



המכללה העברית Hebrew College

Cantorial Ordination Ceremony

Sunday, June 7, 2020

15 Sivan 5780

1:00 pm

via Zoom

PROGRAM

Welcome

Cantor Elana Rozenfeld
Interim Program Director and Advisor

President's Message

Rabbi Sharon Cohen Anisfeld
President, Hebrew College

Special Presentation by Ordainees

Jennifer Boyle
Rachel Slusky
David Wolff

Marcia Spellman, Administrator
School of Jewish Music (2013 to 2021)

Presentation of *Tallitot* and *Berakhot*

Introduction

Rabbi Dan Judson, PhD
Dean, Rabbinical School and School of Jewish Music

Words of Gratitude and Blessing

Jennifer Boyle, Rachel Slusky, and David Wolff

Reading of *Semikha* Document

Cantor Elana Rozenfeld

Priestly Blessing (*traditional melody*)

Cantor Elana Rozenfeld
Cantor Lynn Torgove, MAJS `11, Can `12, Head of Vocal
Arts Cantor Louise Treitman, MM, Senior Advisor

Oseh Shalom (Michael Ochs)

Jennifer Boyle, Rachel Slusky, and David Wolff

Concluding Blessing

Cantor Lynn Torgove

Jennifer Boyle



כי צריך כל אדם לומר: כל העולם לא נברא אלא בשבילי (סנהדרין לא). נמצא, פשהעולם נברא בשבילי, צריך אני לראות ולעין בכל עת בתקון העולם, ולמלאות חסרון העולם, ולהתפלל בעבורם

Now, each person must say: "The entire world was created only for my sake." (Sanhedrin 37a) Consequently, because the world was created for my sake, I must constantly look into and consider ways of making the world better; to provide what is missing in the world and pray on its behalf.

– Rabbi Nachman of Breslov, Likutei Moharan 5:1:2

Rabbi Bunim teaches that everyone has two pockets, with a note in each. On one note, it is written, "the world was created for me," and on the other, "I am but dust and ashes." The trick is knowing when to reach into each pocket. Sometimes, a strong conviction in one's unique mission can create feelings of pride, and that is when a person must reach into the pocket reminding them of their mortality, humbling themselves. Other times, a person might feel inadequate and unable to see their worth, and this is when they reach into the other, which restores their sense of pride. The challenge lies in balancing these two concepts of humility and purpose.

I feel this balance most during the High Holy Days. Before the *Musaf* service begins, the cantor takes a moment to stand before the ark and recite *Hineni*. In this prayer, the cantor asks God to look past her shortcomings and accept the prayers of her people. When I plead on behalf of my *kahal*, I feel impossibly small before God. I also know that I am the one who has been chosen for this purpose. In that moment of prayer, I feel both worthy of and humbled by the momentous task set before me.

As clergy, we must find the balance between fulfilling our own unique goals and serving our communities. My purpose as a cantor-educator is to inspire others in prayer and learning and to build a community of kind and caring people. But I must also remember to serve my congregation and serve God in everything that I do. It is only by balancing both that I can do my part to repair our world.

There is no way I could have made this journey to the cantorate alone. Thank you to my parents and my sisters, who have supported and encouraged me as I pursued this path. Thank you to Cory, my loving and supportive fiancé, soon-to-be husband. Thank you to my friends, both near and far, who have guided and supported, laughed and cooked, vented and listened to me over the years.

And thank you to the members of my Hebrew College community who have helped me grow during my time here and will continue to be invaluable supports for years to come.

Rachel Slusky



אָדנײַ שפּתײַ תּפּתּח וּפִי יגִיד תְּהִלָּתְךָ

*Adonai, open my lips so that my mouth may declare Your praise.
– Amidah liturgy*

The sparks of holiness are all around us. To me, the meditation before the Amidah is a reminder that even if we have been distracted during service, we have an opportunity to refocus our connection with God. God’s image exists in every human being. We don’t have to limit our refocusing to the meditation before our recital of the Amidah. Other reminders can be found in the realm of music.

