United States and abroad, including the concert to celebrate the opening of the cantorial program at the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin, and a special concert presented by the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) in Rome under the auspices of the Vatican. Cantor Cohn has often been the soloist in Ernest Bloch's *Avodath Hakodesh* ("Sacred Service"), including in Israel with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, at Chicago's Grant Park Concerts and at the Berkshire Choral

Institute. He has been a frequent principal conductor at the North American Jewish Choral Festival, and he has conducted *HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir*, in concert at Lincoln Center. Cantor Cohn has also served as president of the ACC and is currently involved in the work of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS), which seeks to cultivate practices of contemplative Judaism as portals to spiritual growth.

**Dr. Gordon Dale** is Visiting Professor of Ethnomusicology at The Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. He has most recently conducted extensive research in the Hasidic communities of New York and Israel, and lectures across the United States on topics related to Israeli popular music, and Jewish music and mysticism. Dale is currently the Executive Director of The Jewish Music Forum, a project of the American Society for Jewish Music, and is a past president of the Society for Ethnomusicology's Special Interest Group for Jewish Music. He holds a Ph.D. from The Graduate Center, CUNY, an M.A. from Tufts University, and a B.S. from Northeastern University.

**Dr. Galeet Dardashti** is a vocalist and scholar, and the first woman to continue her family's tradition of distinguished Persian and Jewish musicianship. She has earned a reputation as a trail-blazing performer of Middle Eastern Jewish music as founder and leader of internationally renowned all-female musical group, Divahn, and through her multi-disciplinary commissions, *The Naming (Six Points Fellowship)*, and *Monajat (FJC Inaugural Music Commission)*. *Time Out New York* has called Dardashti's work "urgent, heartfelt and hypnotic," and *The Huffington Post* described it as "heart-stopping." As a scholar, she holds a Ph.D. in anthropology, specializing in cultural politics and contemporary Mizrahi music and culture in Israel; Dardashti's current book project explores the Mizrahi *piyyut* phenomenon in contemporary Israel. She is currently Assistant Professor of Jewish Music & Musician-in-Residence at the Jewish Theological Seminary in Manhattan. Having studied with her father, Hazzan Farid Dardashti, Galeet Dardashti also has 17 years of professional cantorial experience.

**Cantor Miriam Eskenasy** was born in Bucharest, Romania, to Zionist parents, who immigrated to Israel when Miriam was ten years old. There she became fluent in Hebrew, French and English in addition to her native Romanian. At sixteen, she and her family came to the United States. Miriam graduated from Queens College of the City University of New York with a B.A. in Romance Languages, specializing in French literature and minoring in music. Miriam continued singing and performing opera in the area and eventually joined the Rottenberg Chorale, a Jewish choir in New York. This led her to choose Jewish music as her life's work and in 2002 she received

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her Master's degree from and was ordained as a Cantor by the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion (DFSSM, HUC-JIR) in New York. Her Master's degree thesis focused on the music of the Sephardi community in Romania 19th and 20th centuries. In 2008 Cantor Miriam came to Chicago, where she currently resides, to become the Cantor of KAM Isaiah Israel Congregation. Now retired from the pulpit, Miriam continues her holy work teaching Hebrew to b'nei mitzvah students. She continues to inspire congregants and students to deepen their understanding of God, Torah and Jewish music.

**Cantor Gil Ezring** is Hazzan at Congregation Beth Judea in Long Grove, IL. He has taught music in public schools, congregational schools, and summer camps. Before entering the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS), he was a founding member of the band Rock HaRuach in Charlotte, NC and created Rock HaShanah and Rock HaShabbat services in collaboration with the Rabbi of Temple Israel in Charlotte, NC. Cantor Ezring served as intern at The Conservative Synagogue in Westport, CT under the instruction of Cantor Luis Cattan as well as at Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County in Bethesda, MD under the mentorship of Hazzan Matthew Austerklein. He has served as High Holiday Hazzan at Temple Beth Israel of the Palisades in Cliffside Park, NJ and for the Young Professional Service at Sutton Place Synagogue in Manhattan. In addition to working as a Hazzan, Cantor Ezring has worked in various educational settings. He been song leader and music director at Camp Zeke and mashgiach and b'nei mitzvah tutor at Camp Ramah Darom. As the Jewish musical duo AGEz Cantor Ezring and his sister Aviva write and perform Jewish rock/country/folk music to create accessible melodies to engage people of all ages in singing.

**Rabbi Josh Feigelson** is Dean of Students in the Divinity School at the University of Chicago. Previously he served as Founder and Executive Director of Ask Big Questions, an award-winning initiative of Hillel International to promote civic engagement and dialogue among college students across difference. Josh founded Ask Big Questions at Northwestern University Hillel, where he served as Campus Rabbi from 2005-2011. He holds a doctorate in Religious Studies from Northwestern, rabbinic ordination from Yeshivat Chovevei Torah Rabbinical School, and a B.A. in Music from Yale University. A dynamic speaker and sought-after teacher and facilitator, Josh is a leading thinker and writer on issues of faith and higher education, emerging adulthood, and civic education. He is also a ba'al tefillah whose recordings of Jewish liturgy at rabbijosh.com have been accessed over 125,000 times. He lives in Skokie, IL with his wife and three sons.

**Hazzan Marlena Fuerstman-Seroussi** holds a Master of Music from Winthrop University and had an extensive performance career in opera and musical theatre before gaining a Master of Sacred Music from The Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS) in 2004. She served as spiritual leader and cantor for Bethlehem Hebrew Congregation in Bethlehem, NH from 2002-2013; and has been Director of Music and Cantorial Soloist at Temple Israel in Charlotte, NC and Guest Cantorial Soloist at Temple Emanuel in Winston-Salem, NC and The Chapel Hill (NC) Kahilah. Hazzan Fuerstman serves JTS in Jerusalem as program coordinator and teacher of cantorial studies and is on the faculty of the cantorial school of Aleph Ordination. During the academic year she lives, along with her husband Professor Edwin Seroussi, in Jerusalem and conducts a full on-line program for adult education and b'nei mitzvah training via the internet, specializing in b'nei mitzvah training for children with special needs. She spends summers and early falls each year serving as spiritual leader for Kehilat Har Lavan in Conway, NH. In 1993, she received international attention with a profile of her life and work on the popular CBS network program, "60 Minutes." She was also featured in the Passover segment of Hallmark Network's national show, *Sowing Seeds*.

