

H. L. MILLER CANTORIAL SCHOOL AND COLLEGE OF JEWISH MUSIC  
OF THE JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY,  
CONGREGATION BETH EL,  
and CONGREGATION HAR SHALOM  
present

# Walk Humbly with Your God: Jewish Wisdom in Song

## A John Leopold and Martha Dellheim Concert

הגיד לך אדם מה-טוב ומה-ה' דורש מך:  
כי אם-עשות משפט ואהבת חסד והצדע לנכע עם-אליהיך

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what the Lord requires of you:  
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.”

—Micah 6:8

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016  
3:00 P.M.**

Cantors Nancy Abramson, Henrique Ozur Bass, Matthew Klein

H. L. Miller Cantorial School Students:  
Josh Kowitz, Sarah Levine, Gil Ezring

Alan Mason, Piano



*The concert is free and  
open to the public.  
A reception will follow.*

# PROGRAM

## Walk Humbly with Your God: Jewish Wisdom in Song

### WELCOME

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*Rabbi Adam J. Raskin, Congregation Har Shalom (Potomac, Maryland)*

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### כִּי אָמַעַת מִשְׁפָּט / ...but to do justice

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<b>Vayimalet Kayin</b>	Yehezkel Braun
<i>Gil Ezring, Hazzan Henrique Ozur Bass, and Joshua Kowitz</i>	
<b>Mi Ha'ish</b>	Baruch Chait
<i>Hazzan Henrique Ozur Bass</i>	
<b>The Precepts of Micah (Micah 6:6–8)</b>	Josef Freudenthal
<i>Hazzan Nancy Abramson</i>	
<b>Anu Chayavim</b>	Chana Rothman
<i>Sarah Levine and Gil Ezring</i>	

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### וְאֶחֱבָת חֶסֶד / ...and to love kindness

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<b>Eilu Devarim</b>	Ben Steinberg
<i>Hazzanim Nancy Abramson and Matthew Klein</i>	
<b>Just a Foreigner</b>	Music: Joel Sussman
<i>Gil Ezring, Hazzan Henrique Ozur Bass, and Joshua Kowitz</i>	Lyrics: Robbie Solomon and Joel Sussman
<b>Sim Shalom</b>	Chayim Feifel
<i>Sarah Levine</i>	
<b>Olam Chesed Yibaneh</b>	Menachem Creditor
<i>Gil Ezring</i>	

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## GREETINGS

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*Hazzan Nancy Abramson*

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### III. ...and to walk humbly / והצנע לכת

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**Yih'yu L'Ratzon**

Hollis Shachner

*Sarah Levine and Hazzan Nancy Abramson*

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**Elohai Netzor**

Danny Maseng

*Sarah Levine, Gil Ezring, and Hazzan Henrique Ozur Bass*

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**A Din Toire Mit Gott: Rabbi Levi Yitzhak's Kaddish**

Joel Engel

*Joshua Kowitz*

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**Walk Humbly Son**

Michael Clem

*Sarah Levine, Gil Ezring, Hazzan Matthew Klein, and Joshua Kowitz*

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### IV. ...with your God. / עם אלהיך

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**When Messiah Comes**

Jerry Bock

*Hazzan Henrique Ozur Bass*

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**World Premiere, "HaMelech"**

Jonathan Leshnoff

*Dellheim Cantorial Commission*

1. Oso Odom

2. HaMelech

*Hazzan Matthew Klein*

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**Uvnacho Yomar**

Louis Lewandowski

*Hazzan Henrique Ozur Bass, solo*

*Sarah Levine, Hazzan Nancy Abramson, Gil Ezring, Hazzan Matthew Klein, Joshua Kowitz*

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**Leyla**

Nick Page

Text: Rabbi Abraham Isaac Kook

*Ensemble*

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# NOTES ON TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

## **Hazzan Matthew Klein**

A “revelation” is something that was previously unknown. In Judaism, “revelation” is our encounter with God, resulting in new wisdom that impacts our lives.

Today’s concert will explore this theme through the prism of a poignant verse from the Book of Micah. This verse (Micah 6:8) outlines essential values in the Jewish tradition: justice, kindness, humility, and spirit. We will taste the many ways in which these values have been explored and expressed by Jewish cantors and Jewish composers, bridging many different eras and musical genres.

