

IMMERSE YOURSELF  
IN SOME OF THE  
MOST BEAUTIFUL  
JEWISH MELODIES

SPANNING  
CENTURIES  
AND ETHNIC  
TRADITIONS,

AS WE REFLECT ON  
THE CENTRALITY  
OF TIME IN OUR  
TRADITION

AND MARVEL AT  
THE ETERNAL  
BEAUTY OF OUR  
WORLD

# SINGING IN JEWISH TIME



## SHIREI CHESED COMMUNITY CHORUS

Artistic Director: **Cantor Natasha J. Hirschhorn**  
Cantorial Intern: **Toby Banks**



Na'asha J. Hirschhorn



Toby Banks



Barry Banks

### WITH SPECIAL GUESTS:

Grammy Nominated Tenor **Barry Banks**

Naomi Katz Cohen *Soprano*

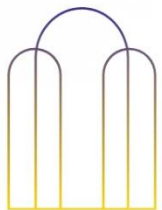
Leo Dvorsky *Tenor*

Cantor Raphael Frieder *Baritone*

Alexandra Joan *Piano*

Mike Cohen *Woodwinds*

Ronen Itzik *Percussion*



a n s c h e  
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**Sunday, May 17, 2026**  
**1 Sivan 5786**

# Program

**To Everything There Is a Season**

**Aminadav Aloni (1928-1999)**

From Cantata "Koheleth" (1972), movement 3

*Shirei Chesed Community Choir*

*Soloist: Toby Banks*

*Alexandra Joan, piano*

**Bapardes LeYad HaShoket**

**Nurit Hirsch (1942 - ), arr. by M. B. Edelman**

*Shirei Chesed Community Choir*

*Alexandra Joan, piano; Mike Cohen, woodwinds*

*Ronen Itzik, percussion*

**May You Live to See Your World Fulfilled**

**Benjie Ellen Schiller (1958 - )**

*Naomi Katz Cohen, Natasha J. Hirschhorn,*

*Leo Dworsky, Raphael Frieder; Alexandra Joan, piano*

**Ah, El Novio No Quere Dinero**

**Alberto Hemsí (1897 - 1975)**

(from *Coplas Sefardies*, op. 8-4, X)

*Toby Banks, Mezzo Soprano*

*Natasha J. Hirschhorn, piano*

**Kaddish**

**Maurice Ravel (1875-1937)**

(from *Deux mélodies hébraïques*)

*Natasha J. Hirschhorn, Soprano*

*Alexandra Joan, piano*

***Limnot Yameinu***

**Natasha J. Hirschhorn (1971 - )**

Commissioned by Elizabeth A. Haas  
and Steven G. Edersheim in honor of the retirement  
of Cantor Benjie Ellen Schiller and Rabbi Les Bronstein  
*Naomi Katz Cohen, Natasha J. Hirschhorn,  
Leo Dworsky, Raphael Frieder; Alexandra Joan, piano*

**A la Una Yona Si**

**Sephardi Folk Song, arranged by N. Hirschhorn**

*Natasha J. Hirschhorn, vocals and piano;  
Mike Cohen, woodwinds; Ronen Itzik, percussion*

**Zol Nokh Zayn Shabes (Let The Sabbath Linger)**

**Sholom Secunda (1894-1974)**

*Toby Banks, Mezzo Soprano  
Natasha J. Hirschhorn, piano*

**Zog Zhe Mir Rebenyu**

**Yiddish Folk Song, arr. by S. Kisselgof (1878-1939)**

*Barry Banks, Tenor and Toby Banks, Mezzo Soprano  
Alexandra Joan, piano*

**Hine Hine**

**Mati Caspi (1949 - 2026)**

*Natasha J. Hirschhorn, vocals and piano;  
Mike Cohen, woodwinds; Ronen Itzik, percussion*

**Sing with us! Shirah b'Tzibur**

*Natasha J. Hirschhorn, vocals and piano;  
Mike Cohen, woodwinds; Ronen Itzik, percussion*

