



EUROPEAN CANTORS ASSOCIATION

The future of synagogue music

Patrons: Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

Cantors Naftali Herstik, Joseph Malovany, Asher Hainowitz

Director Alex Klein: alex@cantors.eu

European Cantors Association Newsletter No 3, June 2020

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Message from Alex Klein, Director, ECA

My dear friends and supporters, we are living in worrying times that have affected us in different ways. Jewish liturgy and music play an important part in our lives, having a calming and therapeutic effect, improving our wellbeing.

Our ECA Facebook Group pages are bristling with ideas and discussion. Our friends from all sides are growing and already there are over 800 members from all branches of Judaism. As an independent organisation, we are pleased to be a platform for all people loving our liturgy and grappling with the developments of liturgical music in the Jewish world today. Through our connections and friends who are graduates of TACI, of HUC and JTS and who are members of the United Synagogue UK, United Synagogue of America, the Hungarian and Czech Jewish Communities, the Jewish Communities of Lower Saxony, the Cantors Assembly and Geiger College amongst others, we are the place where the key matters in liturgical and cantorial music of our day can be discussed with honour and respect – and with no fear of retribution from any sector.

Prayer for Peace in Jerusalem: I have been honoured to be invited to be one of the judges for the competition and an integral participant in the culminating event which will include the selection of the winning community. It will take place close to Rosh Hashanah 5781, at one of Jerusalem's major historic sites to be decided by the prize committee, with the headline: Communities of the World Pray for Peace in Jerusalem.

I am also delighted to have been invited to be an 'Associate' on the **International Forum for Jewish Music Studies (IFJMS)**. This is a new body that we have helped to bring into existence, which I hope you will join, connecting scholars and practitioners. This is a result of what we have been doing in our recent European Cantors Conventions, and with our ECA Academic Wing, in our International Conferences on Jewish Prayer 'Magnified and Sanctified' that we held in association with Leeds University in 2015 and with Hanover University in 2019. Read more about this and its first event on 23 June featuring Professor Eliyahu Schleifer, and join IFJMS on pages 3-4

You will find much of interest that you can partake of, on our Facebook pages. Keep posting things there too. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canntors.eu>

Stay well, stay safe, stay in touch! You are our extended family, like all families we would love to know what you are doing and that you are in good health.

with warm wishes, **Alex Klein, ECA Director**, alex@cantors.eu

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A L'Chaim for Cantor Maissner

Dress up, pour a glass of bubbly to raise a toast, and virtually join Holy Blossom Temple in celebration of Cantor Benjamin Maissner's amazing 41 years as our treasured Cantor.

Members and friends of ECA are invited to this special occasion which will happen in real-time, online, **Wednesday, June 10, 2020, at 7:30 pm.** [Register](#) here.

Alex Klein says: **Beny Maissner** is a valued colleague and supporter of ECA. His knowledge and understanding of our liturgy have been important to our members attending our conventions. We hope many of you will take this opportunity of paying your personal respect by registering and attending this Gala event.

On your behalf we have already sent a message to be placed in a commemorative book.



Beny himself writes: My dear friends, family and colleagues, Yes, the time has come for me to retire from my beloved Synagogue after 41 blessed years. I do so with a full heart of gratitude and peace of mind, even though I will more than greatly miss the glorious experiences I had over these decades.

On June 10th the congregation is organizing a virtual celebration. They call it a L'CHAYIM, a toast for the many years of my service to the congregation. The original plan was to have a Gala event with fanfares and jubilee. Our world situation has changed dramatically. And so, I invite you all to join me my family and friends to this event on JUNE 10TH at 7:30 our time here in north America.

For those around the world who cannot watch it live there will certainly be a video link to the event. Please do me the honour and join us for this event.

You just need to register as it is a ZOOM event not a livestream. You do not have to feel obligated to donate any money it is a free event.

Here is the link.

<https://holyblossom.org/event/tribute-to-cantor-maissner/>

With much love and gratitude

Beny

beny.maissner@gmail.com



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Invitation to join the International Forum for Jewish Music Studies

For a long time, many have felt the need for a forum connecting Jewish music **scholars, practitioners** (cantors, composers, performers) and **archivists** (librarians).

At last such a Forum has been established, under the auspices of **Professor Mark Kligman** of UCLA and **Professor Sarah Ross** of the European Centre for Jewish music at the **Hannover**.



The Forum launches with: **'Conversation on Zoom'** on Tuesday 23 June 2020



Dr Naomi Cohn Zentner (left) engages in a Zoom dialogue with **Professor Eliyahu Schleifer** (right) (both of Jerusalem) at 18:00 Israeli time. They will be quizzing each other on their work and interests, and then throwing the discussion open to those who have opted to join the conversation.

All those involved with the study and practice of Jewish music are cordially invited to join the Forum and participate in its activities.



Professors **Mark Kligman**, and **Eliyahu Schliefer** have been keynote speakers at the ECA Cantors Convention and the International Conferences Magnified and Sanctified the music of Jewish prayer.

Malcolm Miller in London (whose initiative this Conversations on Zoom 'COZ' is) and others will be selecting a dialogue partner too for a duologue to follow. If you would like to attend these COZ sessions – or indeed **initiate a COZ** yourself with someone – either someone you know personally or someone whose work you admire, then contact Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de or me geraldine@cantors.eu to make the necessary arrangements.

