

Celebrating Cantor Nancy Abramson

ON HER RETIREMENT AS DIRECTOR OF
H. L. MILLER CANTORIAL SCHOOL AT JTS

MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023, 7:00 PM

The Jewish Theological Seminary



A Siyyum and Musical Celebration

What better way to honor Cantor Nancy Abramson for her outstanding leadership of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School these past 12 years. Her insight into the power of prayer, her musical talents, her deep and spirited Jewish soul, and her experience as a religious leader and teacher have enriched every aspect of JTS and greatly influenced not only our students but our entire community.

During her time at JTS, Cantor Abramson's dedication to JTS's mission and her leadership in the Division of Religious Leadership could be felt throughout the entire institution. Not only has she been a trusted and valued colleague, but she has been fiercely devoted to her students and their development. Through the classes she taught on the sacred music of prayer, the learning sessions she led on pastoral care, and the beautiful performances and concerts she conceived, conducted, and performed in, Cantor Abramson will inspire us far into the future both here at JTS and through the lives and careers of cantors across the globe.

Having known Cantor Abramson since our own JTS student days, I feel especially fortunate to have been in relationship with her over the years both professionally and personally. I will miss her passion, her wise counsel, and especially our lively conversations about *nusah* and Jewish music.

I join the entire JTS community in wishing her much joy and fulfillment as she embarks on this new life stage.



Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor
The Jewish Theological Seminary

PROGRAM

Welcome

Dr. Shuly Rubin Schwartz, Chancellor, The Jewish Theological Seminary

L'eyla

Nick Page (b. 1952)

Text: Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, translated by Rabbi Ariel Burger

Performed by H. L. Miller Cantorial School alumni,

Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman, conductor; Elliot Roman, pianist

Elohai N'tzor

Danny Maseng (b. 1950)

Text: Conclusion of the Amidah Prayer

Performed by Cantors Jacob Agar (2020), Anna May (2019),

Jake Greenberg (2020), and Arielle Reisner (2020)

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, pianist

Hob Ikh Mir an Altn Dime (I Have an Old Dime)

Yiddish Folk Song

Performed by Cantors Sarah Myerson (2015) and Jeff Warschauer (2015)

Ilya Shneyveys, accordion

A Dudele

Leo Low (1878–1960)

Text: Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berdichev (1740–1809)

Performed by Cantors David Wallach (2014) and Isaac Yager (2017)

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, pianist

Shomer Yisrael

Lawrence Avery (1927–2015),

arr. by Cantor Gerald Cohen (b. 1960)

Text: Private prayer at the end of the Amidah Prayer

Performed by Cantors Malachi Kanfer (2017), Sarah Levine (2017),

Summer Sunshine (2017), and Steve Zeidenberg (2017)

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, pianist

Chad Gadya

Hazzan Moishe Oisher (1907–1958),

arr. by Cantor Sarah Levine (b. 1989)

Performed by Cantors Mira Davis (2021), Eliana Kissner (2021),

and Daniella Risman (2021)

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, pianist

Anything You Can Do

Irving Berlin (1888–1989)

Performed by Cantors Tahl Ben-Yehuda (2013), Russell Jayne (2013), and Ben Tisser (2013)
Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, pianist

Hal'luhu

Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller (b. 1958)

Text: Psalm 150
Performed by Cantors Rachel Brook (2016), Ethan Levin Goldberg (2016), and Shoshi Levin Goldberg (2016)
Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, pianist; Hazzan Rabbi Luis Cattán, dumbek

Remarks

Cantor Stephen Stein, Executive Vice President, Cantors Assembly

Psalm 100

Ned Rorem (1923–2022)

Performed by Cantor Nancy Abramson
Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, pianist

Remarks

Cantor Nancy Abramson, Director, H. L. Miller Cantorial School

Remarks

Rabbi Ayelet S. Cohen
Pearl Resnick Dean of The Rabbinical School, Dean of the Division of Religious Leadership

Tefilat HaderechDebbie Friedman (1951–2011),
arr. by Josh Ehrlich (b. 1985)

