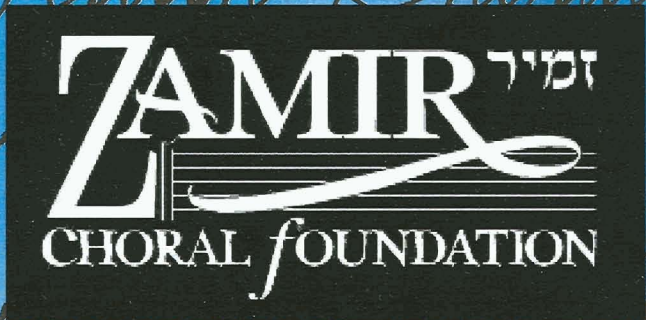


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MATTHEW LAZAR
FOUNDER AND
DIRECTOR

ZAMIR
CHORAL
FOUNDATION

The Zamir Choral Foundation, founded and directed by Matthew Lazar, is the visionary, leading force in the Jewish world for sustaining and advancing the Jewish choral tradition. What's more, Zamir is at the center of a growing movement that preserves and fosters Jewish choral music, Jewish identity, and interdenominational Jewish understanding and cooperation throughout the world.

The Foundation has touched thousands through its outstanding efforts, which include:

- Unifying and training the leaders and singers of the Jewish choral movement;
- Fostering Jewish commitment in youth through Jewish choral singing;
- Commissioning and premiering important new Jewish choral works;

Creating dynamic, cutting edge Jewish music programming;

Providing unwavering support for and unflinching solidarity with Israel, and

- Performing in high-profile appearances in New York, and throughout the U.S. and Israel.

The Zamir Choral Foundation has several major programs, which include:

The North American Jewish Choral Festival
HaZamir: The National Jewish High School Choir
The Jeanne R. Mandell Endowment
The Zamir Chorale
Zamir Choral Foundation Missions To Israel
Special Programs, Conferences,
and the National Jewish Chorale

The Zamir Choral

a network...

...an expanding group of choirs across North America that offers those who love to sing the opportunity to join together to perform a rich repertoire of Jewish choral music past and present. Under Zamir's guidance and encouragement, many new choirs have formed in communities across North America and Europe.

an educational organization...

...bringing together scholars, teachers, performers, practitioners and enthusiasts to learn and perform with the highest standards for repertoire and performance. Through concerts, conferences, workshops, publishing and the exchange of information, Zamir is expanding the body of knowledge about Jewish choral music and introducing generations, new and old, to the vital role of Jewish choral music in our culture.

Foundation is...

*a catalyst for traditional
and new music...*

...helping bring about a rebirth of Jewish choral music. Zamir has worked to rediscover and promote the music of our past. And, through the Jeanne R. Mandell Endowment, we have fostered a generation of new composers and works to extend and expand that centuries-old tradition. In addition, the Foundation's network of choirs has commissioned exciting new compositions that add to the repertoire, and they have become the vehicles for the performance of this new body of music.

*a living example of
Klal Yisrael...*

...with members spanning the streams of Judaism and uniting in the creation of a choral community of harmony, understanding and participation that is a real model for the larger Jewish community.

Our key programs

The North American Jewish Choral Festival

Held each summer annually since 1990, The North American Jewish Choral Festival is the premiere Jewish choral event anywhere. It brings together singers and choirs from across North America, with a renowned teaching staff of conductors, composers and other music professionals to sing, learn and share the joy of Jewish music. The Festival features five days of intensive workshops, study, performances, concerts, and fun and friendship. More than 500 participants take part in daily community sings and "instant ensembles", led by acclaimed conductors, which rehearse for four days and perform at a gala closing concert; evening concerts, feature outstanding vocal ensembles, choruses and soloists; workshops cover everything from vocal and conducting techniques to the history of Jewish music and ritual; and late night gatherings, include Jewish music sing-alongs, videos and more. The Festival attracts amateur singers, professional soloists, cantors, conductors, and lovers of Jewish music from across the spectrum and denominations in an unforgettable experience.

HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir

HaZamir is the international Jewish High School Choir that was created by Matthew Lazar to provide Jewish teens with a high level choral experience in a Jewish environment. Local HaZamir chapters exist in cities across the United States, Canada, London and Madrid. Each HaZamir chapter meets weekly in its own city to rehearse Jewish choral music. Although each HaZamir chapter is autonomous in its own city, there is a body of music that all HaZamirs learn so that they can perform together at the HaZamir annual Festival. By providing a high-quality, structured program, HaZamir's unique experience helps foster a lifelong commitment to Jewish culture and music in young people, and builds a strong foundation for future Jewish involvement among its participants.

The Ruth K. Westheimer Scholarship Fund

The fund was created to help teens who have a musical gift, but do not have the financial means, to participate in the HaZamir Festival or HaZamir musical retreats.

The Jeanne R. Mandell Endowment

Zamir's active and ongoing commitment to the creation and performance of new works is a key element of its mission to ensure the future of Jewish choral music. The Jeanne R. Mandell Endowment, established in 2002, assures annual funding for commissioning a new work to be premiered by an ensemble affiliated with the Foundation, and its dissemination throughout the choral community. Since its establishment, the Endowment has been responsible for the creation of many new choral works which have expanded and enriched the Jewish choral tradition.

include:

The Zamir Chorale

The Zamir Chorale, founded in 1960 by Stanley Sperber and directed by Matthew Lazar since 1972, has become the leading voice of the Jewish choral movement. The choir has won international acclaim for its superior performances, encompassing the full spectrum of four centuries and more of Jewish choral repertoire. Zamir has commissioned and premiered works by contemporary North American and Israeli composers. The Chorale has collaborated with Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, Daniel Barenboim and others in choral/orchestral performances. The Chorale has also appeared with a diverse array of personalities including Elie Wiesel, Naomi Shemer, Dr. Ruth Westheimer, Tom Chapin, Richie Havens, Danny Kaye, Theodore Bikel, Hershel Bernardi and Shoshana Damari. During its more than 40 years of creating Jewish harmony, Zamir's musical leadership has thrilled tens of thousands in audiences across generational and denominational lines, and has set the standard for Jewish choral music in North America.

Zamir Choral Missions To Israel

Since 1967, Zamir, a dedicated, committed Zionist organization, has been sponsoring Israel programs, bringing singers from all over North America to Israel featuring performances, touring and cultural exchanges. In the past several years, the Zamir Choral Foundation's annual summer Mission to Israel has included outreach and comfort to victims of terror, and support for our brothers and sisters who live there. During the last intifadah, Zamir led five missions to Israel.

Other Programs

The Foundation's dynamic programs open new doors for Jewish culture. In 2002, the first major international conference on the 17th-century hero of Jewish choral music, Salamone Rossi, was featured in *The New York Times*. Zamir sponsors regional choral festivals. Zamir has pioneered Jewish cultural programming on December 24th and sponsors an annual Open Sing on December 25th in New York City. The Foundation also convenes the National Jewish Chorale, a gathering of singers from the finest Jewish choruses in America, to celebrating significant events in the life of the Jewish people.



For information about
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