To hear about these conversations and to join in, **you will need to join the Forum's Jewish Music Group**. This is free and based at the academic network, 'Humanities Commons' (HC). <https://hcommons.org/groups/jewish-music-1255310724/> you will then receive the zoom details for the meetings. There you can also read about the overarching three-year Forum project [Project Migration and Transformation.docx](#) culminating, all being well, in an International Conference and a Cantors Convention in Hannover in November 2023 and in publications in the Forum's online journal Tekiah.

More about the Forum and its Associates on the next page.

Please let Martha or me know when you join and how this Forum can benefit you and the work you do. Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de geraldine@cantors.eu



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International Forum for Jewish Music Studies (IFJMS)

An academic meeting place for communication, information and discussion for Scholars, Practitioners and Archivists in all aspects of Jewish music, and a platform for ongoing activity

Co-hosted by

Professor Mark Kligman Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music, Herb Alpert School of Music UCLA, Los Angeles

Professor Sarah Ross Director, European Centre for Jewish Music (EZJM) Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media

International Associates

Professor Philip Bohlman University of Chicago

Professor Judit Frigyesi Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan

Professor Edwin Seroussi Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Professor Jeanne Zaidel Rudolf Wits School of Arts, Johannesburg

Dr Naomi Cohn Zentner Schechter Institute of Jewish studies, Jerusalem

Dr Tina Fruehauf Assistant Professor, Graduate Center, Columbia University New York

Dr Gila Flam Director of the Music Department of the Jewish National and University Library

Jennifer Jankel Jewish Music Institute SOAS University of London

Alex Klein Director, European Cantors Association

Dr Malcolm Miller Hon Associate in Music and Associate Lecturer, Open University, UK

Dr Stephen Muir Senior Lecturer Department of Music, University of Leeds

Dr Hervé Roten European Institute for Jewish Music, Paris

Dr Eliah Sakakushev von Bismarck, Director, Villa Seligmann, Hanover

Dr Joseph Toltz Sydney Conservatorium of Music

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Coordinators

Martha Stellmacher EZJM, Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media

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Geraldine Auerbach MBE Former Director Jewish Music Institute SOAS University of London geraldine@cantors.eu

'Migration and Transformation in Jewish Music'

The International Forum for Jewish Music Studies Initiates a three-year project (November 2020 – November 2023) The intended culmination of this project in **November 2023 in Hannover** will be an International Conference on this theme hosted by EZJM and a European Cantors Convention hosted again at the Villa Seligmann. The project also offers to consider material for publication in its online journal *Tekiah* [Project Migration and Transformation.docx](#)

To join the International Forum for Jewish Music Studies

go to <https://hcommons.org/> and register to join **Humanities Commons**.

On the right it asks what you want to do: click 'join a group'

and search for "**Jewish Music**",

then click on "join the group".



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ECA invites you to write some:
Liturgy in Lockdown



From Daniel Tunkel on behalf of ECA



Dear colleagues

First and foremost, we hope that you, your family, friends and loved ones are well and stay well.

The Covid-19 Lockdown has affected all of us in many ways. Not least in our relationship with music.

*We know that **ECA mailing lists include many composers and arrangers**. We would like to invite – or challenge – those to contribute compositions **they have specifically created during this period of enforced separation** from our synagogues and communal life.*

We won't suggest too many "ground rules" but there should be a few.

- 1. ECA is about cantorial music and, more generally, shul music. We think this should therefore be about **music for the liturgy**, rather than art music or folk music per se. Music that you foresee may be used in your services when we are all able to meet and pray communally once again, and which will then remind us in a way of this difficult but thankfully unique experience in our lifetime.*
- 2. **Original compositions and arrangements** of other material would be fine. Even if all you have is a melody, that's fine too. But it must be music you have created in the Lockdown; this is supposed to be about how creative you feel right now!*
- 3. **Submission should be by PDF** in the first instance. Kindly do not send recordings. If you prefer to compose longhand, just make a scan copy of the music.*

This is not a competition. There are no prizes. ECA aims to publish on its website, everything received, subject to editing into a consistent format. We have asked one or two of our colleagues with experience with computer music software to oversee this operation and if/when you submit something, they will contact you to discuss.

We hope you will find this a stimulating suggestion.

Please respond directly to Daniel Tunkel daniel.tunkel@cantors.eu

Yours sincerely

Daniel Tunkel

ECA Executive



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The Night Holocaust Memorial Concert Hannover 2020 on YouTube



You can now see and hear excerpts of the performance of The Night Holocaust Memorial Concert Hannover 2020. This was given by soloists, orchestra and choirs, before **3,000 people in a packed Kuppelsaal** Performing Arts Concert Hall - the largest in Germany. It was a very meaningful performance with German text, of the memoir of a 15-year-old survivor of Auschwitz (Elie Wiesel) on the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, 27 January 2020. The audience was - 95% German non-Jewish. Jerry Glantz, whose dream this project was of using Eli Wiesel's text and his father Leib Glantz's music says: I hope you will watch this video of the concert on YouTube and be as excited as those who experienced it live.' There are two versions of excerpts:

German/ English

https://youtu.be/l_a6Hr8Cxkk

Russian

<https://youtu.be/FVdf5evY7YM>

Alex Klein says: Dear friends, this has just been released. It is so worth watching. I am proud to be a member of the International Advisory Board associated with this project set in motion by Jerry Glantz. This was the 3rd Concert with Riga next in October.

Newsletter #3 of the European Cantors Association

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, June 2020

For further and continuing information on the European Cantors Association, see
ECA Website: www.cantors.eu Twitter: [@eurocantorsasn](https://twitter.com/eurocantorsasn) Instagram: [europeancantors](https://www.instagram.com/europeancantors)
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/canntors.eu/>