

Hanukah Happens

Originally begun as a means of promoting Jewish identity at a time of year when it is difficult to do so, this groundbreaking concert series, a collaboration between Temple Emanuel and the Zamir Chorale of Boston, has made significant contributions to Jewish music and, thereby, Jewish Culture.

1989: MUSIC OF LEONARD BERNSTEIN & YEHEZKEL BRAUN. World Premiere: Mizmor L'David (Yehezkel Braun).

1990: FROM VIENNA TO VIENNA —Music of Solomon Sulzer and Robert Starer. World Premiere: ASHREI ADAN (Robert Starer).

1991: A SALUTE TO LEONARD BERNSTEIN. World Premiere: PSALM 20 (Charles Osborne).

1992: OUR FRENCH CONNECTION.

1993: LOUIS LEWANDOWSKI —Friday Evening Service.

1994: A SALUTE TO ISRAEL. World Premiere: Sephardic Havdalah (Charles Osborne).

1995: SALAMONE ROSSI HEBREO - The Flowering of Jewish Culture in Renaissance Italy.



Hanukah Happens

An Evening of "Mamaloshen" Yiddish Music

December 24, 1996



About the Program

Yiddish is more than just a language. It is the conduit through which the Jews of eastern Europe expressed the love, fear, hope and humor of their lives. It is the means through which they communicated with God, each other, and, ultimately, with us.

It is not possible for me to listen to Yiddish music and not be constantly aware of the immensity of the loss that the world suffered because of the destruction of this community. Yet paradoxically I am also aware of the seeds of rebirth of eastern European Jewish communities in recent years, the large numbers of students who are now studying Yiddish on the college level, and the wealth of Yiddish culture that we in America have become the inheritors of.

It is perhaps through Yiddish that our people have most eloquently expressed their resilience in the face of oppression and their dogged determination to affirm the sanctity and goodness of life.

In a humorous turn of phrase worthy of the language, Yiddish has been described as a language that has been dying for the last 100 years. Here's hoping that Yiddish will continue living for the next 1000 years.

Cantor Charles D. Osborne

Hanukah Happens

*Mir Trogn A Gezang
Yehoshua Bin Nun*

Jody Weixelbaum and Michael Rutner, soli

Leo Low
Modest Mussorgsky

*Royz, Royz
Der Rebbe*

Andrew Greene, solo

trad./Y. Braun
trad./S. Sperber

In Cheyder

Cantor Charles Osborne, solo

Moses Milner

Oyfn Pripetshik

Susan Rubin, solo

Mark Warshawsky/B. Bessner

A Nign

Michael Rutner, solo

Lazar Weiner/Jacobson

Az Ikh Vel Zogen Lekho Doydi

Joshua Jacobson, solo

trad./Jacobson

Sheyn Vi Di Levoneh

Francene Sokol, Sharon Shore, Francine Ferraro, soli

Joseph Rumshinsky/Jacobson

Intermission

LeMoshel

A Yiddishe Neshome

BeMokoym She'eyn Ish - Sheri Beker, solo

Eyner Hakt Holts - Sheri Beker, Phyllis Wilner, Lawrence Sandberg, Joel Gluck, soli

Khutspe Gilt - Jody Weixelbaum, Francene Sokol, Scott Sokol, Michael Rutner, soli

Alle Kalles

Az Dos Meydl - Jody Weixelbaum, solo

Alle Vayber - Scott Sokol and Michael Rutner, soli

Ven Di Bobbe

Mit Emes

Az Men Ret - Jody Weixelbaum, Francene Sokol, Scott Sokol, Michael Rutner, soli

Az Alle Zukhen

A Sho'o In Gan Eyden - Jody Weixelbaum, Francene Sokol, Lawrence Sandberg,

Joel Gluck, soli

Eyn Breyra

Simon Sargon

Di Reyd Funm Novi

Cantor Charles Osborne, solo

Lazar Weiner

Zol Zain Sholem

Joel Gluck, solo

trad./Jacobson

Medley

1. Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen (Avrohom Goldfaden) - Phyllis Werlin, solo

