


The Celebrated Voices of a New Cantorial Generation

PROGRAM JOURNAL

ALICE TULLY HALL, LINCOLN CENTER

C H A B A D ' S
CHILDREN OF
CHERNOBYL




THE AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF CANTORIAL ARTS, INC.
Miami Beach, FL



ASACA

It All Began With a Love of Chazzanut

Haim Wiener is a highly successful businessman who has passionately loved Chazzanut, the Cantorial art, from very early on in his life. He was born and raised in Israel before moving to Florida.

His good friend, Shlomo Lahat, a former Mayor of Tel Aviv, also loved the music of the great cantors. It was a passion the two friends shared. So, in 1978, when Haim received what was to become a most significant phone call from the brilliant Cantor, David Koussevitzky, OBM, Haim and the Mayor were excited and intrigued.

Cantor Koussevitzky wanted to meet with them. He felt strongly that the Cantorial art had slowly been dying out since the Holocaust. He felt that in Haim Wiener and Mayor Lahat he had found two men who could help turn the tide on this tragic loss to the Jewish people.

He was absolutely right. After their discussions, Haim and his wife, Gila, quickly became deeply involved in perpetuating Chazzanut as an art form, bringing it from the synagogue to the concert stage. They established a partnership with the city of Tel Aviv that began creating extraordinary concerts which, in a short space of time, were filling the 2700 seat Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, the home of the Israeli Philharmonic.

In the early 1980's they formed the Israel Institute for Cantorial Arts in partnership with the city of Tel Aviv and Heichal Shlomo - the Jerusalem Great Synagogue. Eli Jaffee, music director of the Great Synagogue, became the director of this new, innovative and most exciting school. The master teachers were the brilliant Moshe Stern and Naftali Hershtik, Cantor of the Great Synagogue.

Today, the school operates under the auspices of the city of Tel Aviv, under the directorship of Cantor Naftali Hershtik. The Institute, which is devoted to its students, has found jobs for all of the cantors who received their training within its program. One of the "dream come true" aspects of the Institute was taking the student cantors to Eastern European countries for the High Holidays. They brought the moving beauty of Jewish liturgy to people who had been isolated from their Jewish legacy for many years.

ASACA

In 1985, this musical partnership, headed by Haim Wiener, established ASACA, the American Society for the Advancement of Cantorial Arts, a non-profit group that today has become the **largest lay organization** in support of the Cantorial Arts.

Then in 1987, in cooperation with the governments of Romania, Hungary, Poland, the Soviet Union Satellite Countries, and Yugoslavia, arrangements were made to invite ASACA to bring the Cantorial Arts to the stages of these countries whose governments had for so many years repressed all forms of Jewish life.

ASACA cantors went on continual missions to these countries until 1991. In each country they visited, the Rabbis there became members of ASACA. Proof of the effectiveness and respect shown for this unique program came in 1989 when CBS and Charles Kurault produced a television piece on these missions.

ASACA has arranged and orchestrated many Cantorial Concerts throughout the United States over the years as well as creating and running Festivals of Cantorial Jewish Music on ocean cruises.

ASACA is strictly a non-profit organization with all of the proceeds of its concerts going to the communities, children's hospitals and charitable groups wherever they perform.

Tonight's concert is the brainchild of Rabbi Marc Schneier, founding Rabbi of The Hampton Synagogue and The New York Synagogue, who introduced ASACA to Chabad's Children of Chernobyl, a non-profit organization dedicated to saving children from the horrors of Chernobyl.

The result is a collaboration that will showcase the celebrated voices of a new Cantorial generation and, at the same time, provide urgently needed aid to children whose lives and health have been profoundly affected by the radioactive poisons emitted by the Chernobyl nuclear explosion.

In the words of Haim Wiener, *"CCOC is a very worthy charitable organization with which to work. They do sacred work saving and helping the children who are in danger. We know they will use the income from this concert to save more lives. We hope that this will be the start of an annual ASACA/CCOC concert to benefit the children."*

It is an extraordinary pleasure and great honor for ASACA and CCOC to bring this wonderful Cantorial Concert to the prestigious stage of Alice Tully Hall at Lincoln Center. We hope you enjoy every moment of this exceptional musical experience.