**Gayanne Geurin** serves as music director and lay cantor at Atlanta's Congregation Bet Haverim, directing a unique program that is rich in innovation, collaboration and ruach. Gayanne co-founded the chorus at CBH in 1999 and has developed on-going Jewish chant services and retreats. Gayanne holds a master's degree in religious studies from the University of Chicago Divinity School and a master's in clinical social work. She was a psychotherapist for 25 years and now offers an integrated approach to discovering one's voice as a vocal coach. She is currently in the first cohort of Hadar's Rising Song Institute Fellowship.

**Rabbi Shefa Gold** is a leader in Aleph: the Alliance for Jewish Renewal and received her ordination from both the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and from Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi. She is the director of The Center for Devotional, Energy and Ecstatic Practice (C-DEEP) in Jemez Springs, New Mexico. Shefa composes and performs spiritual music and has produced ten albums, and her liturgies have been published in several new prayer-books. She teaches workshops and retreats on the theory and art of Chanting, Devotional Healing, Spiritual Community Building and Meditation; and trains Chant Leaders in Kol Zimra, a two-year program for rabbis, cantors and lay leaders. Rabbi Gold's newest project, SOULIFT, is a one-week immersion in spiritual practice designed to lift participants into the Soul perspective. Shefa combines her grounding in Judaism with a background in Buddhist, Christian, Islamic, and Native American spiritual traditions to make her

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uniquely qualified as a spiritual bridge celebrating the shared path of devotion. She is the author of *Torah Journeys: The Inner Path to the Promised Land*; *In the Fever of Love: An Illumination of the Song of Songs*; and *Are We There Yet? Travel as a Spiritual Practice*, published by Ben Yehuda Press; and *The Magic of Hebrew Chant: Healing the Spirit, Transforming the Mind, Deepening Love* published by Jewish Lights. Learn more at [www.rabbishefagold.com](http://www.rabbishefagold.com).

**Rabbi Esteban Gottfried** is the rabbi, co-founder and director of Beit Tefilah Israeli (BTI), a fast-growing community in Tel Aviv that is renewing and revitalizing the notion of prayer. Services at BTI combine live music, modern poetry and literature with the traditional prayer book. In recent years BTI has become famous for its Summer Kabbalat Shabbat service at the Tel Aviv port, which attracts up to 800 worshippers each week. This phenomenon—attracting many secular Israelis who once felt marginalized by the Jewish community—is now being replicated in Jerusalem and throughout Israel. His successes offer insight to our own challenge in striking a balance between tradition and change. Rabbi Gottfried was ordained at Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem and is a graduate of the Israeli Rabbinical Seminary of the Shalom Hartman Institute and Hamidrasha at Oranim. Before pursuing the rabbinate, he studied theater in Tel Aviv and London. During his 20-year career in the theater, Esteban received numerous awards, including two “Israeli Oscars” (Ofir) as a writer and actor. He is married to Ruthie and is the father of Maya and Toby.

**Rabbi Professor Elie Holzer** is a practice-oriented philosopher of Jewish education who specializes in Havruta Text Study, Neo-Hasidism and the Art of Prayer. He holds the R. Dr. Ochs Chair for Teaching Jewish Religious Studies and serves as Assistant Professor at the School of Education at Bar Ilan University; and is on the faculty of the North American Mandel Institute for Teachers Educators and of M<sup>2</sup>: The Institute for Experiential Jewish Education. Among his many publications on Jewish education and contemporary Jewish religious thought is the book *A Philosophy of Havruta: Understanding and Teaching the Art of Text Study in Pairs* (Academic Studies Press, 2013), which won the USA 2014 National Jewish Book Award. He was a co-founder of the Shira Hadasha Community in Jerusalem. Rabbi Dr. Holzer is the founding president and educational director of Shma Koleinu – The Center for Prayer and Community, a Jerusalem-based non-profit institute dedicated to inspiring and empowering individuals, religious leaders, and communities through live online interactive learning, workshops and public events across the religious spectrum in the US as well in Jerusalem. In this context, he currently directs a series of Jerusalem workshops on *Contemplative Singing in the Spirit of Hasidism* together with Ms. Nurit Cohn, a musician and voice teacher.

**Prof. Joshua R. Jacobson** is Emeritus Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Northeastern University, and Visiting Professor and Senior Consultant in the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College. He is also founder and artistic director of the Zamir Chorale of Boston. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Music from Harvard College, a Master's degree in Choral Conducting from the New England Conservatory, a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati, and an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters from Hebrew College. Prof. Jacobson is past President of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. Over one hundred of his choral arrangements, editions and compositions have been published, and are frequently performed by choirs around the world. His book, *Chanting the Hebrew Bible: The Art of Cantillation*, published by the Jewish Publication Society in 2002, was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award; the revised expanded edition was published in June 2017. He is co-author of *Translations and Annotations of Choral Repertoire—Volume IV: Hebrew Texts*, published by earthsongs in 2009, and his monograph, *Salamone Rossi: Renaissance Man of Jewish Music*, was published by Hentrich & Hentrich in 2016.

**Hazzan Jack Kessler** was ordained at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) and has had a twenty-year congregational career. He holds a Master's degree in voice from Boston Conservatory and pursued studies in composition in the graduate department of Brandeis University, where he worked with Arthur Berger and Harold Shapero; and Bethany Beardslee at Harvard. Originally Ashkenazi in style, Hazzan Kessler's performances and original compositions now also embrace Sephardi and Mizrahi traditions. He directs of the Cantorial program of AOP: the ALEPH Ordination Program; and is on the core faculty of the Davennon Leadership Training Institute, which is celebrating its twentieth year revitalizing communal Jewish prayer. Jack directs, arranges and composes music, and is lead vocalist, for two touring ensembles: ATZILUT: CONCERTS FOR PEACE (Middle Eastern, combining Arab and Jewish musicians in a powerful statement of creativity through cooperation), and KLINGON KLEZMER: Jewish music from other planets.