Text: Debbie Friedman and traditional liturgy
Performed by the H. L. Miller Cantorial School faculty and students
Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, conductor; Elliot Roman, pianist

Y'varech'cha

Cantor Gerald Cohen (b. 1960)

Text: Tanakh and Friday Night Liturgy
Performed by the H. L. Miller Cantorial School alumni, faculty, Cantors Assembly leaders, and students
Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, conductor; Elliot Roman, pianist

PROGRAM NOTES

L'eyla

Music: Nick Page (b. 1952); Text: Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook, translated by Rabbi Ariel Burger

Nick Page is a composer, author, and song leader who leads workshops and sings throughout North America and Europe. He has conducted at great and humble stages around the world, including Carnegie Hall in New York City, Carnegie Hall in Scotland, and Carnegie Hall in Pittsburgh. L'eyla, a song of lifting up voices together, was composed in celebration of the 13th year of HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir. In the summer of 2022, Nick Page received a prestigious Hallel V'Zimra Award from the Zamir Choral Foundation for his many contributions to Jewish choral music.

Elohai N'tzor

Music: Danny Maseng (b. 1950); Text: Conclusion of the Amidah Prayer

An actor, singer, writer, and Israeli-born performer, Don Tourliev "Danny" Maseng is widely known as a composer of contemporary Jewish liturgical music. He currently leads MAKOM LA, a spiritual community in Los Angeles. His Elohai N'tzor was performed at Carnegie Hall and is a favorite among cantorial students and alumni.

Hob Ikh Mir an Altn Dime (I Have an Old Dime)

Yiddish folk song, arr. by Cantors Sarah Myerson and Jeff Warschauer

This Yiddish folk song is about a carefree life. Cantors Jeff Warschauer and Sarah Myerson added additional verses at their JTS graduation recital and have written new verses in honor of Cantor Nancy Abramson's retirement. The melody, which was used by the composer George Enescu in his Romanian Rhapsody No. 1, is from a popular Romanian folk song. The Yiddish lyrics were first published by Mikhl Gelbart in 1938.

A Dudele

Music: Leo Low (1878–1960), Text: Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev (1740–1809)

Leo Low was born in Volkovysk, Russia. He attended the Warsaw Conservatory in 1900 and became the choirmaster, arranger, and composer for the Tlomacki Synagogue. He immigrated to the United States in 1920 and became the director of the Paterson Choral Society, New Jersey, and of the National Workers Farband Choir. This well-known arrangement of A Dudele, perhaps one of his greatest additions to Jewish folk music, is a passionate love song to God. Rabbi Levi Yitzhak of Berditchev is one of the most beloved of all Hasidic teachers and poets. He was a fervent believer in *Hashem*; prayer often brought him to a state of ecstasy. In his poem, A Dudele, he describes a yearning for God and asks profound questions: *Ribono Shel Olam ayeh amtzuecha?* ("Master of the Universe, where will I find you?")

Shomer Yisrael

Music: Lawrence Avery (1927–2015), arr. by Gerald Cohen (b. 1960); Text: Daily Amidah

Shomer Yisrael appears in our daily Amidah at the end of Tachanun. A personal prayer to confess our sins, it is recited twice a day every weekday and is a fairly new addition to our davening since added in the 16th century. Tachanun concludes with a passage asking for God to safeguard Israel, our one nation, and the people who recite *Kedushah*. Hazzan Lawrence Avery was an accomplished cantor, performer, composer, and teacher. He served Beth El Synagogue Center of New Rochelle for over 50 years and was a much-loved teacher from Hebrew Union College and the H. L. Miller Cantorial School.

