



Chazonus blooms in the North

Andrew M. Rosemarine

A REFRESHING variety of chazonus bloomed at this year's Julian Klein Memorial Concert, from four continents. Held on Monday night at Prestwich Hebrew Congregation, it was a fusion of dramatic and lyrical, Eastern European, Ashkenazi, Andalusian Sefardi and Yemenite.

The most heart-rending rendition of the evening was Jerusalem-based Yechezkel Klang's *Av Harachamim*. It reminded us of those who laid down their lives for the sanctification of the Divine name. He sang Shmuel Malavski's setting with elegance, and authoritative warmth, finishing with an ethereal *Kopfstimme* note that soared Heavenwards.

Canadian-based Casablancon Aaron Bensoussan charmed and cheered us with Ladino, Yemenite and Jo Amar classics, accompanying himself on the oud (an oriental lute), Guy Schalom striking his hourglass tarabuka, both transporting us to sunlit lands to the south. Chazan Bensoussan's sensitive *Ana Avda* showed total commitment to the Holy One, Blessed Be He, and sparkled. By contrast, Big Apple-based legend and master musician Joseph Malovany, tall and commanding, thundered through his own composition combining Gurovitch, Yeruhim Hakatan, Glantz and Malovany's famed teacher Shlomo Ravitz. What power! Distant Whitefield

quaked with the enormity of it all!

Johannesburg's Ezra Sher lit up the

with a strong and surging version of Ganschoff's *Retsei* and Budapest's David Schwezoff with a

Manchester Jewish Male Voice Choir under Moscow's Alexander Tsaliuk (with C.Druce's assistance), and Leeds United Hebrew Congregation Choir skilfully conducted by Phil Cammerman. Leeds opened proceedings with a rousing *Halleluka* by Lewandowski, and performed Sekunda's *Adon Olam* and *Pischu Li*, both such beautiful compositions that they should be more widely performed in shul davening. Leeds also accompanied Prestwich Shul's host chazan, the confident and smiling Adam Caplan, a rare and happy symbol of Yorkshire-Lancashire co-operation! Malovany singled out Dr. Tsaliuk, a graduate of the unequalled Moscow Conservatoire and co-founder of the Moscow Male Jewish Choir 'Hassidic Capella', for praise – he brought a flavour of the Great Russian Steppe to our local Lancashire folk. Anglo-Jewry would do well to offer him a post here.

Rev Julian Klein's brother, Alex compered, after launching the European Cantor Association.

The rousing finale, a tutti for all, performers and audience, comprised *Avinu Shebashamayim* and *Zol Shoyn*, all lustily sung.

Meanwhile, Chazonim Bensoussan and Klang will be leading the davening this Friday night (6 July) and Shabbos morning at Prestwich Hebrew Congregation. Not to be missed



From l-r Alexander (Sasha) Tsaliuk, artistic director, Moscow Jewish Male Choir, Joseph Malovany, Alex Klein, convenor of the convention, Yechezkel Klang and Aaron Bensoussan.

PHOTO LAWRENCE PURCELL

congregation with an ebullient and dramatic rendition of Nadel's popular *Sim Shalom*, Lyon's Shmuel Lison with an expansive *Yevarechecha Hashem Mitzion*, Manchester's Natan Fagalman

Pesach Kiddush that sensitively evoked matzoh, in its sweet vulnerability.

Two choirs spiritedly sang alone and accompanying the chazonim – a resurrected

The Art of the Hope and Joy

Judith Weil

THE paintings of artist Menachem Yaffe and the glass carvings of David Elkayam are part of a joint Jerusalem Municipal Art Gallery exhibit currently on show near the Jerusalem municipal offices. The exhibition has been sponsored by the municipality's Torah Culture Department, which is headed by municipal councillor, Rabbi Gavriel Stauber.

Although both artists were born in Israel, 32-year-old Menachem Yaffe holds joint Israeli-British citizenship; his mother – the former Hanna Susser – was born in England.

Menachem Yaffe, who is married and a father, works as a counsellor at a Bnei Brak home for disabled youngsters. He says he tries to express his hope and joy through the colours that dominate his work, speaks of bringing "magnetic light" to his canvases and bases his techniques on his love of modern, impressionist and naïve art forms. He explains that he draws his spiritual inspiration from his belief in Hashem and His

hashkofos, as well as the work of the late Vincent Van Gogh. He believes that his work will continue to evolve as he continues on his artistic journey.

This exhibit, which continues through to the 13th of July, is by no means his first exhibit. He has held a number of earlier exhibitions in Jerusalem and one at London's Marble Arch Synagogue.

The Municipal Art Gallery, 17 Jaffa Road, is open from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday to Thursday.

For more information: please contact hainsof@gmail.com

The Sabbath Queen
by Menachem Yaffe