**Cantor Jeff Klepper** was ordained as a cantor at HUC-JIR in 1980, earned a Master's degree in Music from Northeastern Illinois University, and in 2005 was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Music from HUC-JIR. Jeff met Debbie Friedman in 1969 at the NFTY Song and Dance Leaders Workshop. Over time they became close friends and sang together countless times. In 1992 they joined forces to create the Hava Nashira Workshop for song-leaders at the URJ Olin-Sang-Ruby Camp Institute. For four decades Jeff was also singing and song-writing partner with Rabbi Dan Frelander in the group Kol B'Seder. Their original songs have appeared on hundreds of recordings and in dozens of

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song collections. The best known, such as *Modeh Ani*, *Lo Alecha*, and *Shalom Rav* are sung throughout the world by Jews of every denomination. Jeff co-edited the songs for *Mishkan T'filah*, the Reform movement's prayer book. Since 2003 he has been cantor of Temple Sinai in Sharon, Massachusetts and a member of the faculty of the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College. Jeff and his family live in Boston.

**Dr. Mark Kligman** is the inaugural holder of the Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music and Professor of Ethnomusicology and Musicology at UCLA in the Herb Alpert School of Music. From 1994-2014 he was on the faculty of Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion where he taught in the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. He specializes in the liturgical traditions of Middle Eastern Jewish communities and various areas of popular Jewish music. He has published journal articles on the liturgical music of Syrian Jews in Brooklyn as well as a book, *Maqām and Liturgy: Ritual, Music and Aesthetics of Syrian Jews in Brooklyn* (Wayne State University, 2009). The book, which shows the interconnection between the music of Syrian Jews and their cultural way of life, was awarded a 2009 Jordan Schnitzer Book Award Notable Selection by the Association for Jewish Studies. Professor Kligman also has publications focusing on the intersection of contemporary Jewish life and various liturgical and paraliturgical musical contexts. He is the Academic chair of the Jewish Music Forum and co-editor of the journal *Musica Judaica*. In July 2017 he was named Director of the Lowell Milken Fund for American Jewish Music, a new initiative in the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

**Dr. Elli Kranzler** is a psychiatrist, practicing Adult and Child Psychiatry in New York City. He has been involved in Jewish music his whole life, collaborating with numerous artists, including the albums of *Dveykus*, *Journeys*, and *Kol Salonika*. Elli and his daughter, Ravital recorded the CD titled *Ki Ata Imadi - Because You Are With Me*, and is in the midst of a new recording with both of his adult daughters, Ravital and Liron. He has performed in concert throughout the US. For over thirty years Elli has served as the Shliach Tzibbur of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, the Bayit, known as a center of the Open Orthodox movement and housing Yeshivat Chovevei Torah and Yeshivat Maharat. In his youth Elli was raised in places of inspired Chassidic Tefillah and considers spirited, engaged communal prayer his life's work. His Selichot concert every year is attended by hundreds from all over the tri-state area.

**Rabbi Ebn Leader** grew up in Jerusalem and was a talmid (student-disciple) of Rabbi David Hartman, where he learned Talmud, and of Amos Hetz, where he studied movement and movement notation. He is currently a *talmid* of Hebrew College

Rector Art Green, from whom he has received smichah. Leader has a growing international reputation as a Jewish spiritual teacher in the neo-Hasidic tradition and is an authority on Jewish prayer. He is co-editor, with Rabbi Or Rose, of "God in All Moments: Mystical and Practical Wisdom From Hasidic Masters" (Jewish Lights Publishing, 2011), and with Rabbi Arthur Green of *Speaking Torah* (Jewish Lights 2013).

**Dan Libenson** is the founder and president of the Institute for the Next Jewish Future and co-host of the popular Judaism Unbound podcast, which promotes creativity and innovation in American Jewish life, and which has been downloaded nearly one million times since it launched three years ago. As a member of the senior faculty of Clal: The National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, Dan is also part of the SPARK Fellowship to Ignite Jewish Organizational Innovation. Dan has an extensive background in Jewish communal innovation, including at the Harvard and University of Chicago Hillel organizations; was awarded Hillel International's Richard M. Joel Exemplar of Excellence Award (Hillel's highest professional award); and is one of only ten Jewish leaders ever awarded the prestigious AVI CHAI Fellowship. Dan has been a fellow at the Mandel Leadership Institute and at the Shalom Hartman Institute and serves as a faculty member of the Foundation for Jewish Camp's Cornerstone Fellowship. He has authored publications and book chapters on Jewish innovation, and served as translation editor for the English editions of best-selling Israeli novelist Yochi Brandes' *The Secret Book of Kings* and *The Orchard*. He is currently working on a book about the future of American Judaism. Dan lives in the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago with his wife and two children.

**Eliana Light** is an award-winning songwriter and educator who empowers people to make Judaism their own through song, experiential education, and prayer. She has put out two albums of original Jewish music, *A New Light* and *Eliana Sings (About Jewish Things!)*, and travels the country providing artist-in-residence weekends, teaching at conferences, and consulting with synagogues to create intentional, meaningful prayer experiences for adults and children alike. Her songs have been featured on PJ Library compilations and are used by educators, song-leaders, and clergy across the world. Eliana has performed and taught at the Union for Reform Judaism Biennial, the NewCAJE Jewish Education Conference, Limmud New York, Limmud UK, Songleader Boot Camp, Hava Nashira, and the DeLeT Master's Program. She is the author of *Hebrew in Harmony*, a curriculum published by Behrman House that teaches prayer and Hebrew through music. She is also the founder of the G!D Project, an educational initiative focused on accessible, meaningful conversations about G!D and spirituality through ritual, text, and creativity. Eliana received her Master's

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degree in Jewish Experiential Education from the Jewish Theological Seminary in 2016 and is based in New York City. Learn more at [www.elianalight.com](http://www.elianalight.com).

**Rabbi Miriam Margles** is a teacher, artist and activist, serving Toronto's Danforth Jewish Circle. She teaches workshops throughout North America and will be on the faculty of this summer's inaugural program at Romemu Yeshiva. Miriam facilitates workshops that integrate the study of Jewish sources with creative exploration in movement, voice and writing, particularly exploring spiritual and contemplative practice, conflict, systemic oppression and healing. She creates an atmosphere of playful, attentive and open-hearted exploration for non-artists and artists alike to explore the vitality and resonances of Jewish text, our inner landscapes, connection with others, and relationship with the wider world. Her original compositions of music for Jewish prayer are sung by communities throughout North America, Israel and Europe. She has just released her first album of Jewish prayersong, *Zeh HaYom – this is the day*. She is also the co-founder of Encounter, dedicated to strengthening the Jewish people to be constructive agents of change in transforming the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Miriam is a graduate of the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College, an alumna of the Wexner Graduate Fellowship and the Jerusalem Fellows at the Mandel Leadership Institute. She earned a Master's degree in Theological Studies from Harvard Divinity School and a Bachelor's degree in Fine Arts in creative writing from York University in Toronto.