2. Tumbalalaika (trad.) - Heather Zacker, solo

3. Der Bekher (trad.) - Cantor Charles Osborne, solo

arr. Jacobson

*Dona, Dona
Abi Gezint*

Francene Sokol, solo

Sholom Secunda/Jacobson
Abe Ellstein/Jacobson

The Performers

Cantor Charles David Osborne

Cantor Charles David Osborne has achieved international recognition as a singer, conductor and composer. He is a graduate of the Hartt College of Music, and the Cantors Institute of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Cantor Osborne has made numerous appearances as soloist with the Zamir Chorale of Boston, the Zamir Chorale of New York, Selah, the Rottenberg Chorale of New York, Zemer Chai of Washington, D.C., and as a member of Jubal's Lyre. He has appeared on television and radio throughout the United States, Canada, Israel, and worldwide on Monitor Radio. He was a featured performer on "Hallelujah – A Celebration of Psalms", nationally broadcast on the ABC Network, and is heard on WGBH-television's production of "The Jews of Boston".

On recording, Osborne can be heard as a featured soloist on The Western Wind's acclaimed C.D. "The Birthday of the World" (parts 1 and 2), and on the recently released C.D. "To Heal The Earth", which features Cantor Osborne's cantata "A Tree of Life". He has recorded numerous times with the Zamir Chorale of Boston.

Cantor Osborne is the founder and director of KOL RINAH - The Jewish Youth Chorus of Greater Boston.

The Zamir Chorale of Boston

Joshua Jacobson, Director

The Zamir Chorale of Boston is an ensemble specializing in the full spectrum of music arising out of the various Jewish traditions. Since its formation in 1969 the Chorale has remained committed to the highest quality performance of this literature which spans thousands of years, four continents, and a variety of styles, both vernacular and cultivated.

The Zamir's credits are numerous. The Chorale has performed throughout North America, toured Israel and Great Britain, and appeared with the Jerusalem Symphony and Israel Philharmonic orchestras under the batons of Zubin Mehta and Daniel Barenboim. Locally, the chorus has appeared with the New England Conservatory Orchestra and the Pro Arte Orchestra and has performed for the International Society for Contemporary Music, the American Choral Directors Association national conventions and Boston's FirstNight celebrations.

Zamir has received consistent praise in both local and national media; writing in the Boston Globe, Richard Dyer dubbed Zamir "a virtuoso outfit." In 1978 Zamir received the Silver Medallion award for performing excellence from Boston's Association for the Performing Arts, in 1988 the Myrtle Wreath award from the New England region of Hadassah, and in 1992 the Klal Yisrael award from the Synagogue Council of Massachusetts.

Joshua R. Jacobson, founder and director of the Zamir Chorale of Boston, holds a Bachelors degree in Music from Harvard College, a Masters in Choral Conducting from the New England Conservatory, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati. He is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Northeastern University, where he served for nine years as Chairman of the Department of Music, and currently as the Stotsky Professor of Jewish Studies. He also holds the position of Adjunct Professor of Jewish Music at Hebrew College. He has conducted workshops on choral music for various groups, including the American Choral Directors Association, the American Conference of Cantors and the Zimriyah International