**Machar**

**Words and music by Naomi Shemer (1930-2004)**

***Shek'shenavo***

Hebrew words by Eli Mohar, translated from the original Greek by Giorgos Kalamariotis, music by Argiris Kounadis

***Et Dodim Kalah***

From a piyut based on Song of Songs, Chapter 6  
Written by Hayyim ben Sahel (10th century), traditional Moroccan melody

***Eretz***

Idan Raichel (1977 - ), arr. by N. Hirschhorn

*Shirei Chesed Community Choir*

*Soloists: Rachel Brudner, Natasha Hirschhorn*

*Alexandra Joan, piano; Mike Cohen, woodwinds;*

*Ronen Itzik, percussion*

***Ashirah - I Will Sing***

**Natasha Hirschhorn**

Commissioned by Shir Chadash: the Brooklyn Jewish Community Chorus in honor of their 25th Anniversary

*Shirei Chesed Community Choir, Soloist: Toby Banks*

*Alexandra Joan, piano; Mike Cohen, woodwinds;*

*Ronen Itzik, percussion*

**Turn, Turn, Turn**

**Peter Seeger (1919 - 2014), arr. by Linda Palmer**

*Shirei Chesed Community Choir*

*Soloists: Naomi Katz Cohen, Leo Dworsky*

*Alexandra Joan, piano; Jeff Segall, guitar;*

*Mike Cohen, woodwinds; Ronen Itzik, percussion;*

*Conducted by Toby Banks*

# Translations

## To Everything There Is a Season

English text by Ami Aloni, based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

To everything there is a season.  
And a time for every purpose under the heavens.  
There is a time to be born, there is a time to die.  
There is a time to plant, there is a time to uproot.

A time to kill. A time to heal. A time to wreck. A time to build.  
There is a time to weep. There is a time to laugh.  
There is a time to mourn, there is a time to dance.  
A time to scatter stones and a time to gather stones together.  
A time to embrace and a time to hold off embraces.

To everything there is a season...

There is a time to seek. There is a time to lose.  
There is a time to keep. There is a time to cast off.  
There is a time to tear. There is a time to repair.  
There is a time to be silent. There is a time to speak.  
A time to love. A time to hate. A time of war. A time of peace.

## ***Bapardes***

Text by Yoram Toharlev

In the orchard, next to the (drinking) trough,  
Among the evening shadows and the greenery,  
and a bird drinks;  
A grapefruit is still hung between summer and winter,  
and so am I.

*I am still walking, searching for her, the love of my life,  
And I know the season is over; so is my youth.*

The sun is burning on high, but here the evening is deep,  
and it is almost autumn.  
If you lose your way and come back,  
our love will still be here, and so will I.

*I am still walking...*

The smell of the water,  
(and) twilight shadows rest on the path.  
In the evening the two of us will come back  
and walk barefoot in the sand...

## **May You Live to See Your World Fulfilled**

Text by Lawrence Kushner after Babylonian Talmud,  
*B'rachot 17a*

May you live to see your world fulfilled.  
May your destiny be for worlds still to come.  
May you trust in generations past and yet to be.  
May you live to see your world fulfilled.

May your eyes shine with the light of holy words,  
And your face reflect the brightness of the heavens.  
May your lips ever speak wisdom,  
Your fulfillment be in justice.  
Even as you ever yearn to listen  
to the words of the Holy Ancient One of Old.  
May you live to see your world fulfilled.

## **Ah, El Novio No Kere Dinero (Ah, the groom doesn't want money!)**

Text: Sephardi Folk Song

Ah, the groom doesn't want money!  
He wants the bride with good luck  
I'm here to see, let them enjoy and succeed  
and have a lot of good times!

Ah, the groom doesn't want ducats!  
He wants the bride with good luck...  
Ah, the groom doesn't want fancy stuff!  
He wants the bride full of joy!

## **Kaddish**

Text: Jewish Liturgy

Magnified and sanctified is the great name of God throughout the world, which was created according to Divine will. May the rule of peace be established speedily in our time, unto us and unto the entire household of Israel. And let us say: Amen.