**Cantor Andrea Rae Markowicz** is the Senior Cantor of Am Shalom in Glencoe, Illinois. She has a wide background in secular and liturgical music as well as Jewish and Israel education. She holds a Master's degree in Sacred Music from HUC-JIR; and a Master's degree in Music from The Cleveland Institute of Music and Bachelor's degree in Music from University of Michigan, both in Voice Performance. Prior to becoming a Cantor, she had an extensive international, national and regional performing career in musical theater. She has sung in concert productions including *Shalom Broadway* with Broadway Pops International, *Beyond Fiddler: A Journey through Jewish Musical Theater*, *Regards to Jewish Broadway*, and *The Whole Megillah: The Story of Yiddish Theatre* with Charles Troy & Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, to name a few. Inspired by her grandfather, Philip Markowicz, a Holocaust survivor, author, and Torah scholar, she is the vocal soloist on *Tikvah* (Albany Records), a multimedia musical oratorio based on his life and philosophy that has been performed at several national venues, including the 2006 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. memorial events in Atlanta, Georgia. Cantor Markowicz has recorded and produced albums of her own via Music at Am Shalom including most recently, *Selections from Rosh Hashana & Yom Kippur* (2018).

**Cantor Brian Mayer** is the Dean of the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College. He holds a Doctorate in Sacred Music from the Jewish Theological Seminary. For the past decade, he has led the creation of the school's cutting-edge Cantorial Ordination for Spiritual & Educational Leadership program, a 3-year accelerated track leading to Cantorial Ordination and a Masters in Jewish Education. Subsequently, he launched the Hebrew College Rav-Hazzan program, the first fully integrated dual ordination program at an accredited Jewish institution. Since 2005, Brian has been an Associate Professor of Jewish Music. In addition to his academic work, Brian has been the Cantor of Temple Emanu-El, Providence, Rhode Island for 30 years. In 2002, he was featured in an ABC-TV documentary, "To God's Ear," which was nominated for an Emmy Award. In 2009, he was the Artistic Director of the award-winning *Shining Through Broken Glass: A Kristallnacht Concert*, which featured Leonard Nimoy. He is a 21-year veteran conductor for *HaZamir*, The International Jewish Teen Choir. He has conducted *HaZamir* at Carnegie Hall, The Metropolitan Opera House, David Geffen Hall and Jazz at Lincoln Center. Brian is married to Cantor Lynn Torgove and has four red-headed musician sons.

**Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi**, of the historic Anshe Emet Synagogue, Chicago, is a leading interpreter of Jewish music. Outside the sanctuary he has appeared worldwide in recitals, and symphony and opera performances. His repertoire spans nine languages and a myriad of styles, making his performances unique in the field. He has sung and recorded with major symphony orchestras, including with Maestro Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, narrating the Schoenberg "Kol Nidre," released as a CD on the CSO label. Hazzan Mizrahi has performed and recorded with the legendary jazz pianist, Dave Brubeck and his quartet (*Gates of Justice*), the great Theodore Bikel (*Our Song*), Howard Levy and the Trio Globo (*Matza to Menorah*) and understudied Luciano Pavarotti in *Ballo in Maschera* with the Miami Opera. He has sung in front of two U.S. Presidents; George W. Bush, at the White House Hanukkah celebration, and Barack Obama, at the U.S. Capitol for Days of Remembrance. Hazzan Mizrahi is President of the Cantors' Assembly, on the Board of the Jewish Theological Seminary, United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Mercaz, and Zamir Choral Foundation and on the faculty of the H.L. Miller Cantorial School-J.T.S., New York. His discography numbers over 25, including six for the Milken Archive on Naxos; *ALBERTO MIZRAHI: My Song*; and *ALBERTO MIZRAHI AT MENUHIN HALL*.

**Dr. Hankus Netsky** is co-chair of the New England Conservatory's Contemporary Improvisation Department and founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. A multi-instrumentalist, composer, and ethnomusicologist, he has composed extensively for film, theater, and television in collaborations with Itzhak Perlman, Robin Williams, Joel Grey, Robert Brustein, and Theodore Bikel, and has

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produced numerous recordings, including ten by the Klezmer Conservatory Band. He was the recipient of a 2013 “Forward Fifty” award, a New England Conservatory Outstanding Alumni award, the Yosl Mlotek award for the perpetuation of Yiddish Culture, and NEC’s Louis Krasner and Lawrence Lesser awards for Excellence in Teaching. His essays have been published by the University of California Press, the University of Pennsylvania Press, the University of Scranton Press, Hips Roads, Indiana University Press, and the University Press of America; and Temple University Press published his book, “Klezmer, Music and Community in 20th Century Jewish Philadelphia” in 2015. He received his Ph.D. in Ethnomusicology from Wesleyan University. He has also taught at Hebrew College, Hampshire College, and Wesleyan University, and he’s been a seasonal lecturer in Jewish Studies at McGill University since 2011.

**Rabbi Dr. Vanessa L. Ochs** is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of Virginia. Her books include *Inventing Jewish Ritual* (winner of a National Jewish Book Award), *Sarah Laughed*, *The Jewish Dream Book* (with Elizabeth Ochs), *Words on Fire*, and *Safe and Sound*. Her forthcoming book is a “biography” of the Haggadah. She was awarded a Creative Writing Fellowship by the National Endowment for the Arts. Ochs earned a B.A. from Tufts University, an M.F.A. from Sarah Lawrence College, and Ph.D. from Drew University. She was ordained as a rabbi in 2012.

**Eden Pearlstein** is a Brooklyn-based Hip Hop Artist, Creative Consultant and Jewish Educator. Since 2007, under the moniker ePRHYME, Eden has released 6 albums of Jewishly-inflected rap music with iconic indie label K Records. Whether rhyiming about current events or personal struggles, riffing on a text or reinterpreting tradition, ePRHYME’s “rapid-fire word salads are a humanist vision of...religious consciousness fused with social action, and an uncompromising blend of urban forms and neo-Hasidic spirituality” (The Forward). Most recently, Eden launched the Darshan Project along with Basya Schechter and Shir Yaakov. Through multiple mediums including audio, video, performance, teaching and prayer, Darshan creatively explores and transforms ancient Hebrew texts through their unique, hybrid form of musical midrash and mystical poetry. *Raza*, Darshan’s newest release on Chant Records, is a radical reimagining of the traditional prayers and mystical poetry recited on Friday night to welcome the Sabbath Bride. Additionally, Eden holds 2 Master’s Degrees from JTSA (J. Phil., J. Ed.) and offers numerous classes in diverse environments across the denominational spectrum focused on subjects related to Hasidism, Kabbalah, Prayer, Poetry, Spiritual Practice, Ritual Art, Aesthetic Experience, and Self-Expression. And finally, Eden is also a book editor, curriculum designer, creative consultant, ritual artist, and self-proclaimed “rogue scholar.”

**Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro**, of Congregation Beth El in Voorhees, New Jersey, grew up on Mercer Island, Washington, in a rabbinic home, instilled with a love of Judaism and music. From an early age, she knew she would continue the long family line of rabbis, cantors and educators. Hazzan Pomerantz-Boro was invested as a *Hazzan* and earned her degree in Sacred Jewish Music from the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where she was awarded the Jacobson Memorial Prize in *Hazzanut*. She also holds a B.A. in Near Eastern Studies and Music from the University of Washington. Among the first 14 women to be inducted into the Cantors’ Assembly in 1991, she currently serves as its International President. Of all her concerts, honors, and appearances, the greatest source of blessing and inspiration for her and her husband, Stephen, are their beautiful children, Rebecca and Joshua! Learn more at [www.alisapomerantzboro.com](http://www.alisapomerantzboro.com).

**Cantor Rachel Rosenberg** has served at Congregation Rodfei Zedek in Chicago since 2011. Rachel is invested as Hazzan through the Cantors’ Assembly of America; and she has served on the Cantors’ Assembly Executive Council and Education Committees. Rachel is past president of the “Chicago Cantors’ Hub,” an organization promoting professional development and networking throughout the region and raising scholarship funds for cantorial students. Rachel studied psychology and music at the University of Illinois, Jewish studies at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and earned her Master’s degree in Management at Northwestern University. Rachel and her husband Chuck are founding members of the well-known Chicago-based musical ensemble, *Shakshuka*, which features Israeli and Sephardic music “spiced with jazz.” Rachel is passionate about bringing innovative, spirited expressions of Jewish life through music to diverse communities of all ages.

**Joyce Rosenzweig**, pianist and conductor, has an extensive international performing career. She has collaborated in recital and appeared as soloist with major ensembles including the New York Philharmonic and the New Orleans Philharmonic Orchestra; and performed in major concert halls including Carnegie Hall and the Museum of Jewish Heritage. A leading figure in Jewish music, Ms. Rosenzweig has collaborated in concert with most of the cantors of this generation. She has been featured at celebrations of Jewish music including the International Jewish Music Festival (Amsterdam), the Jewish Cultural Festival (Berlin), and the Ashkenaz Festival (Toronto); and at annual Cantorial conventions for both the Conservative and Reform movements. Ms. Rosenzweig is a dedicated educator, having served as Artist-in-Residence for more than three decades at Hebrew Union College - Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York. Since 1994, she has served as Music Director of Congregation Beth Simchat Torah in Manhattan, where she has created dynamic

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Shabbat and High Holiday worship experiences. Joyce can be heard as pianist on CDs including *A Leyter tsum Himl* (A Ladder to Heaven) with Cantor Robert Abelson; *Chalamti Chalom* (I Dreamt a Dream) with Cantor David Berger; *Eybike Lider* (Eternal Songs) with mezzo-soprano Caroline Chanin; and *B'chol L'avav'cha* (With all Your Heart) and *Dreaming in Yiddish* with vocalist Adrienne Cooper z"l.

**Cantor Ben Rosner** of Mosaic Law Congregation in Sacramento began as a classical guitarist, earning a scholarship to the University of Miami's conservatory program. While at UM, he started leading musical Shabbat services at Hillel, an experience that inspired him to dedicate his life to Jewish learning and teaching. He writes music and utilizes guitar, mandolin, banjo, ukulele, harmonica and recorder to introduce new melodies, as well as traditional melodies, to Friday night services. Cantor Ben strongly believes in including people of all ages in Jewish life, and in empowering people of all ages to joyfully learn and participate in all services. His compositions include *Oseh Shalom* for guitar and voice and *Shavuot Piyyut* for choir, both premieres at the Shalshet Jewish Composers Festival in Philadelphia. He has served as an expert source for an *Acoustic Guitar Magazine* article on the guitar in places of worship, and collaborated with the editor of *Journal of Synagogue Music* on an article that includes his recording and arrangement of the traditional prayer *Shiviti* for classical guitar and voice. Cantor Ben holds degrees from the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of the Jewish Theological Seminary, where his thesis was *The Birth and Rebirth of Guitar in the Synagogue and A Theory and Practical Application of Jewish Liturgical Music*.

**Prof. Dr. Sarah Ross** is professor of Jewish music studies and director of the European Center for Jewish Music at the Hannover University of Music, Drama, and Media, Germany. She obtained her Ph.D. in 2010 at the University of Music and Theatre Rostock, Germany. She is author of *A Season of Singing: Creating Feminist Jewish Music in the United States* (Brandeis University Press, 2016), co-editor of *Judaism and Emotion: Texts, Performance, Experience* (Peter Lang, 2013) and editor of the book series *Jewish Music Studies* (Peter Lang). Her main fields of research are Jewish music, ethnomusicological gender studies, and music and Jewish cultural heritage as well as music and cultural sustainability.

**Cantor Pavel Roytman** is a native of Nikolaev, Ukraine, who toured widely as soloist with the Klezmer Shpil Orchestra before immigrating to the U.S. in 1994. He studied hazzanut with such well-known masters of cantorial art as Hazzan Shlomo Shuster, Hazzan Henry Rosenblum, and Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi. In 2006 Cantor Roytman was certified as a cantor through Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion; and in 2015, completed his

certification as a Conservative Cantor and became a full-fledged member of the Cantor's Assembly. Cantor Roytman has served as conductor for the Milwaukee Jewish Community Chorale and is Executive Director and co-founder of the Zemer Am, Chicago's Annual Festival of Jewish Choral Music. He appears frequently in the Chicago area at venues including the Greater Chicago Jewish Folk Arts Festival, Chicago YIVO Society, and the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Educational Center; and has appeared with members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chicago A Cappella among other distinguished ensembles. In 2004, Cantor Roytman received a 1st prize in the category of Voice/Cantorial Singing in the 2nd Annual Golden Hanukkah Competition of Jewish Arts, sponsored by the World Congress of Russian Jewry held in Berlin, Germany. Cantor Roytman's voice is featured on CDs including *Journey of The Heart* with Cantor Marina Shemesh and *Zing Mein Hartz* with the Klezmer Shpil Orchestra.

