

EDUCATION

- ▶ **Master of Sacred Music and Investiture as Cantor**1995
 Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion, School of Sacred Music
 Jerusalem, Israel and New York, New York
- ▶ **Bachelor of Arts in Psychology**1991
 Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey
- ▶ **University of York, York, England**1989 1990
 Junior Year Abroad

EMPLOYMENT

- ▶ **High Holy Day Cantor**.....2016, 2017, 2018
 Temple Beth Shalom, Needham, Massachusetts
- ▶ **High Holy Day Cantor**2015
 Temple Israel, Westport, Connecticut
- ▶ **High Holy Day Cantor**.....2013, 2014
 Temple Har Shalom, Park City, Utah
- ▶ **Cantor**2002 2013
 Temple Israel of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York
- ▶ **Instructor**2006 2009
 Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion,
 School of Sacred Music, New York, New York
- ▶ **Cantor and Music Director**1998 2002
 Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
- ▶ **Cantor**1995 1998
 Temple Israel, Omaha, Nebraska

MUSICAL EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Directed all musical liturgies for synagogue worship
- ▶ Directed professional adult, volunteer adult, and youth choirs
- ▶ Composed and arranged music for synagogue worship
- ▶ Directed and participated in special musical programs and concerts
- ▶ Coordinated and hired additional High Holy Day musicians
- ▶ Organized and performed with synagogue band
- ▶ Participated in synagogue musical productions

- ▶ Wrote and produced Purim spiels
- ▶ Prepared student and adult volunteers for worship participation
- ▶ Co-led annual congregational Passover seders
- ▶ Organized fundraising concert for Hebrew Union College, helping to raise over \$30,000 for the School of Sacred Music

PASTORAL EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Officiated or co-officiated at all life-cycle events including baby namings, *brit milah* (circumcision) ceremonies, *b'nei mitzvah* ceremonies, weddings, funerals, and unveilings
- ▶ Counseled couples for marriage
- ▶ *Bikur Kholim* visited the sick as well as administered last rights
- ▶ Prepared conversion candidates and sat on *Beit Din* (clergy council) for conversions
- ▶ Led *b'nei mitzvah* rehearsals
- ▶ Oversaw and sat on various synagogue committees
- ▶ Delivered sermons and sermons-in-song
- ▶ Participated in city-wide interfaith functions, such as Thanksgiving, World AIDS Day, et. al.
- ▶ Sat on local Ministerium, furthered local multi-faith causes
- ▶ Coordinated, organized, advertised, and led Junior Congregation worship services
- ▶ Attended weekly clergy meetings
- ▶ Prepared confirmation service liturgy and rehearsals with students
- ▶ Rotated “on-call” with fellow clergy members

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Directed entire *b'nei mitzvah* program, hired and oversaw tutors, wrote curricula, managed budget, tutored students
- ▶ Wrote and submitted budgets for various programs
- ▶ Wrote bulletin articles and “eBlast” messages
- ▶ Attended weekly Senior Staff meetings
- ▶ Wrote and coordinated multiple prayerbook projects (*Siddur Yisrael*, Founders’ Day Shabbat, Congregational Hagaddah, etc.)
- ▶ Coordinated the purchase and maintenance of sound equipment
- ▶ Prepared all printed material for *b'nei mitzvah* program including student handbook, parent handbook, and mailings
- ▶ Recorded, edited, and produced monthly CD recordings of stories for the Early Childhood Program
- ▶ Attended monthly Board of Trustees meetings
- ▶ Founded, co-chaired and coordinated national retreat: *In Search of the Rozhinke: Reclaiming the Cantorial Arts for the 21st Century*

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- ▶ **Early Childhood Programs**
 - ▶ Co-led Tot Shabbat
 - ▶ Participated in weekly Early Childhood Program Shabbat experience
 - ▶ Helped create annual holiday programs

- ▶ **Religious school**
 - ▶ Participated in weekly nursery school Shabbat experience
 - ▶ Wrote and implemented music curriculum for pre-kindergarten through seventh grade
 - ▶ Wrote and implemented curriculum and wrote book for Torah/Haftarah chanting for *b'nei mitzvah* students
 - ▶ Taught High School elective courses
 - ▶ Co-led 10th grade Confirmation and Post-Confirmation programs
 - ▶ Traveled annually to Washington, D.C. with Confirmation class to the Religious Action Center
- ▶ **Adult education**
 - ▶ Subjects taught included: Liturgy, Jewish music history, Jewish music appreciation, Torah chanting, theology, religions of Israel, “Jewish Conspiracy Theories”
 - ▶ Taught Adult *b'nei mitzvah* classes
 - ▶ Taught Hebrew Marathon: One day intense introduction to Hebrew reading and rudimentary vocabulary
 - ▶ Mentored Adult Confirmation Students