We are also proud to feature the world premiere of “HaMelech,” two songs for cantor and piano by Jonathan Leshnoff, specially commissioned by the John Leopold and Martha Dellheim Endowment Fund at JTS for this concert. HaMelech is a setting of two chapters from *Heychalot Rabati*, an ancient Jewish mystical text almost two thousand years old. The text gives instructions on navigating the different spaces that an initiate uses to reach God’s presence, each “space” being a different “room” (*heychal*).

The first movement set by the composer, “Oso Odom,” expresses both the fear and trembling of entering the final room. The cantorial style of this first movement is drawn from the Eastern European tradition. The second, “HaMelech,” portrays the effusive joy that comes from standing in the presence of God. This second movement is based on motives from Western European nusah (Jewish chant), but has a distinctly modern character. Mr. Leshnoff worked closely with Hazzan Matthew Klein to capture the cantorial style for these two movements, weaving them together with his signature harmonic palate and 21st-century neo-romantic lyricism.

To “be humble” and to “walk with God” both mean opening ourselves up to new ideas and the possibility of change. We hope that this concert inspires you, no matter what your musical taste, to make space for Jewish wisdom in your mind and heart, and a place for the presence of God in your soul.

**JOHN DELLHEIM** (z”l) was a Holocaust survivor who became a pioneer computer programmer at IBM. He deeply loved Judaism and Jewish music, and endowed the John Leopold and Martha Dellheim Internship Program and Concert Series in order to bring Western cantorial music to synagogues around the United States via the mentors, alumni, and students of H. L. Miller Cantorial School, thereby perpetuating the performance and transmission of Jewish sacred music to future generations. The John Leopold and Martha Dellheim Endowment Fund initiative includes an internship program that pairs students with mentors in the field and expands the school’s opportunities to teach concert planning, enhance repertoire coaching, and present student performances. We are also proud to be presenting at this concert the first piece commissioned through the Dellheim Endowment.

**HAZZAN NANCY ABRAMSON** is director of the H. L. Miller Cantorial School of JTS. She trains future hazzanim in prayer, *nusah*, and religious leadership, and is helping shape cantorial arts and practices for the 21st century. Having served as president and two-time national convention co-chair of the Cantors Assembly, Cantor Abramson is now immediate past president of the organization, the first female officer in the Cantors Assembly's 68-year history.

Cantor Abramson has performed as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Avery Fischer Hall, and the Rose Theater at Jazz at Lincoln Center, and has sung with the Rinat Choir in Israel. Cantor Abramson came to JTS from New York City's Park Avenue Synagogue, where she directed all musical aspects of congregational life, and previously served West End Synagogue in Manhattan and Congregation Sons of Israel in Briarcliff Manor, New York. She has taught at the Abraham Joshua Heschel School in New York and directed the music program at Ramah camps in Wisconsin and New England. She has been a scholar-in-residence in communities throughout the United States. Cantor Abramson sits on the board of the Zamir Choral Foundation and the Magic Circle Opera Repertory Ensemble.

Cantor Abramson is a graduate of the Joint Program of List College of JTS and Columbia University, from which she earned a BHL in Jewish History and a BA in Music. She received her cantorial education at JTS, and earned a master's degree in Music Education from Teachers College, Columbia University.



**HAZZAN HENRIQUE OZUR BASS** was born and raised in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 1989, he left his native country to study at the now H. L. Miller Cantorial School of JTS, graduating in 1995. Hazzan Ozur Bass came to Congregation Har Shalom in 1996 after serving several congregations in Brazil, Israel, and the United States.



**HAZZAN MATTHEW KLEIN**, baritone, is the cantor of Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland. He sits on the Executive Council of the Cantors Assembly, and has also served as its representative to the Law Committee of the Conservative Movement. An up-and-coming leader among American cantors, Hazzan Klein has lectured and mentored cantorial students across the non-Orthodox world, including at JTS, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Hebrew College, and in the Aleph Cantorial program. All of the students featured in tonight's program served as Beth El cantorial interns under Hazzan Klein's mentorship.



Hazzan Klein is involved with innovative Jewish music projects across the Washington, DC area, including collaborations with local universities, independent minyanim, and the National Philharmonic, the latter of which led to the commissions featured in tonight's program. A judge at the annual Kol HaOlam Jewish a cappella competition, Hazzan Klein is also the visionary behind an upcoming nationwide contest for Jewish a cappella groups, giving prizes for the best arrangements of a capella music for the synagogue. This contest is organized by the Cantors Assembly and will launch in early 2017.

