

CANTOR ERIK CONTZIUS

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EDUCATION

1995

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music

Master of Sacred Music and Investiture as Cantor (Doctor of Music Honoris Causa, 2020)

1991

Rutgers College, New Brunswick, New Jersey

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

1989-1990

University of York, York, UK

Junior Year Abroad

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-2022

Interim Cantor, Temple Tikvah, New Hyde Park, NY

2016-2019

High Holy Day Cantor, Temple Beth Shalom, Needham, MA

2015

High Holy Day Cantor, Temple Israel, Westport, CT

2013-2014

High Holy Day Cantor, Temple Har Shalom, Park City, UT

2002-2013

Cantor, Temple Israel of New Rochelle, New Rochelle, NY

2006-2009

Instructor, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, DFSSM, New York, NY

1998-2002

Cantor & Music Director, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Elkins Park, PA

1995-1998

Cantor, Temple Israel, Omaha, NE

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 and performed fundraising gala concerts
- 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

- Co-led Tot Shabbat
- Participated in weekly Early Childhood Program Shabbat experience
- Helped create annual holiday programs
- Participated in weekly nursery school Shabbat experience

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE - RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

- Wrote and implemented music curriculum for pre-kindergarten through seventh grade
- Wrote and implemented curriculum and published book for Torah/Haftarah chanting for *b'nei mitzvah* students (*Chant That Trope*)
- 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

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE - 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

2022

The Survivor (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)

Soloist. Avinu Malkeinu, melody by Max Janowski, arranged by Hans Zimmer

2011

Further Definitions of the Days of Awe

Soloist. Music performed by David Chevan and The Afro-Semitic Experience and featured soloists.

2009

Come, O Sabbath Day!

Soloist. Sabbath Eve Worship in the Tradition of Classical Reform Judaism, produced by The Society for Classical Reform Judaism.

2008

Teach My Lips a Blessing: The Music of Erik Contzius

Soloist & Producer. Contzius Music Publishing: Music performed by the composer with the Amor Artis Chamber Choir and featured soloists.

2006

Broadcast: **Music with the Maestro**

High Plains Public Radio (NPR), interview on the High Holy Days

1999

How Excellent is Thy Name

Soloist. Loft Recordings: Jewish Art Song for Cantor and Pipe Organ.

1998

Celebrate Hanukkah

Soloist. Rider College: Recorded with the Westminster Choir College's Youth Chorale.

NOTABLE PUBLISHED COMPOSITIONS

2011

Octavo: **A Woman's Voice**

Commissioned by the American Conference of Cantors, Boston premiere

2010

Octavo: **Mah Ashiv Ladonai (Psalm 116)**

Commissioned by the American Conference of Cantors, premiered at the Vatican

2007-Present

Music Catalog: **The Music of Erik Contzius**

contzius.musicaneo.com

2008

Anthology Inclusion: **And Hannah Prayed**

Shalsholet's 3rd International Festival of New Jewish Liturgical Music

2003-2013

Octavi: **Shalom Rav, Hineih Mah Tov, The Travelers' Prayer, Ein Keloheinu**

Transcontinental Music Publications

PUBLICATIONS & ARTICLES

2010

Book: **Chant That Trope**

Textbook for teaching Torah & Haftarah Training, Lulu.com

2008

Book: **Siddur Yisrael: A Prayerbook for Shabbat and Weekdays**

Published by Temple Israel of New Rochelle

2007

Article: **Torah Corps: A Blending of Torah, Technology and Tutoring**

Torah at the Center, URJ Department of Lifelong Jewish Learning, Vol. 10, No. 2

2005

Opinion piece: **Is the German Tradition Viable for Today's Synagogue**

The Journal of Synagogue Music, Vol, 30, No. 1

2001

Book: **Khaverai N'vareikh—Friends, Let Us Bless..., The K.I. Birkon**

Published by K.I. Press, Elkins Park, Pennsylvania

1999

Torah Commentary: **Our Words and Our Deeds**

Living Torah/Torat Hayim, Vol, 4, No. 9

SKILLS

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

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 Publications' 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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE NON-PULPIT RELATED

- **OWNER & OPERATOR OF ZINGMAP (DIGITAL MARKETING COMPANY) (2015-2017)**
 - Developed digital marketing strategies for small companies
 - Designed and developed (front-end) WordPress Websites
 - Leveraged local SEO and market research for clients

- **WEDDINGS BY CANTOR ERIK CONTZIUS (2017-PRESENT)**
 - Offered pre-marital counseling to all couples (PREPARE-ENRICH)
 - Worked with intermarriage couples and divergent culture couples
 - Wrote and executed highly personalized and individualized wedding ceremonies

- **OWNER/MANAGER OF THE FLATZ PROPERTIES, LLC (2017-PRESENT)**
 - Manage and oversee nine properties in Peekskill, New York
 - Maintain budget, P&L, and leases for all tenants
 - Oversee property manager

REFERENCES

- **RABBI RANDY SHEINBERG**
 - Email: rabbi@templetikvah.org | Cell: 917-912-1553

- **RABBI MICHAEL CAHANA**
 - Email: rabbicahana@bethisrael-pdx.org | Cell: 503-577-4814

- **RABBI RICHARD PRASS**
 - Email: rabbiprass@congregation-betham.org | Cell: 917-912-1553