**Rabbi Dr. Rachel Sabath Beit-Halachmi** was ordained in New York in 1995 and holds a Ph.D. in Jewish philosophy from the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is National Director of Recruitment and Admissions, President's Scholar and Assistant Professor of Jewish Thought and Ethics at the Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC). For over a decade she served as a faculty member of the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem, directing the Hartman Lay leadership, Rabbinic leadership, and Christian leadership programs for North American leaders as well as programs in pluralism and Jewish identity for officers of the IDF. Rabbi Sabath has authored numerous scholarly works, including "Radically Free and Radically Claimed" in *Jewish Theology in Our Time*; serves on the editorial board of the CCAR Journal of Reform Judaism; and is consulting editor for the new multi-denominational journal, *Zeramim: An Online Journal of Applied Jewish Thought*. A former columnist for the *Jerusalem Post*, Rabbi Sabath also writes regularly for publications including *The Huffington Post*. She makes presentations across North America and Israel on leadership, Israel, gender, and theology. For more than a decade Rabbi Sabath served seasonally as the rabbi of Congregation Shirat HaYam on Nantucket Island. She lives in Cincinnati with her husband, Rabbi Ofer Sabath Beit-Halachmi, and their three children.

**Deborah Sacks Mintz**, a prayer leader and musician, has served innovative institutions around the country as a teacher of Torah and communal Jewish music. As the Community Singing Consultant of Hadar's Rising Song Institute, Deborah serves as a resource to communities across North America and beyond who seek to deepen their practice of empowered song and connective prayer. In addition to composing new Jewish music, Deborah performs and records with a wide range of musicians and ensembles, including collaborations with Joey Weisenberg, Josh Warshawsky, Basya Schechter, Noah Aronson, and Nava

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Tehila. A Wexner Graduate Fellow, Deborah is pursuing rabbinical ordination at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Learn more at [www.deborahsacksmintz.com](http://www.deborahsacksmintz.com).

**Hazzan Basya Schechter** is most known for her group, Pharaoh's Daughter, a 7-piece world music ensemble that travels effortlessly through continents, key signatures, and languages with a genre-bending sound. Basya Schechter's earthy, soulful beautiful voice rings out over instruments that form a vibrant collage of East/West and a vision of the new Middle East. She is also the Hazzan and musical director of Romemu, a fast growing progressive spiritually adventurous community in the Upper West Side as well as the spiritual leader of the Romemu Satellite community - Romemu Brooklyn. In the summer she is a Cantor for the Fire Island synagogue, a smaller flip flop wearing community co-led with banjo playing Rabbi, writer, and academic Shaul Magid. Pharaoh's Daughter's last recording "Dumiya" (7th album) in 2014 was reviewed by Leonard Cohen, who said this about this body of work: "*Listening to Dumiyah in the car yesterday with a Turkish friend such a delight the groove, the purity, the skill so fresh and yet so familiar, as the work of the heart always is--*" Her most recent release (2016) is Kabbalat Shabbat Darshan project with rapper Eden Pearlstein aka EPhryme in a crisp Mediterranean hip hop Kabbalat Shabbat program called "Raza."

**Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller** serves as Professor of Cantorial Arts at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music; and as cantor of Bet Am Shalom Synagogue in White Plains, New York where her husband is Rabbi Lester Bronstein. Her compositions include *Halleluhu* a multi-rhythmic setting of Psalm 150; *Lamdeini*; *U'kratem D'ror- Proclaim Liberty*, an American/Jewish response to 9/11, and various commissioned works for choirs, synagogues and interfaith liturgical groups. *A World Fulfilled*, a solo recording of her compositions, was released in 2002. A collection of her synagogue compositions, "*Azarah, Songs of Benjie Ellen Schiller*" was published this year by Transcontinental Music. Cantor Schiller has served on the faculty of the Institute for Jewish Spirituality rabbinic and cantorial programs and the North American Jewish Choral Festival. She is certified by the Institute for Jewish Spirituality as a Jewish mindfulness meditation teacher.

**Cantor Azi Schwartz** is Senior Cantor of Park Avenue Synagogue (PAS) in New York, and a world-renowned vocal performer and recording artist whose music reaches Jewish and interfaith audiences internationally. After graduating from Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute and studying under the top cantors in the world, Azi earned a Master's degree in Classical Singing and Conducting from Mannes School of Music in New York. As PAS Music Center's Director, Cantor Schwartz creates, records, and publishes new

liturgical music, as well as hosts world-class guest artists for concerts and worship. Passionate about bringing Jewish liturgy to the broader world, Azi has performed at Carnegie Hall, the United Nations, Madison Square Garden, the US Capitol Rotunda, and the Israeli Knesset. In 2018, Azi was featured in a PBS special entitled, *The New York Cantors*, which brought cantorial music to millions of viewers across the US and in Europe. He has released nine studio albums containing traditional and newly commissioned Jewish liturgical music. Dedicated to cultivating the next generation of cantors, Azi serves on the faculties of all major cantorial schools, and serves as Treasurer for the Cantors' Assembly, the largest professional organization for cantors. Azi is married to Dr. Noa Schwartz, and they have four children.

**Professor Edwin Seroussi** is the Emanuel Alexandre Professor of Musicology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Director of the Jewish Music Research Centre since 2000. He has been a visiting professor at institutions including Moscow University, Institut für Musikwissenschaft in Zürich, and Dartmouth College, where he is a permanent Visiting Scholar. He teaches ethnomusicology, world music, theory and methodology in the study of oral traditions, and popular music. Besides his academic work, he is active in the music scene of Israel and abroad in diverse capacities as producer, advisor, member of the board of musical institutions and representative to the International Music Council (UNESCO). Prof. Seroussi's research focuses on the musical cultures of the Mediterranean and the Middle East, interactions between Jewish and Islamic cultures and popular music in Israel, exploring the process of hybridization, diaspora, nationalism and transnationalism. He founded *Yuval Music Series* and is editor of the acclaimed CD series *Anthology of Music Traditions in Israel*. Seroussi has been awarded several prestigious prizes, among them the Israel Prize for 2018 in the field of musicology. In 2019 he was named a Fellow at the Herbert D. Katz Center for Advance Judaic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania.