What most people consider music has defined parameters. Humans organize musical sounds by time signature, key, and tempo. Without a conscious effort to “hear” the music of the world – birds chirping, wind whooshing through the trees, or the steady rhythmic drip of a leaky faucet –, the transcendental moments pass us by.

We must set up personal prompts to open our hearts and minds to those sparks of holiness. Meditation. Prayer. Crying. Laughing. They all remind us that human existence is a holy experience. I know there will be times in which I feel inadequate in my work. Or I’ll feel nervous about how I’ll be received entering a community as their spiritual leader. However, I’ll remember that the journey leading up to that moment was one already filled with divine sparks. I am forever grateful for the wisdom of my classmates and teachers over the course of my cantorial training. While this moment of commencement may seem anticlimactic because of current world circumstances, let the journey that we’ve been on together during our time at Hebrew College serve as a reminder of our purpose as spiritual leaders.

David Wolff



וְשָׁכַנְתִּי בְּתוֹךְ בְּנֵי יִשְׂרָאֵל וְהָיִיתִי לָהֶם לֵאלֹהִים:

And I will dwell among the Israelites and I will be their G-d.

– Exodus 29:45

לְהַקְדִּישׁ לְיוֹצֵרָם בְּנֵת רוּחַ, בְּשֵׁפָה בְּרוּרָה, וּבְנֵעִימָה קְדוּשָׁה

To make holy their creator with serenity of spirit, with clear speech, and with a holy melody

– *The Blessings of the Morning Shema*

I came to Hebrew College after a career as a professional musician, music educator, and cantorial soloist. In truth, I took a risk embarking on a cantorial career; I did not understand how to be deeply invested in a Jewish community. Now, at the end of my degree, I understand. I am so grateful to the Hebrew College community—cantors, rabbis, and Jewish educators—for teaching me the value of community. I learned from the constant flow of real, vulnerable communication in our community. I saw the community's authentic compassion in response to struggle, and its overflowing joy in response to success. Ultimately, I became part of this community. I have found G-d in so many places these last few years, but most especially in our holy community. For the wandering Israelites in Exodus 29, and for us, being together in a community of truth and compassion brings the שכִּינָה, the presence of G-d. I pray that my colleagues and I, cantors and rabbis, can build holy communities wherever we go.

Music builds community, and it is temporal in a unique way. Whereas we can choose to view a painting for two seconds or for hours, music is time-bound; it begins, and then it ends. And when it is taking place, it consumes us. Music makes us hyper-aware, and it ties us to the present. When our community sings together, or listens intensely together, we are one, for that fleeting, heightened moment. In that moment, we are as the angels in the morning liturgy, and our music becomes a holy melody, נְעִימָה קְדוּשָׁה. Like the angels, G-d sings through us, and, simultaneously, G-d hears us. Facilitating these holy moments, and raising up our holy melody, is the charge of the cantor. I have learned so much from my teachers and friends about G-d in music, and I will never stop learning.

SCHOOL OF JEWISH MUSIC

President, Hebrew College

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Cantor Lynn Torgove, MAJS '11, Can '12

Senior Advisor

Cantor Louise Treitman, MM

Visiting Professor and Senior Consultant

Joshua Jacobson, DMA

Faculty and Cantorial Coaches

Cantor Marcie Jonas, Can '10

Frank Kelley

Cantor Becky Khitrik, MAJS '14, Can '14

Cantor Jeffrey Klepper

Amy Lieberman

Cantor Brian Mayer, PhD

Cantor Michael McCloskey, MEd '07, Can '07

Judith Pinnolis

Cantor Elias Rosemberg

Cantor Robbie Solomon

Samuel Zerlin, PhD

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Laurena Rosenberg, Administrator

Marcia Spellman, Administrator