Chad Gadya

Music: Hazzan Moishe Oisher (1907–1958), arr. by Cantor Sarah Levine (b. 1989); Text: Haggadah

We conclude the seder with a series of festive songs. A cumulative story about a series of characters, beginning with a goat that was purchased for two zuzim, Chad Gadya was added to the Ashkenazi Haggadah between the 15th and 16th centuries. As the story continues, we learn the goat was eaten by a cat that was bitten by a dog and so on, with all the characters meeting their untimely death. The poem concludes with God slaying the Angel of Death;

for nothing is more powerful than God. Born in Lipkon, Bessarabia, Hazzan Moishe Oysher became widely known as an American cantor, recording artist, and film and Yiddish theatre actor. During the 1940s and 1950s, he was one of the top hazzanim and his recordings continue to be appreciated due to his rich, powerful voice and creative arrangements.

Anything You Can Do

Music: Irving Berlin (1888–1989)

Composed by Irving Berlin in 1946, this classic show tune hails from the Broadway show *Annie Get Your Gun*. The original song is about two characters trying to outdo each other musically, but tonight we'll be entertained by three alumni from the class of 2013. Russian-born composer Irving Berlin rose to popularity with his jazz and ragtime compositions. During his lifetime, he composed for 19 Broadway shows and 18 movies. Some of his most famous songs include "Puttin' on the Ritz," "There's No Business Like Show Business," "White Christmas," and the patriotic anthem "God Bless America."

Hal'luhu

Music: Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller (b. 1958); Text: Psalm 150

Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller is currently the cantor at Beth Am Shalom Synagogue in White Plains, New York. Cantor Schiller serves as the Rabbi Lawrence A. Hoffman Professor of Liturgy, Worship and Ritual and Professor of Cantorial Arts at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. This piece, one of her most well-known, is particularly notable for its complex and alternating rhythm. The familiar text of Psalm 150 discusses the various forms of expression used to praise God.

Psalm 100

Ned Rorem (1923–2022)

Prolific composer Ned Rorem was best known for his art songs, of which he wrote over 500. He was the leading American of his time writing in the genre, winning the Pulitzer Prize for music in 1976. This setting of Psalm 100 reflects the joy of the text in its shifting rhythms and tempi.

Tefilat Haderech

Text and music: Debbie Friedman (1951–2011), additional music and arrangement by Josh Ehrlich (b. 1985); Additional Text: Traditional liturgy

In Debbie Friedman's setting for Tefilat Haderech (Prayer for the Journey), melody itself goes on an ambitious journey, traveling all over the musical map. Not only does the range exceed an octave and a half, but every phrase in the verse opens with an expansive leap, as if entering unknown terrain. From arranger Josh Ehrlich: "When I was offered the opportunity to arrange Tefilat Haderech for a celebration of Cantor Nancy Abramson, I eagerly accepted it. My aim was to capture the tender folk-song quality of the original while adorning the adventurous tune with complex close harmony. This felt like a fitting tribute for Cantor Abramson—someone equally at home with folk music and art song, in command on the concert stage while always being ready to lend an ear to her students, colleagues, and friends. Thank you for everything you've done for JTS and for all that you've taught me. While you will be sorely missed here, I have no doubt your future will be filled with new adventures!"

Y'varech'cha

Music: Cantor Gerald Cohen (b. 1960); Text: Tanakh and Friday Night Liturgy

The text of Y'varech'cha really consists of two parts: the first three lines, from the book of Numbers (Bamidbar), is known as the Priestly Blessing, and is perhaps the earliest extant blessing we have in Jewish texts. It is a part of all Jewish and Christian liturgies. The last two lines are additional blessings traditionally said by parents to their children at the beginning of the sabbath. The core melody of Y'varech'cha, with the mood of a lullaby, was originally written in 1995 on the joyous occasion of the birth of our child, Cass. I first composed it in a version for two-part chorus (or solo duet) and piano, and have since made many different arrangements, including this version, for SATB chorus and piano, written in 2020.

PERFORMERS



Cantor Nancy Abramson is director of H. L. Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music of The Jewish Theological Seminary. She trains future hazzanim in prayer, *nusah* (the sacred music of prayer), and religious leadership, and oversees their expanded development in Jewish education and teaching, pastoral care, and modern Israel. She is helping JTS shape cantorial arts and practices for the 21st century. Cantor Abramson is past president of the Cantors Assembly (CA), the largest body of hazzanim in the world, and now serves on the board of the CA Foundation. She previously served as two-time national convention co-chair of the organization and was its first female officer.