IN TRIBUTE

Song and praise is the most genuine language of faith. Most of Jewish prayer does not consist of petition and supplication, but of hymns and praises.

In Judaism, the art of giving thanks enjoys special pre-eminence over other religious disciplines. Gratitude at its highest level goes beyond counting blessings. It involves sharing blessings.

In this spirit, permit me to express my heartfelt gratitude to the following for sharing their blessings with us this evening.

...to **Haim Wiener** and the American Society for the Advancement of Cantorial Arts. Haim's commitment and magnanimous support of the cantorate is peerless. For over twenty five years, he has given of his time, energy and resources, orchestrating the cantorial revival around the world.

...to the **Cantors, Choirs, and Maestro Matthew Lazar**, for a most inspiring evening of musical majesty resonating our people's most treasured memories, our most fervent beliefs and our most cherished hopes.

...to **Chabad's Children of Chernobyl**, which has reaffirmed our faith in the power of miracles. The continued rescue of Jewish children from the radioactive cauldron of Ukraine and Belarus, celebrates the invincibility of Children at Heart when wedded to an imperishable ideal.

...to **Concert Chairs, Nancy Spielberg and Shimon Katz, and Tobi Rubinstein**, for their indefatigable leadership and tireless efforts.

...to **my Congregational family at The Hampton Synagogue and The New York Synagogue**, for their unparalleled commitment to Chazzanut as a sacred component of synagogue prayer and liturgy. This evening, our gifted Chazzan, Netanel Hershtik and The New York Synagogue choir, celebrate this supreme commitment.

In harmony with the Highest and in fellowship with each other, may we be more responsive to the child survivors of Chernobyl, growing more sensitive to their needs, making their lives dear to us as our very own, sharing their hopes, feelings, their hurts and knowing their hearts.

Rabbi Marc Schneier

PROGRAM

I

"VA PENSIERO" FROM NABUCCO

GIUESEPPI VERDI

arr. Raymond Goldstein

THE NEW YORK SYNAGOGUE CHOIR

THE TEL AVIV CANTORIAL INSTITUTE CHOIR

THE MOSCOW MALE JEWISH HASIDIC CAPPELLA CHOIR

Raymond Goldstein, *Piano*

Maestro Matthew Lazar, *Conductor*

II

NEW YORK SYNAGOGUE CHOIR

ITZCHAK HAIMOV, *Conductor*

RAYMOND GOLDSTEIN, *Piano*

Umip'nei Chatoeinu

Bezalel Brun/

Moshe Koussevitsky

arr. Raymond Goldstein

Cantor Netanel Hershtik, *Soloist*

UV'CHEN

Moshe Stern

arr. Chanan Winternitz

Raymond Goldstein

Cantor Tzadok Greenwald, *Soloist*

EXODUS

Ernest Gold

Pat Boone, *Lyrics*

arr. Edward Kalendar

Edward Kalendar, *Piano*

III

TEL AVIV CANTORIAL INSTITUTE

NAFTALI HERSHTIK, *Conductor*

RAYMOND GOLDSTEIN, *Piano*

SHOME'A KOL B'CHIYOS

Shmuel Malavsky

arr. Raymond Goldstein

Cantor David Weinbach, *Soloist*

L'KEIL BARUCH
Yitzchak Heilman
arr. Raymond Goldstein
Cantor Netanel Hershtik, *Soloist*

AHAVO RABOH
Moshe Stern
arr. Raymond Goldstein
Cantor Tzadok Greenwald, *Soloist*

HALLEL MEDLEY
Yossele Rosenblatt
arr. Raymond Goldstein
Raymond Goldstein, *Piano*
Michael Lukin, *Flute*
Alan Tchaikov, *Clarinet*
Carmit Merenberg, *Bassoon*

IV

MOSCOW MALE JEWISH HASIDIC CAPPELLA CHOIR SASHA TSALIUK, *Conductor*

UV'NUCHO YOMAR
Yossele Rosenblatt
arr. Raymond Goldstein
Cantor David Weinbach, *Soloist*
Raymond Goldstein, *Piano*