RECORDINGS / BROADCASTS

- ▶ **Compact Disc: Further Definitions of the Days of Awe**2011
Music performed by David Chevan and The Afro-Semitic Experience and featured soloists. Soloist
- ▶ **Compact Disc: Come, O Sabbath Day!**.....2009
Sabbath Eve Worship in the Tradition of Classical Reform Judaism, produced by The Society for Classical Reform Judaism. Soloist
- ▶ **Compact Disc: Teach My Lips a Blessing: The Music of Erik Contzius**2008
Contzius Music Publishing: Music performed by the composer with the Amor Artis Chamber Choir and featured soloists. Soloist
- ▶ **Broadcast: Music with the Maestro**2006
High Plains Public Radio (NPR), interview on the High Holy Days
- ▶ **Compact Disc: How Excellent is Thy Name**.....1999
Loft Recordings: Jewish Art Song for Cantor and Pipe Organ. Soloist
- ▶ **Compact Disc: Celebrate Hanukkah**.....1998
Rider College: Recorded with the Westminster Choir College’s Youth Chorale. Soloist

PUBLISHED COMPOSITIONS

- ▶ **Octavo: A Woman’s Voice**2011
Commissioned by the American Conference of Cantors, Boston premiere
- ▶ **Octavo: Mah Ashiv Ladonai (Psalm 116)**.....2010
Commissioned by the American Conference of Cantors, premiered at the Vatican
- ▶ **Music Catalog: The Music of Erik Contzius**2007 Present
<http://contzius.musicaneo.com>
- ▶ **Anthology Inclusion: And Hannah Prayed**.....2008
Shalsholet’s 3rd International Festival of New Jewish Liturgical Music
- ▶ **Octavi: Shalom Rav, Hineih Mah Toy, The Travelers’ Prayer, Ein Keloheinu**2003-2013
Transcontinental Music Publications

PUBLICATIONS/ARTICLES

- ▶ **Book: Siddur Yisrael: A Prayerbook for Shabbat and Weekdays**.....2008
Temple Israel Press, New Rochelle, New York
- ▶ **Article: Torah Corps: A Blending of Torah, Technology and Tutoring**.....2007
Torah at the Center, URJ Department of Lifelong Jewish Learning, Vol. 10, No. 2
- ▶ **Opinion piece: Is the German Tradition Viable for Today's Synagogue**.....2005
The Journal of Synagogue Music, Vol, 30, No. 1
- ▶ **On-line article: The Inside Joke**.....2002
http://clickonjudaism.org/pages/media_and_culture.html
- ▶ **Book: Khaverai N'vereikh Friends, Let Us Bless..., The K.I. Birken**.....2001
K.I. Press, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
- ▶ **Torah Commentary: Our Words and Our Deeds**.....1999
Living Torah/Torat Hayim, Vol, 4, No. 9

SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCES/SERVICES

- ▶ **Acting/Singing role as "The Cantor," 2019/2020**
Feature Film *Harry Haft*, directed by Barry Levinson
Budapest, Hungary
- ▶ **Soloist, 2013**
Kol Nidrei, Op. 39, by Arnold Schoenberg with the Bard Music Festival
Rhinebeck, New York
- ▶ **Soloist, 2012**
Sholem Aleichem dir, Amerike! with the Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus
New York, New York
- ▶ **Soloist, 2010, 2012**
Further Definitions of the Days of Awe with the Afro-Semitic Experience
New Haven, Connecticut, Westchester and New York, New York
- ▶ **Soloist, 2010**
Requiem by W.A. Mozart
Petakh Tikva, Israel
- ▶ **Soloist, 2010**
Service Sacré by Darius Milhaud with the Westchester Chorale
Larchmont, New York
- ▶ **Soloist, 2009**
Avodat HaKodesh by Ernest Bloch with the Menno Singers
Kitchener, Ontario
- ▶ **Soloist, 2008**
Avodat HaKodesh by Ernest Bloch with the *Songs of Life* Festival
Sofia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria, Petah Tikva and Jerusalem, Israel
- ▶ **Soloist, 2008**
Israel in Egypt by G. F. Handel
Temple Israel of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, New York
- ▶ **Soloist, 2006**
Reclaiming American Judaism's Lost Musical Legacy A concert of the
American Society for Jewish Music
Park Avenue Synagogue, New York, New York