Cantor Abramson has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fisher Hall, and the Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center, and sung with the Rinat Choir in Israel under the baton of Zubin Mehta. She currently teaches the weekly Nusah Beit Shira seminar and coordinates the Mifgash. Cantor Abramson created the graduate course Leading Communities in Prayer and Song. In 2012 and 2013, she organized a

five-concert series under the aegis of the JTS Arts Advisory Board, two with the renowned Juilliard School of Music (JTS Presents: An Evening of Juilliard Vocal and Chamber Music and JTS Presents: The Juilliard Jazz Ensemble: The Jewish–African American Jazz Experience). The series also included the New York premiere of *Eight Days of Chanukah* by composer Abraham Kaplan at the *We Are Lights: Music for Chanukah* concert, and a semi-staged performance of the new opera *Steal a Pencil for Me*, by Cantor Gerald Cohen, JTS assistant professor of music.

A prominent figure in the cantorate, Cantor Abramson came to JTS from New York City's Park Avenue Synagogue, where she directed all musical aspects of congregational life and developed curricula for b'nei mitzvah. She was previously cantor at Congregation Sons of Israel in Briarcliff Manor, New York, where she developed an innovative curriculum for teaching musical tropes, and for 12 years she served at West End Synagogue in Manhattan as founding cantor and organizer of the congregation's Hebrew school. She also taught at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School in New York, coordinating the *tefillah* and b'nei mitzvah programs. Cantor Abramson sits on the board of the Zamir Choral Foundation and the Magic Circle Opera Repertory Ensemble. She is a past board member of the Women Cantors' Network.

Cantor Abramson is a graduate of the Joint Program between List College of JTS and Columbia University, from which she earned a BHL in Jewish History and a BA in Music, respectively. She received her cantorial education at JTS and earned a master's degree in Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.

H. L. Miller Cantorial School Alumni under Cantor Abramson's Tenure (2013–2023)

Cantor Jacob Agar graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2019. Previously he studied opera performance and linguistics at SUNY Purchase College. He is also a composer and arranger, and is inspired by a wide variety of music. Cantor Agar was inspired to become a cantor by his love for Judaism, Jewish music, and his interest in using music to uplift people and bring them closer to Judaism. Cantor Agar is currently the cantor at Beth Sholom Congregation in Elkins Park, Pennsylvania.

Cantor Rachel Brook received her bachelor's degree in Vocal Performance from Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and her master's degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy with Distinction from Westminster Choir College of Rider University. She graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2016. Previously, Cantor Brook served as cantor at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York City. She is now the cantor at Anshe Emet in Chicago.

Cantor Anna May graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2019. Following graduation, Cantor May was a chaplain resident at Brooklyn Methodist Hospital/NYP and currently serves as the cantor at the Greenburgh Hebrew Center in Dobbs Ferry, New York.

Cantor Mira Davis graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2021. Following graduation, Cantor Davis served as cantorial fellow at Park Avenue Synagogue in New York. Cantor Davis will start as assistant cantor at Park Avenue Synagogue in July 2023.

Cantor Ethan Levin Goldberg graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2016 and completed an MA from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education of JTS in 2020. He has served the Westchester Jewish Center in Mamaroneck, New York, since 2014.

Cantor Rabbi Shoshi Levin Goldberg is the cantor at Temple Israel Center in White Plains, New York. Cantor Rabbi Levin Goldberg graduated from List College in 2009, the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2016, and was ordained as a rabbi in May 2020. Previously she has served a number of congregations, including B'nai Jeshurun, Shaare Zedek, Mechon Hadar, Camp Ramah Nyack, and Westchester Jewish Center.

Cantor Jacob Greenberg graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2020 and is currently the hazzan and youth director at Congregation B'nai Israel in Toms River, New Jersey. He recently served on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Federation of Ocean County and sings with the New Jersey Cantors Concert Ensemble. He is excited to begin his tenure as the hazzan of Congregation Beth Israel in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, this spring.