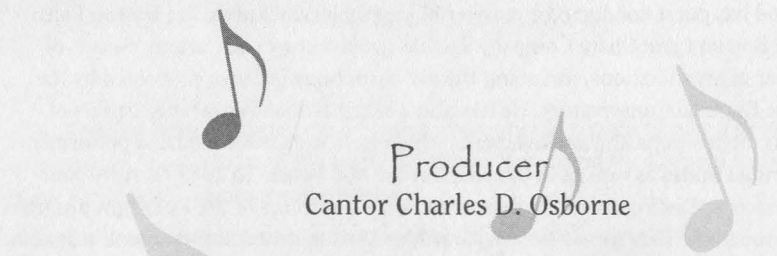
Choral Festival; and has guest conducted a number of ensembles, including the Boston Pops Orchestra and the Boston Lyric Opera Company. He has given lectures on various aspects of music for a number of organizations, including the pre-Symphony lectures sponsored by the Friends of the New England Conservatory. He has also written articles on various aspects of choral music, and compositions and arrangements which have been published and performed throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Europe and Israel. In 1989 he spent four weeks in Yugoslavia as a "Distinguished Professor" under the auspices of the Fulbright program. In 1994 he was awarded the Benjamin Shevach Award for Distinguished Achievement in Jewish Educational Leadership from Hebrew College. Prof. Jacobson is Past President of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors Association.

The Boston Klezmet

The Yiddish work *klezmer* is a contraction of the Hebrew "kle" (instrument) and "zemer" (music). Traced back as early as the 16th century, *klezmer* is the traditional dance-oriented music of the Jews of Eastern Europe. The music is a blend of Jewish liturgical and other native folk melodies, including Roumanian, Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian, Polish, Hungarian, Arabic and Gypsy. *Klezmorim* (the musicians) provided musical entertainment at many Jewish celebrations, ceremonies and fesitvals.

Drawing from this musical tradition, the Boston Klezmet present an eclectic program of freylachs, shers, waltzes, horas and dontemporary Israeli folk tunes. The band has performed an numerous social and civic parties as well as at charity concerts. The band's musicians include: Joanne Baker (piano and accordinian), Alan Alpert (trombone), Sheldon Benjamin (percussion), Harvey Budner (banjo, mandolin and guitar), Dan Kischner (violin), Dan Shaw string bass), Peri Smilow (vocals), and Bill Wise (clarinet).

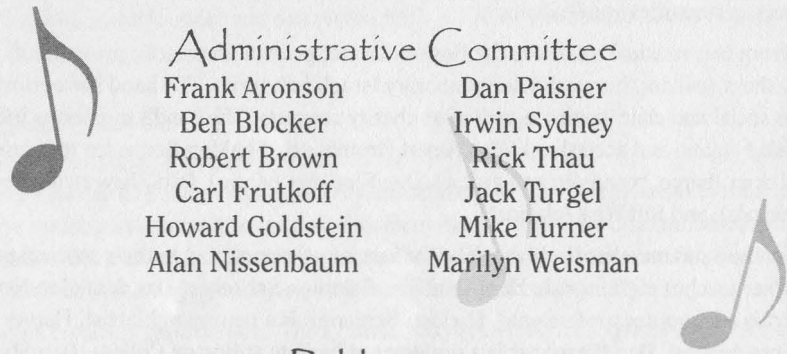
In real life, the band members hold day jobs that are mostly unrelated to their musical pursuits: Joanne Baker teaches eighth grade English at The Solomon Schechter Day School in Newton, Alan Alpert is a computer professional, Sheldon Benjamin is a neuropsychiatrist, Harvey Budner is a child psychiatrist, Dan Kirschner is a professor of biology at Boston College, Dan Shaw is a pyschiatrist, Peri Smilow is a cantorial soloist and educator, and Bill Wise is Chief of Pathology at Newton-Wellesley Hospital.