AV HORACHAMIM
Yosef Brody
arr. Meyer Machtenberg
Cantor Yaakov Stark, *Soloist*

RUSSIAN MEDLEY
arr. Valentin Dubovskoy, Mikhail Ashurov,
F. Safronov, A. Svsheshnikov.
Gia Beshitaishvily, Valentin Gutov, Mikhail Chesnokov, Vladimir
Kraytman, Valeriy Pekurovskiy, *Soloists*
Alexander Velikovskiy, *Piano*

V

HALLELU
YANKELE TALMUD
arr. Raymond Goldstein
Cantors Yaakov Stark, Netanel Hershtik,
David Weinbach & Tzadok Greenwald, *Soloists*
The New York Synagogue Choir
The Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute Choir

PROGRAM

The Moscow Male Jewish Hasidic Cappella Choir
Raymond Goldstein, *Piano*
Michael Lukin, *Flute*
Alan Tchaikov, *Clarinet*
Carmit Merenberg, *Bassoon*
Maestro Matthew Lazar, *Conductor*

INTERMISSION

Rabbi Marc Schneier, Remarks

Chabad's Children of Chernobyl Presentation

VI

THE NEW YORK SYNAGOGUE CHOIR
THE TEL AVIV CANTORIAL INSTITUTE CHOIR
THE MOSCOW MALE JEWISH HASIDIC CAPPELLA CHOIR
A.S.A.C.A. CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
MAESTRO MATTHEW LAZAR, *Conductor*

TANYA

Yossi Green

arr. & orch. Raymond Goldstein
Cantor David Weinbach, *Soloist*

R'TZE

Moshe Gantchoff

arr. & orch. Raymond Goldstein
Cantor Yaakov Stark, *Soloist*

SEDER MEDLEY-KI LO NOEH, CHAD GAD YO

Moishe Oysher

arr. & orch. Raymond Goldstein
Cantor Netanel Hershtik, *Soloist*

SHEYIBONE BEIS HAMIKDOSH

Israel Schorr /

Moishe Oysher

arr. & orch. Raymond Goldstein
Cantor Yaakov Stark, *Soloist*
Cantor Netanel Hershtik, *Soloist*
Cantor David Weinbach, *Soloist*
Cantor Tzadok Greenwald, *Soloist*

Program subject to change

Notes on the Program

Chernobyl

20 Years Later

Close to 20 years have passed since the early morning hours of April 26, 1986, when a shattering explosion rocked the nuclear power plant at Chernobyl—years in which countless people have lost their lives—countless have become profoundly ill—countless suffer daily.

Chernobyl is the single worst nuclear catastrophe to ever befall mankind. The breadth and gravity of this unprecedented disaster exceed anything that came before—or after. And those who suffer the most from the contamination, and its deadly poisons, are the children whose growing bodies are highly vulnerable to the ravages of radioactivity.

Long before the world recognized the true scope of Chernobyl's dangers, The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, understood. And he established Chabad's Children of Chernobyl (CCOC), to save the children.



CCOC, partnering with Israel and our donors, has created a rescue and relief mechanism unduplicated anywhere. The first emergency evacuation took place in 1990, with over 200 children on that inaugural flight. Since then, 70 more flights have arrived. To date, 2,351 children have been brought to the clean air of Israel. Their needs—medical, educational, physical, emotional—are completely cared for by a dedicated staff of counselors, doctors, nurses and teachers in Kfar Chabad.

All the proceeds from this evening's extraordinary concert are going to help the children. By attending this program tonight, you are a true partner in this lifesaving undertaking. We hope that you enjoy the beautiful Cantorial Celebration you are about to experience. And we thank you for taking these precious children into your heart and making them a priority in your life.



Chabad's Children of Chernobyl

675 Third Avenue, Suite 3210

New York, NY 10017

Telephone: 212 681 7800 Fax: 212 681 9330

Email: ccoc@ccoc.net Website: www.ccoc.net

MEET THE ARTISTS



MAESTRO MATTHEW LAZAR

Maestro Matthew Lazar is the catalyst and leading force of the Jewish choral movement in North America today. He is the Founder and Director of the Zamir Choral Foundation and has created the North American Jewish Choral Festival; HaZamir; The International Jewish High School Choir; The National Jewish Chorale; the SELAH Vocal Ensemble; The Mantua Singers; and Shirah, the largest independent Jewish choral society in the United States. He has directed the Zamir Chorale since 1972.