May God's great name be praised throughout all eternity. Glorified and celebrated, lauded and praised, acclaimed and honored, extolled and exalted ever be the name of the Holy One, far beyond all song and psalm, beyond all hymns of glory which mortals can offer. And let us say: Amen. May there be abundant peace from heaven, with life's goodness for us and for all thy people Israel. And let us say: Amen.

May the One who brings peace to the universe bring peace to us and to all the people Israel. And let us say: Amen.

## **Limnot Yameinu**

Hebrew text: Psalm 90:12 and 17; Psalm 19:3-4, Morning prayers. Textual adaptation and English translation by Natasha J. Hirschhorn

To count our days,  
to count each one,  
teach us to count our days.  
Teach us to number each of our days  
So our hearts could grow,  
Could grow wise

Day to day, its speech unfolding,  
and night unto night the wisdom is flowing.  
There's not a word, nor a sentence,  
whose sound goes unheard...  
The sound goes unheard...

May Your splendor  
May Your beauty, Adonai,  
our God, be upon us.  
May Your sweetness manifest  
throughout our lives,  
day and night You form,

As You roll Light through Darkness  
And Darkness into Light,  
And in Your goodness You renew  
every precious day  
all the work of Your hands,

So, too, may You  
with Love renew  
the work of our mortal hands.

May it last beyond us,  
filling the world with beauty

## **A la Una Yo Naci**

Text: Sephardi Folk Song

At one o'clock I was born,  
At two I grew up,  
At three I found my beloved,  
At four I married her.

Tell me, young girl, from where you come  
That I want to get to know you  
And if you do not have a beloved, I will defend you.

Going to war two kisses I blew to the wind  
The first is for my mother  
The other is for you.  
With all my soul, life and heart.

## **Zol Nokh Zayn Shabes (Let The Sabbath Linger)**

Words by H. Roisenblatt (1878-1956)

Oh, grandmother, don't recite yet "God of Abraham." What's your hurry today? The sun has not yet set in the west. Oh, grandmother, wait still a bit. Do not disturb the peace of the holy Sabbath - the quiet, holy rest. No stars can be seen yet in the sky. Oh, wait still another moment.

"God of Abraham" - it pulls us back in the heavy daily yoke - to bear the Exile, the *kheder*, the teacher, the burden and cares of the week. The grandmother stands frozen at the window. She is deaf to my pleas. "Oh, God of Abraham," - and a tear rolls down on the dark window pane.

## **Zog Zhe Mir Rebenyu**

Text: Yiddish Folk Song

Tell us, dear Rabbi!  
What will happen when the Messiah comes?  
When the Messiah comes, we will have a feast.  
What will we eat at this feast?  
The Leviathan with the Wild Ox.

What will we drink at this feast?  
— The wine of the righteous we will drink. . .

Who will explicate the Torah to us at this feast?  
— Moses, our Teacher will explain the Torah. . .

Who will play for us at this feast?  
— David the King will play for us. . .

Who will provide us with words of wisdom at this feast?  
— Solomon the King will provide us with words of wisdom

Who will dance for us at this feast?  
— Miriam the Prophetess will dance for us. . .

## **Hine Hine**

Text: Ehud Manor

Here it is, here, here  
A melody that begins low  
A melody that begins in e flat  
But wants to, wants to grow  
To a flat, f minor  
Looking for its way  
And here it is ascending and ascending

*I didn't know it would run away  
I didn't know it would fly so far  
I didn't know it would forget me  
Would be so insolent and talk back: to say:  
Here it is, here, here,*

Another year that begins slowly,  
Another year that begins to grow today  
Now it crawls and tomorrow suddenly  
It will say goodbye like a dream  
It will hurry along its way  
And here it is ascending and ascending

*I didn't know it would run away...*

A love that begins deeply  
A love that promises to be close  
That promises to be so so good  
Beautiful until it ends  
Still small but can grow  
And here is ascending and ascending

*I didn't know it would run away...*

That was my melody  
A melody that loved me a year  
But suddenly changed  
Took off and is no longer  
And it is no longer, it's gone...