Rabbi Cantor Russell G. Jayne, PharmD graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2013 and received his rabbinic *semikhah* from the Pluralistic Rabbinical Seminary in 2021. Rabbi Cantor Russ serves as the senior rabbi and cantor at Beth Tzedec Congregation in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Cantor Malachi Kanfer is the cantor at Sutton Place Synagogue. Previously, Cantor Kanfer served as the cantor and youth education director of Congregation B'nai Jacob in New Haven, Connecticut, from 2013 to 2020. He graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2017.

Cantor Eliana Kissner graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2021. Before that, she was an arts fellow at the Drisha Institute for Jewish Education in New York; lead singer of Safra, Jewish Middle Eastern Ensemble in Berkeley, California; and co-founder of the Muslim-Jewish Arts Fellowship. She was a Dorot fellow in 2015 and 2016, which enabled her to study, perform, and record original music at the Center for Middle Eastern Classical Music in Jerusalem. She is now the cantor at

Oheb Shalom in South Orange, New Jersey, and strives to foster musical experiences that promote healing, the pursuit of justice, and the rediscovery and renewal of Jewish tradition.

Cantor Sarah Levine graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2017, while simultaneously receiving a MA in Jewish Education from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education. She holds a BA in Jewish Studies and a minor in Music from Temple University. Cantor Levine previously served the West End Synagogue in Nashville. Now in Weston, Florida, Cantor Levine is the cantor of B'nai Aviv.

Cantor Sarah Myerson actively works to integrate egalitarian Jewish religious and secular/cultural Yiddish communities. She currently serves Kane Street Synagogue, Brooklyn, and has previously served a variety of Conservative, Masorti, and Reform communities in the United States and Israel. She graduated from H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2015. www.cantorsarahmyerson.com

Cantor Arielle Reisner received her bachelor's degree in Music and Environmental Studies from the University of Rochester, and her cantorial investiture and master's degree of Sacred Music from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School. Cantor Arielle Reisner grew up as an active member of Agudas Achim Congregation in Alexandria, Virginia, where she found her love of Jewish music. She continues to be a member of the JCC of Manhattan's Jewish a cappella group, Hudson Sound. Outside of the music world, she has served the Jewish community of the Upper West Side as a resident of the Moishe House. Cantor Reisner currently serves as cantor educator at Park Avenue Synagogue.

Hazzan Daniella Risman graduated in 2021 from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School with a master's degree of Sacred Music. She also has a master's degree of Music in Voice from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, a bachelor's degree of Music in Vocal Performance from Oberlin Conservatory of Music, and a BA in

Environmental Studies from Oberlin College. Hazzan Risman joined the Emanuel Synagogue in West Hartford, Connecticut, as cantor in 2021.

Cantor Summer Sunshine is currently enjoying her sixth year as the cantor of Temple Beth Shalom in Manalapan, New Jersey. She graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2017 while concurrently earning a master's degree in Jewish Education through the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education.

Hazzan Ben Tisser currently serves as Cantor of Beth El Synagogue in St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Prior to arriving in Minnesota, he served congregations in Highland Park, Illinois; Boca Raton, Florida; New York City; and Los Angeles. He began his cantorial training at age six under Cantor Herschel Fox at Valley Beth Shalom in Los Angeles, serving as Fox's synagogue organist from age 12, and later earned his ordination from JTS in 2013. A noted composer and arranger, his choral arrangements are sung in synagogues around the country. An active performer, he has performed at the Palau de la Música Catalana in Barcelona, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra in New York City, the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles, the Rogers Centre in Toronto, and synagogues around the world—most recently in June 2022 in Dresden, Germany, with the Saxony State Opera Choir in celebration of 1,700 Years of Jewish life in Germany. Hazzan Tisser has served on the Executive Council of the Cantors Assembly, the largest body of hazzanim in the world, and as president of its Midwest Region. His album of original music, *Hegyon Libi*, is available on Amazon and Spotify; he is currently working on his next original album, to be released in 2024.