Producer
Cantor Charles D. Osborne

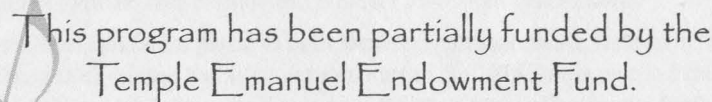
Conductor
Joshua R. Jacobson

Co-Chairmen
Neal Weinstock Jack Weisman

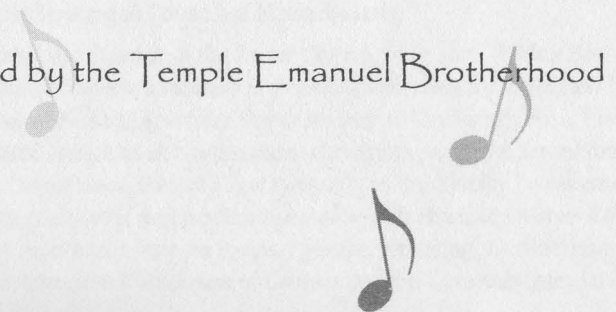


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Publications
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Sponsored by the Temple Emanuel Brotherhood

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Translations

Mir Trogn A Gezang (We Sing a Song)

We sing a song.
With its sound, we shall awaken
in our blood a youthful spirit,
and in our hearts an overwhelming desire.
Silently we arise with a new vivacious thrust
and face towards the sun with our song.
In those who are still asleep
we shall arouse a strong sentiment.
Arise, be prepared;
turn to greet the new life.

-Menachem Goldberg

Yehoshua Bin Nun

Thus said the Lord:
Joshua will vanquish
the mighty enemy.
He shall strike the Amorites
who have disparaged the Torah.
Be strong!
The enemy shall fall in ruins
with the walls of Jericho.
Upon the lofty mountains of Canaan
the holy ark will stand proudly.
Have no fear - the battle calls!
Onward, sword unsheathed
with arrows and spears!

Like an eagle ascends to the heavens,
like an eagle watches over his prey.
Beware, Israel,
your foes surround you.
Let not the women of Canaan
betray you.
Vanquish God's heathen enemy.
With a mighty hand disperse them,
like chaff on the wind.
Hearken Israel!
Hark! God is with you
wherever you shall go.

Hear Amorea's daughters.
Hear their lamentation before Canaan.
Beneath the darkened skies
the clouds do churn.
Under the walls of Gibeon
the crown of Amorea shall fall.
Streams of bitter tears shall flow.
Hear Amorea's daughters
Hear their grief before Canaan.
Beneath the darkened skies
the clouds do churn.

Hear, O Israel,
The sun stands still in heaven!

Thus said the Lord:
Joshua will vanquish
the mighty enemy.
He shall strike the Amorites
who have disparaged the Torah.
Be strong!
The enemy shall fall in ruins
with the walls of Jericho.
Upon the lofty mountains of Canaan
the holy ark will stand proudly.
Have no fear - the battle calls!
Onward, sword unsheathed
with arrows and spears!

Sobbing,
the daughters of Gibeon wander
far and wide in Canaan's land.
Praised be Joshua,
chosen by God!
Praised for eternity.
O people of Israel,
Sing out his praises,
honor the great hero!

Those who disparage the Torah
shall quickly fall.
The holy ark shall proudly stand!
Sing a lofty praise
to God so great!
Halleluya!

Royz, Royz (Rose, rose)

Rose, rose, how far are you?
Forest, forest, how vast are you?
If the rose were not so far away,
Then the forest would not seem so vast.

Holy spirit, how far are you?
Exile, exile, how long are you?
If the Holy Spirit were not so distant,
Then the exile would not seem so long.

Der Rebbe (The Rabbi)

When Rabbi Elimelech became very happy,
Very happy did the Rabbi become,
He performed the Havdoloh service,
And his assistant, Naftali,
Called for his fiddlers two.

And when the fiddle-ish fiddlers fiddled
fiddlingly,
They fiddled very fiddlingly.

When Rabbi Elimelech became very happy,
Very happy did the Rabbi become,
He performed the Havdoloh service,
With his assistant, Naftali,
And called for his flutists two.

And when the flute-ish flutists fluted
flutingly,
They fluted very flutingly.

When the Rabbi laughs, all his followers
laugh.
When the Rabbi sings, all his followers sing.
When the Rabbi dances, all his followers dance.
When the Rabbi gives a sermon...
all his followers fall asleep.