Mr. Lazar has been acknowledged by The New York Times for his vision and leadership in presenting the music of Salamone Rossi in the first festival and conference of this great master's music, has been praised by The Times, along with his "expert ensemble" for performances of Rossi's music. The Chicago Tribune described Maestro Lazar as an "expert director" for a program he conducted for the Chicago Symphony's World Music Series. He has prepared choruses for Maestros Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, Carlo Maria Giulini, Daniel Barenboim and has appeared as guest conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Chamber Symphony, the Ra'anana Symphony and the Ravinia Music Festival. Mr. Lazar recently conducted the New York premieres of two works for chorus, soloists and orchestra by Charles Osborne at Lincoln Center: *Souls on Fire* with Leonard Nimoy narrating; and *Kings and Fishermen*, featuring narration by Theodore Bikel.

Mr. Lazar regularly appears with the great cantors of our generation. He has been presenting programs at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and other major concert halls in the United States and Israel for more than three decades.

Mr. Lazar has served on the faculties of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, and is a frequent lecturer and scholar-in-residence in communities and universities across the United States. His recordings include *Chants Mystique*, *Birthday of the World I and II* and *A Taste of Eternity I and II* with the Western Wind Vocal Ensemble, and *Songs for Jerusalem*, featuring a special narration by Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel.

MEET THE ARTISTS



CANTOR YAAKOV STARK

As a child prodigy, at the mere age of seven, Yaakov Stark was already thrilling congregations with his heart rending solos on the High Holidays. His talent and ability were nurtured by the distinguished cantors in his family: his grandfather, Moshe Avrum Stark, a cantor in pre-War Europe, and his father, Yisroel Stark, a well-known Baal Tefillah. Cantor Stark is the "Shliach Tzibbur" at Congregation Orach Chaim in Manhattan where he is beloved by his congregants. His stirring and eloquent lyric

tenor voice has put him in constant demand to be guest Chazzan in synagogues worldwide.



CANTOR NETANEL HERSHTIK

Cantor Hershtik is Cantor of The Hampton Synagogue. Almost before he could talk, Netanel Hershtik was already showing clear signs of his extraordinary, unparalleled musical talent. As a small child, he began singing as a soloist in Jerusalem's Great Synagogue with his older brother Shraga, his sweet voice moving the souls and stirring the hearts of everyone who heard him. By seven he had already become world-renowned, touring Australia, America and

Europe with his father, the incomparable cantorial giant, Naftali Hershtik, and his brother. His rich, melodious tenor voice has been heard with the finest choirs in the Jewish world and in the greatest synagogues. This multi-talented, highly gifted musician also plays a number of instruments and founded a unique musical ensemble that combines Hassidic, Jazz and other varied musical styles.



CANTOR DAVID WEINBACH

Cantor Weinbach is a fifth generation Israeli with a voice so eloquent and stirring that he is in constant demand at prestigious synagogues throughout Israel. His exquisite tenor voice won him the esteemed prize in Tel Aviv and helps him to regularly appear on the Israel Music jubilee. Whether on the bimah or on stage, Cantor Weinbach's voice evokes the memory of Yossele Rosenblatt.



CANTOR TZADOK GREENWALD

A protégé of the great Cantor Moshe Stern, Cantor Greenwald's talent and ability stirs the soul. The Jewish Press wrote of Cantor Greenwald's highly acclaimed New York debut:

"The audience was mesmerized by Cantor Greenwald's warm, sweet and powerful voice..." and "It appeared from the audience reaction that he would be one of the next top cantors of his generation".



MOSCOW MALE JEWISH HASIDIC CAPELLA CHOIR

Throughout the world, wherever they have appeared, the Moscow Male Jewish Hasidic Capella Choir, under the direction of the renowned Sasha Tsaliuk, has never failed to profoundly move audiences of all ages and descriptions with its stirring, emotionally-laden, majestic performances. Established in 1989, this extraordinary choir performs a broad repertoire of Jewish vocal music: folk song, liturgical, modern Jewish and Israeli vocal and choral compositions.