**Alden Solovy** spreads joy and excitement for prayer. He is a liturgist, poet, author and teacher whose writing was transformed by multiple tragedies, marked in 2009 by the sudden death of his wife from catastrophic brain injury. Alden teaches at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem and at synagogues throughout North America. The Jerusalem Post called his writing "soulful, meticulously crafted." He's the author of four books, two from CCAR Press: the newly-released *This Joyous Soul: A New Voice for Ancient Yearnings* and *This Grateful Heart: Psalms and Prayers for a New Day*. In 2012, Alden made aliyah to Israel and lives in Jerusalem. He also writes for Ritualwell, RavBlog, Times of Israel. Learn more at [www.ToBendLight.com](http://www.ToBendLight.com). Alden can be reached at [asolovy54@gmail.com](mailto:asolovy54@gmail.com).



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**Amanda Ruppenthal Stein** is a Ph.D. candidate in Musicology and the 2018-19 Crown Graduate Fellow of the Crown Family Center for Jewish and Israel Studies at Northwestern University. Her dissertation (working title: “Sounding *Judentum*: Assimilation, Art Music, and Being Jewish Musically in 19th Century Germany”) explores how art music served as an avenue of assimilation for 19th century German-speaking Jews and expands existing scholarly narratives on musical expressions of Judaism and Jewishness during this period. She has presented at national and regional conferences including the annual meetings of the American Musicological Society and the Association for Jewish Music and has conducted research at the National Library of Israel with support from a Northwestern Graduate Research Grant. Today’s paper diverges from Amanda’s primary research areas and is the result of her participation on a solidarity mission and recording project with the Cantors’ Assembly, celebrating 100 Years of the Abayudaya Jewish community in Uganda.

**Hazzan Jeremy Stein** joined Congregation Beth Israel Ner Tamid outside Milwaukee in July of 2009. A native of Pawtucket, Rhode Island, he studied at Berklee College of Music in Boston, Massachusetts; and following graduation, toured with his jazz/rock band Flutopia, played on film scores, composed radio jingles, and performed at countless Jewish weddings. In 2009, Hazzan Stein graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music at the Jewish Theological Seminary. While in Cantorial School, he combined his passion for jazz, folk and pop with his love of Jewish music, composing melodies rooted in Jewish musical tradition with a modern flair. He has performed on such stages as Carnegie Hall and the Original House of Blues in Boston and with such groups as The Zamir Choral Foundation, sharing the stage with perennial Jewish performers Theodore Bikel and Debbie Friedman. Hazzan Stein is a passionate, dedicated teacher and enjoys working with congregants of all ages. In 2015, Hazzan Stein completed a Master’s degree in Jewish Education through the Davidson School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. Hazzan Stein lives in Milwaukee with his wife Amanda. They are proud parents of daughters Mirit and Hadas.

**Yudi Sufrin** is just called Yudi now. Before he was just called Yudi, he was a professional music producer and singer-songwriter of folk-rock music and Jewish pop music, touring internationally as half of the duo Stereo Sinai. He was also briefly an artist-in-residence here at the University of Chicago Hillel. Then, as he found himself further embracing his Yudiness, he moved to Brooklyn and merited to become a court musician for the holy Biala Rebbe of America, shlit”a. Now that he is just called Yudi, he is an aspiring Breslover hasid,

husband, father, and as best as he can be, a servant of the Creator. Most recently, Yudi learned how difficult it can be to write about oneself in the third person. Two examples of things from the time before he was just called Yudi about which he still cares deeply are his friendship with Dr. Gordon Dale, and his music.

**Rabbi Dr. Jeffrey A. Summit** holds an appointment as Research Professor in the Department of Music and the Judaic Studies Program at Tufts University. He is a Senior Consultant for Hillel International directing the project “Living Our Values.” He holds appointments at Tufts as Emeritus Neubauer Executive Director of Tufts Hillel and Emeritus Jewish Chaplain. He is the author of *Singing God’s Words: The Performance of Biblical Chant in Contemporary Judaism* (Oxford University Press) and *The Lord’s Song in a Strange Land: Music and Identity in Contemporary Jewish Worship* (Oxford University Press). His CD *Abayudaya: Music from the Jewish People of Uganda* (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings) was nominated for a GRAMMY award. His CD with video *Delicious Peace: Coffee, Music and Interfaith Harmony in Uganda* (Smithsonian Folkways Recordings) was awarded Best World Music CD by the Independent Music Awards. His research focuses on music and identity, music and spiritual experience, music and advocacy, and the impact of technology on the transmission of tradition.

**Yoel Sykes** studied music at the Center for Eastern Music in Jerusalem and flamenco guitar in the Fundacion de Christina Heeren school of Flamenco Arts in Seville, Spain. He is a main prayer leader in the Nava Tehila Jewish Renewal community in Jerusalem, and travels to many Jewish communities around the U.S to lead musical prayer services, concerts and workshops. He has composed many new melodies to traditional prayers that can now be heard and sung in synagogues across Israel and throughout the globe. Yoel and his colleagues in Nava Tehila, Rabbi Ruth Kagan and Daphna Rosenberg, have created new and renewed models for Jewish prayer leading that influence the prayer life of many communities around the world.

**Hazzan Dr. Ramón Tasat** of Shirat HaNefesh (Song of the Soul), an emerging Jewish congregation in southern Montgomery County, MD, is also the musical Director of Kolot HaLev, a Jewish Community choir in the Greater Washington area and the president of Shalshet: The Foundation for New Jewish Liturgical Music. Born in Buenos Aires, Ramón learned Ladino, the language of the Sephardic people, at his grandmother’s knee; his style reflects the rich history and drama of this extraordinary culture. His thesis for the doctoral degree in voice performance from the University of Texas at

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Austin is entitled “The Cantillations and Religious Poems of the Jews of Tangier, Morocco.” Dr. Tasat’s notable appearances include the Kennedy Center Concert Hall; the Israeli Embassy; the Jewish Music Festival of Berkeley, California; Limmud UK, Saint Cére, France; and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. His awards include First Place at the Montpellier Cultural Arts Center’s Recital Competition and a National Endowment for the Arts Grant. Ramón’s numerous recordings include *Fiesta Sefarad*, *Trees cry for rain*, *Teshuva*, *Kantikas di amor i vida*, a series of Sephardic duets together with the celebrated singer Flory Jagoda and his most recent, *Yom She Kulo Shabbat*. He has published several music books on Jewish musical subjects.