- ▶ **Soloist, 2005**
Vergessene Musik (Forgotten Music) A concert of the German Jewish Rite
Munich, Germany
- ▶ **Soloist, 2004, 2005**
The Cantors Concert (The German Jewish Rite)
Leo Baeck Institute, New York, New York
- ▶ **Composer-in-Residence, 2003**
Temple Israel of Northern Westchester, Croton-On-Hudson, New York
- ▶ **Music director and conductor, 2003**
Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York
for Convocation Service in honor of the 50th anniversary of the
American Conference of Cantors
- ▶ **Cantor-in-Residence, 2002**
Temple Emanu-El, San Antonio, Texas
- ▶ **Soloist, 2001**
The Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.: *Let Freedom Sing*
Concert featuring members of the American Conference of Cantors
- ▶ **Music director, 2000**
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
Cheltenham Township's 100th Anniversary Celebration,
Organized service. Compiled and produced liturgy. Conducted 100 member volunteer choir.
Directed musical offerings
- ▶ **Cantor, 1999, 2000**
Elkins Park, Pennsylvania
Musical Service with the Westminster Conservatory Youth Chorale
- ▶ **Soloist, 1999**
Philadelphia Art Museum. Hanukkah Concert
- ▶ **Cantor, Soloist, Lecturer, 1998**
The Götheburg International Organ Festival, Götheburg, Sweden
Concert of Jewish Art Music for Cantor and Pipe Organ with Kimberly Marshall.
Led services at the Great Synagogue

HONORS & AWARDS

- ▶ The Paul Ginsburg Memorial Prize in Jewish History, 1994
- ▶ St. Louis Circle of Jewish Music Prize for the most improvement in vocal development, 1994
- ▶ Morris W. Smith Memorial Prize for Biblical history, 1994
- ▶ B'nai Brith Hillel Scholarship, Spring, 1991
- ▶ Rutgers College Dean's List, Fall, 1990

SKILLS

- ▶ Composing and arranging
- ▶ Guitar and Piano
- ▶ Choral and ensemble conducting
- ▶ Barbershop singing
- ▶ Certified PREPARE/ENRICH premarital counsellor & trainer
- ▶ Computer skills: Hebrew/English typesetting, graphic design, music engraving, music mastering, web-design, WordPress

URJ CAMPING EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Faculty member, Summer 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008
URJ Camp Crane Lake, The Berkshires, Massachusetts
- ▶ Faculty member, Summer 1999, 2000
URJ Camp Harlam, Kunklestown, Pennsylvania
- ▶ Faculty member, Summer 1996, 1997
URJ Olin Sang Ruby Union Institute, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
- ▶ Music Director, Educational Director, Summer 1992, 1993
URJ Henry S. Jacobs Camp, Utica, Mississippi

PROFESSIONAL & ORGANIZATIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- ▶ **American Conference of Cantors (ACC)**
 - ▶ Member in good standing, 1991 present
 - ▶ Member of Executive board, 1998-2003
 - ▶ Wrote music curriculum component for Union of American Hebrew Congregations, 2001
 - ▶ Served on editorial board of Transcontinental Music Publication's *Shireinu*, 2001
 - ▶ Edited ACC Cantorial Manual, 2000
 - ▶ Served as editor of *Koleinu*, ACC newsletter, 1995-2000
- ▶ ***Kol Hazzanim*, the Westchester Board of Cantors**
 - ▶ Member in good standing, 2006 present
 - ▶ President, 2006-2011
- ▶ **Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC JIR)**
 - ▶ HUC JIR Alumni Association, Member in good standing, 1995 present
 - ▶ Alumni recruiter since 2000
- ▶ **The Society for Classical Reform Judaism**
 - ▶ Member of Executive Board, 2008-2012
- ▶ **The Barbershop Harmony Society**
 - ▶ Member in good standing, 2009 present
 - ▶ Member of the *Westchester Chordsmen*, White Plains, New York
- ▶ **Westchester Jewish Council**
 - ▶ Member of Board of Directors, 2007-2010
- ▶ **The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP)**
 - ▶ Member in good standing, 2007 present
- ▶ **Delaware Valley Cantors' Council (DVCC)**
 - ▶ Member in good standing, 1998-2002
 - ▶ Coordinated/participated in concerts to benefit the American Reform Cantorate, 1998-2002
- ▶ **Rutgers Hillel Alumni Association,**
 - ▶ Member in good standing, 1991 present
 - ▶ Presented workshop for students: *The Power of Music*, 2001