Cantor David Wallach is skilled in Jewish studies, as well as music and choral education. Cantor Wallach has previously served Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley of Woodcliff Lake, New Jersey, and Orangetown Jewish Center of Orangeburg, New York, in multiple functions. Cantor Wallach has served additional communities as a freelance cantor and educator. Cantor Wallach holds a master's degree in Voice and Opera from New England Conservatory of Music and is a graduate of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School and William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education.

Cantor Jeff Warschauer, of Congregation Brothers of Israel in Newtown, Pennsylvania, and Temple Beth-El in Jersey City, New Jersey, is a cantor, educator, and highly accomplished musician with a sweet, soulful voice and a friendly, engaging presence. Ordained by JTS, he has served congregations in New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Maine, and Vermont. Cantor Warschauer is also internationally renowned as a leading klezmer mandolinist, as an innovator in the development of a klezmer guitar style, as a Yiddish singer, and as a skillful and inspirational educator.
www.cantorjeff.com

Cantor Isaac Yager graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2017. Cantor Yager is the cantor at Brotherhood Synagogue on the Lower East Side of Manhattan.

Hazzan Tahl Ben-Yehuda has served Congregation Beth Shalom in Overland Park, Kansas, since she graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2013. In 2007, she earned a master's in Education from the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education. Hazzan Ben-Yehuda is currently pursuing rabbinic ordination at AJRNY.

Cantor Steven Zeidenberg graduated from the H. L. Miller Cantorial School in 2017. Following graduation, Cantor Zeidenberg served Congregation Beit Simchat Torah in New York City. Cantor Zeidenberg has served as cantor of Ohavi Zedek Synagogue in Burlington, Vermont, for the past four years.

H. L. Miller Cantorial School Choir, The Jewish Theological Seminary

Cantor Nancy Abramson, Director, H. L. Miller Cantorial School

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn, Assistant Director, H. L. Miller Cantorial School

Conductor: Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn

Pianist: Elliot Roman

Jonathon Adler, Kelsey Bailey, Roseanne Benjamin, Rachel Black, Anna Boiko-Weyrauch, Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman*, Cantor Joel Caplan*, Cantor Gerald Cohen*, Anina Dassa, Erin Ehren, Ruth Engel, Josh Ehrlich, Cantor Perry Fine*, Cantor Rafi Frieder*, Max Halperin, Tirza Leibowitz, Hagit Ofra, Marilyn Selby Okoshi, Noah Rachels, Gedalia Penner Robinson, Joyce Rosenzweig*, Cantor Janet Roth*, Cantor Marina Shemesh*, Scott Stein*, and Brittany Stern

* The H. L. Miller Cantorial School faculty members

The H. L. Miller Cantorial School trains students as hazzanim (cantors) for congregational service and as teachers of Jewish music, Jewish educators, chaplains, choral directors, composers, and research scholars. The power of music to move the spirit is unsurpassed and JTS-trained hazzanim learn imaginative and innovative uses of music toward the reinvigoration of the American synagogue.

Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman is administrator and director of education for the Zamir Choral Foundation, and also maintains an active schedule as a conductor and arranger of Jewish choral music. A graduate of JTS (BHL, BSM, MSM) and Columbia (BA, MEd, EdD), she was professor of Jewish Music and Education at Gratz College for nearly 25 years and currently serves as adjunct lecturer in Jewish music and history in the H. L. Miller Cantorial School. She has been a friend of Cantor Abramson since their days together on Ramah Seminar and their many years singing together in the Zamir Choral.

Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn is an accomplished singer, pianist, conductor, composer, and recording artist. She is the director of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School Choir of JTS, and the hazzan and music director of Anshe Chesed in New York. This past year, she has also served as assistant director of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School and was honored by the Cantors Assembly with the Cantor Moshe Nathanson Award for Conducting.