**Dr. Samuel Torjman Thomas** is an ethnomusicologist and multi-instrumentalist (oud, sax/clarinet, vocals, ney, and frame drums). As artistic director of the New York Andalus Ensemble and ASEFA, he journeys through a lush Mediterranean garden of songs in Hebrew, Arabic, Ladino, and Spanish, highlighting intercultural exchange in the expressive cultures of North Africa and the Middle East. His interactive workshops bring participants into worlds of Jewish song traditions – Sephardi piyyutim (poetry), wordless Chassidic niggunim, Klezmer music and dance, and chazzanut liturgical practices. Dr. Torjman Thomas teaches music, interdisciplinary studies, and Sephardic studies at the City University of New York, including courses on world music, American vernacular musics and jazz history, religious studies, ethnic studies, and diaspora studies. He is a frequent guest speaker at cultural institutions, universities, and in multi-denominational ecumenical spaces worldwide. His formal talks center on historical and cultural topics related to Sephardi-Mizrahi Jewry.

**Cantor Benjamin Warschawski** is recognized worldwide for his extraordinary talents in both operatic and cantorial realms. He has performed in lead tenor roles for companies including the New York City, Sarasota, and Nashville Operas; and in operatic and cantorial concerts in New York, Miami, Washington, DC, Chicago, Los Angeles and Israel. He is a past winner of the Metropolitan Opera Regional Auditions. Mr. Warschawski began his journey to the pulpit as a teenager, singing in the prestigious Beth T’filoh Choir in Baltimore. In 1997, he received the title of Reverend Cantor from the Cantorial Council of America at the Belz School of Music, Yeshiva University. That same year he assumed the pulpit at The Ner Tamid/Greenspring Valley Synagogue in Baltimore, followed by a two-year position at B’nai Torah Congregation in Boca Raton, Florida. Cantor Warschawski has concertized extensively with virtually every major cantor and renowned Jewish singer active today. He currently holds the position of Chief Cantor at the prestigious Ezra Habonim/The Niles

Township Congregation in Chicago, Illinois. The tenor splits his time between Chicago and New York where he resides with his wife, Heather, daughter, Adina and son, Samuel.

**Josh Warshawsky** is a nationally touring Jewish musician, songleader, and composer. He writes new melodies inspired by Jewish teachings. A Chicago native, Josh has shared his original melodies with Jewish communities throughout the US, Canada, the UK, and Israel. He has released three albums of Jewish music. The newest, *Chaverai Nevarech*, was a live album released in November 2018 along with a video series and teachings, available at any music outlet. Josh spends his weekdays in rabbinical school at the Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, and his weekends traveling to different synagogues and Jewish communities across the country sharing music and prayer. He is on the faculty of Songleader Boot Camp and leads the Ramah Shabbaton and the Ramah Chavurah. Josh has spent the past 18 summers at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin, and the last five summers teaching and performing at Ramah camps across the country. Learn more at [www.joshwarshawsky.com](http://www.joshwarshawsky.com).

**Joey Weisenberg** is creative director of Hadar’s Rising Song Institute, dedicated to cultivating Jewish spiritual life through song. A multi-instrumental musician, singer, and composer, he is the author of *Building Singing Communities* and *The Torah of Music* (winner of the National Jewish Book Award). His seventh album of original nigunim will be released later this year. Learn more about Joey and the Rising Song Institute at [www.risingsong.org](http://www.risingsong.org).

**Rabbi Margaret Moers Wenig**, Emerita at Beth Am The People’s Temple and Instructor in Liturgy and Homiletics at HUC-JIR in NY, has taught cantorial students for 30 years, listened avidly to her classmates’ and her students’ practica and recitals for close to 40 years, and audited 12 classes in HUC-JIR’s School of Sacred Music. She loves to go to shuls and minyanim of all different stripes, immensely enriching the education she received while earning a B.A. in Religious Studies from Brown University, and an M.A.H.L., rabbinic ordination, and D.D. from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion. As a congregational rabbi, in partnership with a talented Music Director and composer, and congregants with beautiful voices and good musical skills, Maggie introduced a wide variety of music to the Beth Am community. At last her dream of fully integrating the academic study of liturgy and music came true when she began co-teaching High Holiday Modes and Liturgy with Dr. Mark Kligman. In her other incarnation she spent five summers working at the Marlboro Music Festival, immersed in her first love: chamber music.

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**Jeffrey Wolfe**, MM, MT-BC, is the Director of Community Programs and Financial Operations at the Institute for Therapy through the Arts and a board-certified music therapist. Mr. Wolfe completed his Bachelor of Arts in Percussion Performance from the University of Akron, and his Master of Music in Music Therapy with an emphasis in counseling at Ohio University. He is a fellow of the Academy of Neurologic Music Therapy (NMT-Fellow). After completing his clinical internship at a private practice specializing in interventions for children and adults with neurodevelopmental disorders, he established a music therapy program for cult survivors at Wellspring Retreat and Resource Center. Jeff specializes in treating children and adolescents with a history of anxiety, depression, and trauma, and survivors of abuse. Additionally, he has worked extensively in programming and facilitating creative arts therapy groups for individuals with aphasia. Mr. Wolfe is active in professional organizations including the American Music Therapy Association Mentoring Program, the Evanston Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, the Illinois Association of Music Therapy, the National Association for the Education of Young Children, and the International Cultic Studies Association. He is a local, regional, and national lecturer, and coauthored the Music Therapy Social Skills Assessment and Documentation Manual (MTSSA).

**Dr. Naomi Cohn Zentner** is an ethnomusicologist interested in the intersections between domestic and liturgical music, Sephardi music in the Ashkenazi liturgy; and, lately, the shared soundscapes of late Ottoman-era Safed. She is the head of the Ashkenazi prayer leaders' course of *Ashira Tehilot* and of the upcoming MA program in Jewish Music and Prayer at the Schechter College of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem. In the coming Fall she will be a visiting fellow at Oxford University's Advanced seminar of Jewish Studies in a project on Jewish musical cultures in early modern Europe. She lives in Jerusalem and is married with four children.