Their base of operations is the celebrated, historic Maryina Rostcha Jewish Community Center. The choir has performed to sold-out solo concerts as well as with the most prominent and eminent cantors of our day.



TEL AVIV CANTORIAL INSTITUTE CHOIR

"A phenomenon amongst Jewish choirs!" This is how the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute Choir, under the exceptional direction of master cantor, Naftali Hershtik, has been described. This unique and masterful group, with its thrilling sounds, combines 30 young cantorial voices performing a wide and varied range of cantorial compositions, beloved Yiddish and Hebrew songs, and enchanting Hassidic Zemirot. They are accompanied by the TACI

Quartet, with its beautiful flute, clarinet and cello, and the famous Raymond Goldstein at the piano. The performances of this illustrious group are skillful and elegant and call to mind the giants of the golden era of the cantorial world.



NEW YORK SYNAGOGUE CHOIR

They have come together from opposite ends of the world, from the United States and Russia. Among them are some of the most stirring, soulful and achingly beautiful tenor and baritone voices imaginable. They form the extraordinary New York Synagogue Choir under the skillful direction of the incomparable Itzhak Haimov. The Choir's majestic, soul-stirring sounds have been heard around the

world, often in concert with some of the most gifted and talented cantors of our time. Conductor Haimov, who immigrated to Israel in 1990, has been the musical director of many cantorial concerts and festivals in Israel and abroad as well as having founded the Renanim Choir which performed around the world for nine years.

They conduct Shabbat and holiday services with Cantors Dudu Fisher and Netanel Hershtik at The Hampton and The New York Synagogues.



EDWARD KALENDAR

As pianist of the New York Synagogue Choir, Edward Kalendar wears one hat. But he is also a composer of extraordinary fame and renown with a talent that is vast and prodigious. He has won a huge number of major prizes in musical competitions in Moscow, Eastern Europe and Asia and was bestowed with the prestigious title of "Honored Artist of the Republic" in Russia in 1988. Among his brilliant and dazzling repertoire are numerous songs, the scores for 24 films and 17 musicals, operas, operettas, symphonies, concertos and chamber music.



RAYMOND GOLDSTEIN

Holding the prestigious post of arranger/composer (associate conductor) to the world-renowned Jerusalem Great Synagogue Choir, Raymond Goldstein has over 600 magnificent, soul-stirring works to his credit. He is also senior teacher at the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute where he serves as musical director and accompanist. His concert tours have taken this enormously talented musician to Australia, the U.S., and Western Europe. He has made professional recordings with the most acclaimed cantors and singers. As accompanist and/or arranger his name appears on more than 200 CDs, cassette tapes and DVDs. Included in his wide repertoire is a chamber opera, two cantatas, a concert Kabbalat Shabbat service, orchestrations, works for chamber ensemble and numerous arrangements (more than 1800 in total) both sacred and secular.

THE ASACA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN I: Mayuki Fukuhara, *Concertmaster*, Karl Kawahara, Shmuel Katz, Elizabeth Miller, Mara Milkis, Andrea Schultz.

VIOLIN II: Eriko Sato, *Principal*, Jill Jaffe, Sophie Arbuckle, Andrea Andros, Leonid Levin.

VIOLA: Louise Schulman, *Principal*, Liuh-Wen Ting, Ronald Lawrence.

CELLO: Loretta O'Sullivan, *Principal*, Adam Grabois.

BASS: John T. Kulowitsch. • **HARP:** Jacqueline Kerrod.

FLUTE: Elizabeth Mann. • **OBOE:** Gerard Reuter. • **CLARINET:** Vadim Lando.

BASSOON: Martin Kuuskmann. • **HORN:** R.J. Kelley, *Principal*, Lawrence Di Bello

TRUMPET: Carl Albach, *Principal*, Louis Hanzlik.

TROMBONE: Michael Powell. • **TIMPANI AND PERCUSSION:** Barry Centanni.

ORCHESTRA CONTRACTOR: Louise Schulman.