In Cheider (In School)

Come here, little one,
closer to me,
look at the little letters,
beloved letters,
golden letters,
quick quick, come here.
Don't be afraid,

don't worry,
That's it, sit down
and listen.
Sit down, that's it,
listen:
Komets alef - oh
komets beys - boh
komets gimel -goh
komets daled - doh.
Pasach alef - ah
pasach beys - bah
pasach gimel -gah
pasach daled - dah.
That's it, little one,
That's it. We must learn, little one,
Oy vey, dear little one,
look in the prayerbook,
and recite again:
Komets alef - oh
komets beys - boh
louder, stronger,
ah, bah
That's it. We must learn, little one,
ah, bah, gah dah
louder, stronger,
That's it. We must learn, little one,
ah, bah, gah
That's it, more joyful,
more lively, you rascal!
That's it, little one,
we must learn torah.
Torah is the best reward.
Be a dear little one,
don't be a rascal.
Ah, you are a rascal, little one.
Enough! close the prayerbook,
You're free to go.
But remember, my boy,
a Jew must study torah.
So said the Holy Creator.
When they ask you
what you learned in school,
tell them that you learned torah.
Remember: torah.
Again: torah,
torah, torah, torah, torah...
- Moses Milner

Oyfn pripetshik (By the fireplace)

A flame burns in the fireplace.
the room warms up,
as the teacher teaches the children
the alphabet.

Remember, children,
dear ones, don't forget
what you are learning here.
Repeat it again
and even again:
komets-alef is pronounced: o!

Children, study with great desire,
just as I tell you.
The first one of you to learn Hebrew
will receive a flag.

Children, only when you grow older
will you understand
how many tears lie in these letters,
and how much weeping.

Children, when you grow weary
and burdened with exile,
you will find strength in these letters,
so study hard!

-Mark Warshawski

A Nign (A Tune)

Once upon a time there was a poor man.
All he did was quarrel with God.
Wonders and wonders befell him
when he sang a tune like this:
Tshiri bim bam bam...

From this tune flowed wine,
and he swallowed gulp after gulp.
Wonders and wonders befell him
when he sang, when he sang like this:
Tshiri bim bam bam...

As the Jew sang, and sweetness flowed,
he actually leapt for joy!
Wonders and wonders befell him
when he sang, when he sang like this:
Tshiri bim bam bam...

- Magister (pen name for Leibush Lehrer)

*Az Ikh Vel Zogen Lekho Doydi (When I say:
Lekho Doydi)*

When I say: Come my beloved . . .
you will reply: tshi-ri-bi-ri bim.
When I say: . . .to greet the bride,
you will reply: tshi-ri-bi-ri bam.

When I say: My children . . .
you will reply: tshi-ri-bi-ri bim.
When I say: . . .congratulations to you all,
you will reply: tshi-ri-bi-ri bam.

Sheyn Vi Di Levoneh (Beautiful as the Moon)

My mind is all mixed up.
I walk around in a daze.
I have no idea what I even want.

I'm so ashamed, I blush.
My tongue is dead in my mouth.
I can't say what I feel.

I sense you all around.
You've moved into my heart.
How can I tell you this?
You are:

Beautiful as the moon,
brilliant as the stars,
a gift from Heaven sent just for me.

You brought me luck
when I found you.
More beautiful than a thousand suns,
you have brought happiness to my heart.

Your teeth, like white pearls,
together with your pretty eyes,
your clothes, your hair-
they've drawn me to you!

LeMoshel (Proverbs)

A Jewish soul
is to be treasured.

In a place where there are no real men
even a herring seems like a real fish.

One chops the wood -
the other does the grunting.

Pushiness helps.

All brides are beautiful.
All the dead are pious.

When a girl can't dance,
she says:
The musicians don't know how to play.