## **Machar – Tomorrow**

Machar ulai nafliga basfinot  
Mechof Eilat ad chof Shenhav  
V'al hamash'chatot hayeshanot  
Yatinu tapuchei zahav.

*Kol ze eino mashal v'lo chalom  
Ze nachon ka'or batzohorayim  
Kol ze yavo machar im lo hayom  
V'im lo machar az mochrotayim.*

Machar yakumu elef shikunim  
V'shir ya'uf bamirpasot  
Ushlal kalaniyot v'tsivonim  
Ya'alu mitoch haharisot.

*Kol ze eino...*  
Tomorrow perhaps we will set sail  
From the shores of Eilat to the Ivory Coast  
And on the old destroyers  
Oranges will be loaded.

*All this is not a fairy tale and not a dream  
It is true as the light of noon  
All this will come tomorrow, if not today,  
And if not tomorrow, then the day after.*

Tomorrow, a thousand buildings will rise  
And a song will hover on the terraces,  
And a blaze of anemones and tulips  
Will burst from amongst the ruins.

*All this is not a fairy tale...*

## Shekshenavo – When We arrive

Hazman et hashanim yanis,  
uk'tzat bina balev machnis,  
aval yeshnam d'varim  
shehu od lo gilah li.  
Ha'im yifrach li od shoshan,  
ha'im na'or bi nitzotz noshan,  
ha'im besof haderech  
mechakah t'shuvah li?

*Chorus:*

*Ve'ech ned'a im yesh tikvah.  
Shek'shenavo, shek'shenavo  
nimtza t'shuvah.*

Le'an nimshechet ham'silah,  
le'an holechet hat'filah,  
umi yashiv lashe'elah,  
umi yishm'a li?  
Umi yiftach li levavo,  
ve'im elech le'an avo?  
ha'im besof haderech  
mechakah t'shuvah li?

*Chorus*

Time will put the years to flight,  
and puts a little understanding  
in the heart,  
but there are things  
that it still doesn't reveal to me.  
Will another lily bloom for me,  
will an old spark awaken within me?  
at the end of the day,  
does an answer await me?

*Chorus:*

*And how will we know if there is hope.  
That when we will arrive,  
we will find an answer.*

Where does the path continue,  
where does the prayer go,  
and who will answer the question,  
Who will hear me?  
And who will open his heart to me,  
and if I go, where will I arrive?  
at the end of the day,  
Does an answer await me?

*Chorus*

## **Et Dodim - The Time of Love**

*Et dodim kala  
bo'i l'gani  
Par'cha hagefen  
Heneitsu rimonim*

The time for love has come, my bride;  
Come to my garden,  
The vine is blooming  
And the pomegranate is budding

## Eretz – Land

Text: Idan Raichel

A land flowing with milk  
And honey and news  
A land of tranquil days and battle days  
Hipsters, rabbis, sand and gold  
A land with a sea  
And a sea of anxiety  
A land of rival soccer teams,  
for the left-wing and right,  
City and small town, mosque and monastery

A land flowing with milk  
And honey and news  
A land of tranquil days and battle days  
Hipsters, rabbis, sand and gold  
A land with a sea  
And a sea of anxiety  
A land of rival soccer teams,  
for the left-wing and right,  
City and small town, mosque and monastery

And we begin once again,  
Turning all pain into song  
But, my soul mate,  
Even when it is hard  
There will be more life

After all the bad days  
After all the hardships,  
we will soften up  
It may take 40 years in the desert,  
but there will be more life

We will sew up all the tatters  
Time will heal our wounds  
It may take 40 years in the desert,  
but there will be more life.

A land flowing with milk  
And honey and wars  
A land of left- and right-wing  
Filo pastries and hot stews  
Races and genders  
O Mama, so much drama!  
Who will give us a little rest? A little life?

After all the bad days  
After all the hardship, we will soften up  
It may take 40 years in the desert,  
but there will be more life

We will sew up all the tatters  
Time will heal our wounds  
It may take 40 years in the desert...