Hazzan Klein performs frequently in the Washington, DC area. He is a guest vocalist with two klezmer bands, The Swinging Kleztones and Machaya, and starred as Joseph in a recent interfaith production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.



**GIL EZRING** is a fourth-year student at H. L. Miller Cantorial School of JTS. He received his Bachelor in Music Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. For the last two years, Mr. Ezring has been the cantor for the Young Professional High Holiday Services at Sutton Place Synagogue in New York City. He was a founding member of the band The Ruach at Temple Israel in Charlotte, North Carolina, and assisted the rabbi there, his father, in creating the Rock HaShannah and Rock HaShabbat services. Mr. Ezring is also a composer of Jewish music and a Jewish singer/songwriter. He is one half of the Jewish country/rock/pop duo AGEz with his sister Aviva. He is also currently the cantorial intern at The Conservative Synagogue in Westport, Connecticut, and at Congregation Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland.



**JOSH KOWITZ** is in his fourth year of studies at H. L. Miller Cantorial School of JTS. Mr. Kowitz has always surrounded himself with music and grew up in a musical household; he is the son of Cantor Mitchell Kowitz. Mr. Kowitz currently serves as the student cantor at Temple Sinai in Middletown, New York. He has led services throughout New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Minnesota, and Jerusalem, and at Camp Ramah in Wisconsin. Josh received his Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance from Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin. Prior to coming to JTS, Josh sang in the chorus of the Minnesota Opera and performed in amateur and professional musical theater productions in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul area.



**SARAH LEVINE** is a fifth-year cantorial student at JTS. Originally from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, she currently serves as cantorial intern of Temple Sholom in Greenwich, Connecticut. Most recently, Ms. Levine served as cantor/educator for Knesset Israel in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and as Hazzan Sheni during High Holidays at Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland. She holds a BA in Jewish Studies and a minor in Music from Temple University. While studying for cantorial investiture, Ms. Levine is also enrolled in The Davidson School of JTS. Along with her full-time studies, she is currently in her third year serving as co-*gabbai* of the Women's League Seminary Synagogue and is the Jewish Life director for the residence hall for graduate students. In preparing for her cantorate, Ms. Levine has interned at Beth El in Bethesda, Maryland, and B'nai Torah in Boca Raton, Florida. She looks forward to graduation and cantorial investiture in May 2017.



**DR. ALAN MASON** is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, where he received Bachelor of Music and Master of Music degrees, and the University of Miami, where he received a Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Vocal Accompanying. Dr. Mason has been the director of Music at Temple Israel in Miami, Florida, since 1991. He has been a member of the Guild of Temple Musicians since 2001, and was installed as president in 2015. He is well known throughout the United States as an accompanist to cantors, choirs, and singers of sacred Jewish music. He plays regularly for the American Conference of Cantors, the Union for Reform Judaism, the North American Jewish Choral Festival, Cantor Alberto Mizrahi, Cantor David Propis, and many members of the Cantors Assembly. He recently became the director of HaZamir Miami, and is a retired associate professor of music at Barry University in Miami, where he taught music history and piano.

Praised by the *Washington Post* as one of the “gifted young composers” of this generation, **JONATHAN LEHNOFF** is described by the *New York Times* as “a leader of contemporary American lyricism.” Based in Baltimore, Maryland, the composer’s works have been performed by more than 50 orchestras worldwide in hundreds of orchestral concerts. He has received commissions from Carnegie Hall and orchestras including the Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City, and Nashville Symphonies, the Buffalo Philharmonic, and the IRIS and Philadelphia Orchestras. Mr. Leshnoff’s compositions have been performed by classical music’s most celebrated stars, such as Gil and Orli Shaham, Roberto Díaz, and Manuel Barrueco, and have been conducted and embraced by esteemed music directors including Marin Alsop, Giancarlo Guerrero, Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Robert Spano, and Michael Stern.



In 2016-17, Mr. Leshnoff’s works will be performed by numerous ensembles, including the Atlanta, Baltimore, Kalamazoo, Nashville, and Santa Barbara Symphonies; the National Philharmonic; the Baltimore Choral Arts Society; and the United States Marine and Navy Bands. He has released three albums on the Naxos American Classics label. He is a professor of music at Towson University.

## CONGREGATION HAR SHALOM

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H A R S H A L O M

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