All women have an inheritance
from their mother Eve.

If grandma had a beard,
she'd be grandpa.

The path of truth leads to God.

When somebody talks a lot,
it's about himself.

If everyone looks for a beautiful bride,
what will happen to all the plain Janes?

Even one hour in paradise would be great!

"No alternative"
is in itself an alternative.

Di Reid Funm Novi (The Words of the Prophet)

These are the words of the prophet
to his people, and to all peoples:
The heavens declare his word,
the earth listens to their meaning.
Comfort ye, comfort ye,
ye people, my people.
A light will sprout
from the desert,
and will bring to life the wild forms
from their slumber,
and the golden sun-rays will warm
the trees in the forests
and the fruit in the gardens
and the blossoms growing in the field.
And a man will greet
his neighbor, saying:
"Peace and tranquility to you!"
And his neighbor will reply:
"Peace, peace,
may you be blessed with tranquility."
So enemies will become friends,
and friends will become comrades,
and comrades will become brothers and
sisters,
and children will tell legends
that once upon a time...
there was poverty on earth,
and the hungry folk begged
for a morsel of bread,
and people died before their time from
illnesses,
and innocent blood
flowed like a river.
We'll tell these horrible tales,
but no one, no one will believe them.
So let us make a memorial
and build a monument for eternity!
- Magister

Zol Zain Sholem (Let there be peace)

Peace, peace,
Let there be peace!

Rozhinkes Mit Mandlen (Raisins and Almonds)

In the ancient Temple
in a little dark room
sits the widow, daughter of Zion,
alone.

She rocks her only son to sleep
and sings him a beautiful lullaby.

Under Yideleh's crib
stands a pure white goat.
The goat will go to market,
that will be his job.

Raisins and almonds.
Sleep, Yideleh, sleep.
-Abraham Goldfaden

Tumbalalaika

A boy stayed up thinking
thinking and thinking all night long:
which girl should he marry
(without embarrassing the other one).

Strum the balalaika
Play the balalaika
We must be happy.

Maiden, I want to ask you:
what can grow without rain?
what can burn and not be consumed?
what yearns and cries without tears?

Foolish boy! What a question!
A stone can grow without rain.
Love can burn forever and never die.
A heart can yearn and cry no tears.

Der Bekher (The Goblet)

Malka, my darling,
you should be healthy.
Fill up the goblet,
the goblet with wine!
bim bom...

From this very same goblet,

shining so bright,
my grandfather drank,
my grandfather alone.
bim bom...

Sing louder and louder:
"O Lord, how great Thou art!"
Malka, put away the goblet,
this song is over!
bim bom...

Dona, Dona

In a wagon lies a calf,
lying, bound with rope.
High in the sky a swallow soars
joyously, flying back and forth.

The wind laughs in the cornfield,
laughs and laughs and laughs.
It laughs the whole day
and half the night.
Dona dona dona...

The calf cries. And the farmer says:
Who told you to be a calf?
You could have been a bird!
You could have been a swallow!

The wind laughs in the cornfield ...

Poor calves are bound
and dragged and slaughtered!
Whoever has wings flies high
and is no one's slave.

The wind laughs in the cornfield ...
- Aaron Zeitlin

Abi Gezint (You've Got Your Health)

A little sun, a little rain,
A quiet place to rest your head,
As long as you're healthy
You can be happy.

A shoe, a sock,
Clothes without patches,
In your pocket three or four coins,
As long as you're healthy
You can be happy.

The air is free for all as equals,
The sun shines for everyone,
Poor or rich.

A little joy, a little laughter,
Time to have a drink with friends,
As long as you're healthy
You can be happy.

This one chases the dollar, that one wants to
be a hero,
They want to conquer the whole world.
This one thinks that happiness
depends only on money.

Let them all search.
Let them all crawl.
I'll follow my own advice.
I need those things like a hole in the head!
My happiness is here at home!

-Molly Picon