And we begin once again,  
Turning all pain into song  
But, my soul mate,  
Even when it is hard  
There will be more life

A land where the censor has cleared for publication....  
a moment of silence. We will fall and we will rise.

## Ashirah

Text: Psalm 57:7-11

They prepared a net for my feet to ensnare me;  
they dug a pit for me,  
but they fell into it. *Selah*.  
My heart is firm, O God;  
my heart is firm;  
I will sing, I will chant a hymn.  
Awake, O my soul!  
Awake, O harp and lyre!  
I will wake the dawn.  
I will praise You among the peoples, O Lord;  
I will sing a hymn to You among the nations;  
for Your faithfulness is as high as heaven;  
Your steadfastness reaches to the sky.

## **Turn Turn Turn**

Based on Ecclesiastes, chapter 3:1-8

To everything, turn, turn, turn  
There is a season, turn, turn, turn  
And a time for every purpose under heaven.

A time to be born, a time to die.  
A time to plant, a time to reap.  
A time to kill, a time to heal.  
A time to laugh, a time to weep.  
To everything, turn, turn, turn...

A time to build up, a time to break down.  
A time to dance, a time to mourn.  
A time to cast away stones. A time to gather stones together.  
To everything, turn, turn, turn...

A time of love, a time of hate.  
A time of war, a time of peace.  
A time you may embrace. A time to refrain from embracing.  
To everything, turn, turn, turn...

A time to gain, a time to lose.  
A time to rend, a time to sew.  
A time of love, a time of hate.  
A time of peace. I swear it's not too late!  
To everything, turn, turn, turn...

## Performers

### *Shirei Chesed* Community Chorus at *Ansche Chesed*

*Hazzan Natasha J. Hirschhorn, Artistic Director*

*Toby Banks, Cantorial Intern*

Shirei Chesed Community Chorus continues to build community through learning a rich and diverse repertoire of Jewish music, and bring harmony into the world that needs it more than ever. Our 4-part chorus brings together lovers of choral singing from both Ansche Chesed and the wider Jewish community. Our recent performances include classical programs with The Bachanalia String Orchestra, a jazz concert with The Afro-Semitic Experience ensemble, Oratorio *Souls on Fire* based on the book by Elie Wiesel, multiple concerts with *Nashirah: The Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia*, performed both at AC and at the Curtis Institute of Music, and a collaboration with the Grammy nominated vocal sextet *The Western Wind*.

In addition to our concert work, we help build community through song in our Shirei Shabbat Friday night services at Ansche Chesed.

If you are inspired to join us, please reach out to Cantor Hirschhorn at [NHirschhorn@AnscheChesed.org](mailto:NHirschhorn@AnscheChesed.org) for more information or to schedule an audition.



Since arriving in the US in 1992 from Kyiv, Ukraine, **Cantor Natasha Hirschhorn** has devoted her life to creating and leading both traditional and innovative services and educating the next generation of Jewish musical leaders. Ordained as Hazzan by the Academy for Jewish

Religion, Hirschhorn is the Hazzan and Music Director at Anshe Chesed in the Upper West Side since 2004, and has served as cantorial faculty at the AJR, H. L. Miller Cantorial School at The Jewish Theological Seminary and the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. With a notable career as a singer, pianist, and composer, she has performed most recently at the 15th International Lewis Lewandowski Festival of Jewish Music in Berlin, as well at prestigious venues across North America, including Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Curtis Institute of Music and both Berkeley and Toronto Jewish Music Festivals, among others. Her numerous compositions include commissioned works from Hazamir: the International Jewish Teen Choir, the Bachanalia String Orchestra, and the Western Wind Vocal Ensemble. She was honored by the Cantors Assembly with the Cantor Moshe Nathanson Award for Conducting, and is this year's recipient of The Dr. Jack Gottlieb Yovel Prize, recognizing a living composer who has made a noteworthy contribution to the corpus of Jewish music through artistic excellence, vision, creativity, and innovation.