Elliot Roman is a multifaceted composer, pianist, flutist, and conductor. In addition to accompanying the H. L. Miller Cantorial School Choir, Elliot is the pianist for the Zamir Choral (NY) and the Reform Temple of Rockland, and co-conductor of the Bergen County chapter of HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir. Elliot is a current graduate composition student at the Manhattan School of Music, where he also received his undergraduate degree and is a recipient of the Jay Rubinton Scholarship.

Hazzan Rabbi Luis U. Cattán moved to the United States from Uruguay, and since 2014, he has served at the Conservative Synagogue of Westport, Connecticut. In 2020 he received his rabbinical ordination and MA in Jewish Studies from the Academy for Jewish Religion. He currently serves as president of the Cantors Assembly, the organization that to him represents the embodiment of his passion for Jewish music, spirituality, and education.

Ilya Shneyveys is a world class multi-instrumentalist, composer, and band leader; originally from Riga, Latvia, now of Brooklyn, New York.

TRANSLATIONS

Elohai N'tzor

My God, keep my tongue from evil, my lips from lies. Help me ignore those who slander me. Let me be humble before all. Open my heart to your Torah. May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be pleasing to You, Adonai, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Hob Ikh Mir An Altn Dime

All I have is an old dime, which isn't even mine. But let's throw our cares away. If I find a dollar, the treat will be on me.
(Trans. adapted from Eleanor Gordon Mlotek, *Mir trogn a gezang*)

A Dudele

Master of the Universe!
I'll sing a song for You
You, You, You, You
Where will I find You?
Where will I not find You?
Where can I find You?
Where can I not find You?
You, You, You, You
Wherever I go, You!
And wherever I stay, You!
Just You, only You
Again You, but You
You, You, You, You
When something's good, You
When, God forbid, it's bad, ay You
Oy, You, You, You, You, You, You, You
East—You
West—You
South—You
North—You
You, You, You, You
In heaven, You
On earth, You
Above, You
Below, You
You, You, You, You
Wherever I turn,
Wherever I go, You, You!

Shomer Yisrael

Guardian of Israel, guard the remnant of Israel; and preserve the people of Israel who proclaim; *Sh'ma Yisrael*. Guardian of a unique people, guard the remnant of that people; and preserve that people who affirm: Adonai is our God, Adonai alone. Guardian of a holy people, guard the remnant of that holy people; and preserve that holy people who chant in praise of the Holy One: *Kadosh, Kadosh, Kadosh*.

Chad Gadya

One little goat, one little goat that my father bought for two zuzim.

A cat came and ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

A dog came and bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

A stick came and hit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

A fire came and burned the stick that bit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

Water came and put out the fire that burned the stick that bit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

An ox came and drank the water that put out the fire that burned the stick that bit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

A butcher came and slaughtered the ox that drank the water that put out the fire that burned the stick that bit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

The angel of death came, and slaughtered the butcher who slaughtered the ox that drank the water that put out the fire that burned the stick that bit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

Then the Holy One, Blessed be He, came and slaughtered the angel of death who slaughtered the butcher who slaughtered the ox that drank the water that put out the fire that burned the stick that bit the dog that bit the cat that ate the goat that my father bought for two zuzim. One little goat, one little goat.

Halleluhu (Psalm 150)

Praise God in the sanctuary.
Praise God in the heavens, the seat of God's power.
Praise God at the triumph of the Divine.
Praise God in accord with the greatness of God.
Praise God with the call of the shofar.
Praise God with the harp and the lyre.
Praise God with the timbrel and dance.
Praise God with flute and strings.
Praise God with crashing cymbals.
Praise God with rousing cymbals.
Let every breath be praise of God; *Halleluyah*, praise God.

Y'varech'cha

May the Lord bless you and guard you,
May the Lord cause the light of His face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you,
May the Lord lift up His face to you, and grant you peace.
May God give you the blessings of Ephraim and Menasheh,
May God give you the blessings of Sarah, Rebecca, Rachel, and Leah.

Thank you to all who have generously contributed in honor of Cantor Nancy Abramson. If you are interested in making a gift, please contact Melissa Friedman at mefriedman@jtsa.edu. When the Green Room is completed, we look forward to welcoming you back on campus for a tribute in her honor.