**Toby Banks** is a fourth-year cantorial student at the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Anshe Chesed cantorial intern. Prior to Cantorial School, she had a 20+ year career as both a professional classical singer and a development professional. Described by the New York Times as "fresh-voiced and sympathetic," Toby

has performed with opera companies and symphony orchestras in major concert halls across the United States, from New York City to Los Angeles, Honolulu to Anchorage and beyond. In addition to the classical opera and concert repertoire, she made a name for herself in the world of avant-garde and contemporary classical music and has been a

featured soloist in countless premieres and recordings with such world-renowned composers as Meredith Monk, Thomas Pasatieri, and Huang Ruo. Upcoming you can find her singing the alto solos at Carnegie Hall in Emerson Eads' Mass for the Oppressed, and on a bima near you.



Twice Grammy nominated tenor **Barry Banks** has sung in most of the major Opera Houses in the world spanning a 44 year career including: The ROH, Covent Garden, La Scala, Milan, Wiener Staatsoper, Paris Opera, Liceu, Barcelona, Teatro Real, Madrid, LA, San Francisco, Teatro San Carlo, Naples, and the Salzburg, Glyndebourne, and Edinburgh Festivals etc etc. He made his US debut as Candide at the Chicago Lyric in 1994 and has enjoyed a 30-year career at the Metropolitan Opera singing mainly lead roles in the Bel Canto repertoire. His discography includes recordings for Phillips, Sony, Chandos, EMI, Teldec, Telarc, RCA, BBC. Having spent his career singing the high-pressure bel canto rep he is now enjoying life in the character rep alongside being Adjunct Professor of Voice at the Johns Hopkins Peabody Institute. He is enjoying life being a daddy to Belinda and looking forward to his wife Toby graduating from JTS and showing him the life to which he wants to become accustomed!



Director of HeschelNotes and Heschel HalfNotes choirs, **Naomi Katz Cohen** is currently in her 32nd year of music teaching, and her 14th year of teaching at The Abraham Joshua Heschel School. She received her Bachelor of Music from The Mason Gross School of the Arts at Rutgers University in NJ, and her Master of Arts degree from New York University in Music Education, where she finished her Kodály levels training.

Naomi is serving her 2nd term on the OAKE national board and was the National Conference Program Chair for the 2006 OAKE national conference and the Program Co-chair for the 2017 OAKE national conference. Naomi has been a sought after clinician, having done workshops for several chapters in OAKE, and she has given sessions at 3 OAKE conferences as well as at the 2015 International Kodály Seminar. As a professional singer in the New York metropolitan area, Naomi is a regular high holy days soloist, has performed several opera roles in small opera companies in NYC, and was featured as a soloist with The Glass Menagerie Choir and the Cantigas' Women's choir. Naomi has recorded a classical CD, *Las Piedras del Cielo*. She is a frequent service leader and performer at *Anshe Chesed*, and has been teaching at the Jewish Theological Seminary since 2024.



**Cantor Raphael Frieder** is a teacher and master of *Nusach Hat'filah*, a composer of many congregational tunes, and a leading Hazzan in the United States. He served at Temple Israel of Great Neck as the full time Hazzan for thirty years, recently becoming Cantor Emeritus, and has been teaching at the Jewish Theological Seminary in the H. L. Miller Cantorial School for the last twenty-five years. Raphael Frieder sang with Zubin Mehta and Leonard Bernstein, among others. He recorded for the Milken Archive of Jewish Music, and has released several albums. An album of his own compositions is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2026. Cantor Frieder has performed in prestigious concert halls in Israel, Europe, and the United States, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and, most recently, at the United Nations, where he was invited to sing the memorial prayer, *El Male Rachamim*, and the closing song, *Ani Ma'amin* (I Believe), at the annual Holocaust Memorial Observance ceremony.



**Leo Dworsky** is a first-year Master of Sacred Music (MSM) student in the Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary. His work is guided by a deep passion for music and community building. Before beginning his studies at JTS, Leo earned a Bachelor of Music (BM) in Vocal Performance and Jewish Studies at the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

He has performed with the Mill City Professional Opera, Buffalo Community Orchestra, Rochester Symphony, and WCCO Channel Four. Operatic credits include Podestá in Mozart's *La Finta Giardiniera* and Dr. Blind in Strauss' *Die Fledermaus*. In Spring 2025, Leo performed the role of Basilio in Mozart's *Le Nozze di Figaro* with the University of Minnesota Opera Theater. Leo was a Showcase Artist and scholarship winner for Thursday Musical and Minnesota Varsity (Classical Minnesota Public Radio). Currently, he serves as Cantorial Intern at Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley and maintains a private studio teaching voice and piano students.

“Elegant... refreshingly temperamental” (The New York Times) French pianist **Alexandra Joan** is an active soloist and sought-after chamber player who performs extensively in Europe and in the United States. She has appeared at major venues and festivals in Europe, Israel, and the United States, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Bargemusic, The Greene Space, Dame Myra Hess in Chicago, Perlman Music Program, La Roque d'Anthéron Festival, Colmar International Festival, and Tel Hai. Her recital and chamber music performances have been featured on major radio stations in the United States and in Europe. She has won prizes at the Andorra International Competition, the Arriaga Chamber Music Competition, and the Josef Suk International Competition in Prague. Her first solo CD “Dances and Songs” was released in 2014 on the Victor Elmaleh Collection

and was one of the “Critic’s Pick” for the New York Times. She is also the pianist on "Sea of Reeds", an album of Gerald Cohen’s music for clarinet and chamber ensemble released by Navona Records in 2014. An advocate of new music and a curator interested in multidisciplinary projects, she organized concert series, works regularly with young composers and has premiered a number of chamber and solo works.

Ms. Joan received degrees from the Paris Conservatory, the Juilliard School and more recently a doctorate from the CUNY Graduate Center. A passionate educator, she taught at CUNY, and since 2025 is an Assistant Professor of Music at RVCC in New Jersey.



**Mike Cohen** is a versatile saxophonist and woodwind player based in New York City. His latest recording, “Winter Sun” reached #3 on the jazz charts. He has performed with the Eric Person Big Band, Duke Ellington Band, Ray Vega, Hank Jones, Harvey S, Ron Horton and Eddie Allen in venues as diverse as Lincoln Center, the Blue Note, Dizzy’s Coca Cola,

Weill Hall at Carnegie Hall, the Sarasota Opera House, and Montreal Jazz Festival. In addition, he has appeared in many Broadway and off Broadway shows. Cohen has made 2 trips to Uganda to record and produce 2 CD’s with the Jewish village of Putti. He is also an RS Berkeley performing artist and endorses their alto and soprano sax as well as LaBeau clarinet and alto flute. His next project is a recording with his quintet of music inspired by the artwork of Joan Mira. For more info visit [www.mikeocohenmusic.com](http://www.mikeocohenmusic.com).



A native of Jerusalem, Israel, drummer **Ronen Itzik** relocated to the United States in late 2000. After completing degrees at Berklee College of Music and Florida State University, he established a reputation as an in-demand drummer and sought-after recording artist in New York City. He has incorporated his unique background and knowledge of diverse musical styles into performances at venues such as the Village Vanguard, Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Blue Note and Bimhuis. His numerous international appearances include jazz festivals in Israel, Germany, Korea, Spain, Belgium, Colombia, Canada and Ukraine. He has performed and recorded with jazz greats Lee Konitz, Gary Burton, Kenny Werner, Roy Hargrove, Marcus Roberts, and Arnie Lawrence among many others. Ronen has been an adjunct professor at Penn State University between 2022-2024 teaching drum set, ensemble and big band.

## Upcoming Events at Ansche Chesed:



**Shavuot “Pre-Kun” Under the Stars:  
Wrestling & Embracing the Commandments**  
Thursday, May 21, 7:30 – 9:30pm at Ansche Chesed

Join us to greet Shavuot with study, celebration, and cheesecake on the AC roof. This year, AC members and clergy will reflect on mitzvot we do and don't yet do. Come think with David Morris about the ethics of paying everyone on the books, with Julie Hirschfeld and Rabbi Kalmanofsky about gratitude and reciting food blessings, and with Rabbi Hammerman about tefilla. How can normative practices in these areas bring our values and ideas into real life? RSVP: [AnscheChesed.org/Tikkun](https://AnscheChesed.org/Tikkun).



**Shavuot Lunch & Discussion  
with Israeli Poetry Teacher Rachel Korazim**  
Friday, May 22, after services (around 12:30pm)

Join us to welcome Rachel Korazim, one of Israel's and the Jewish People's foremost teachers of Hebrew poetry. She will present material from Natan Alterman's weekly poetry column, which ran for 30 years in the newspaper *Davar*. Though he died in 1970, he remains a vital voice holding two simultaneous truths: a loving commitment to Israel and a clear call to correct its shortcomings. RSVP: [AnscheChesed.org/Poetry](https://AnscheChesed.org/Poetry).



**Shavuot service schedule:** [AnscheChesed.org/Shavuot](https://AnscheChesed.org/Shavuot).

**Ansche Chesed Hebrew School Open House**  
Tuesday, June 9, 5:30 – 6:30pm at Ansche Chesed

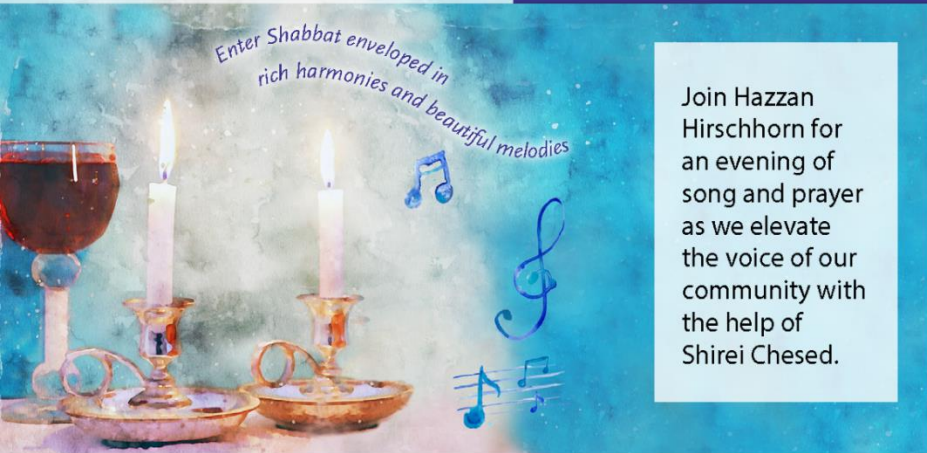
Thinking about joining our Hebrew School... or to convince friends/family to join? Come get a taste of what it's like! Parents and children invited for activities with ACHS teachers and pizza! Learn more and RSVP by contacting Education Director Aliza Sebert at 212-865-0600 x217 or [ASebert@anschechesed.org](mailto:ASebert@anschechesed.org).

FRIDAY, MAY 29 @ 6:30pm

SHIREI SHABBAT



@ANSCHECHESED



Join Hazzan Hirschhorn for an evening of song and prayer as we elevate the voice of our community with the help of Shirei Chesed.

## Shirei Shabbat: Musical Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Potluck Dinner with Zemirot

Service at 6:30pm  
Dinner around 7:45pm

Lift your voice with us in holy harmony, *b'nima kedosha*. Come hear what musical surprises Hazzan Hirschhorn, intern Toby Banks and the Shirei Chesed Chorus have for you!

Stick around for a potluck Shabbat Dinner on the Roof, with spirited zemirot!



Please register for the dinner at  
[AnsheChesed.org/Dinner](https://AnsheChesed.org/Dinner)



Scan to donate to our Music Fund, supporting this concert and future musical programming, or go to  
[AnsheChesed.org/ConcertDonation](https://AnsheChesed.org/ConcertDonation)