



# ***Hatishma Koli:*** **CAN YOU HEAR MY VOICE?**

*Songs of Longing, Hope and Praise*



**Shirei Chesed  
Community  
Chorus  
New York**

Artistic  
Director:  
**Cantor  
Natasha  
Hirschhorn**



**Nashirah:  
the Jewish  
Chorale  
of Greater  
Philadelphia**

Artistic  
Director:  
**Dr. Julia  
Zavadsky**



Choral intern:  
**Marc Szechter**

Collaborative Pianist:  
**Soyeon Bin**

**Sunday, December 8**  
**Ansche Chesed**  
251 West 100th street  
New York, NY 10025

**Sunday, December 15**  
**Temple Beth Zion-**  
**Beth Israel**  
300 S 18th St  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

With a Special Guest:  
Philadelphia Ballet Demi Soloist  
**Yuval Cohen**



**Thank You For Helping Us  
Build Community Through Harmony**

# Program with Translations:

## Nashirah and Shirei Chesed Choirs

### Prayer for Divine Protection / *Esa Einai*

*Text: Psalm 121 (adapted by N. Hirschhorn)*

*Music: Hanna Havriletz*

*Soloist: Soyeon Bin*

A song for ascents.

I lift my eyes to the mountains; from where will my help come?

My help comes from the LORD, maker of heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot give way;

your guardian will not slumber;

See, the guardian of Israel neither slumbers nor sleeps!

The LORD is your guardian,

the LORD is your protection at your right hand.

By day the sun will not strike you, nor the moon by night.

The LORD will guard you from all harm;

God will guard your life.

The LORD will guard your going and coming now and forever.

## **That Love** (excerpt)

*Text: Khalil Gibran, Music: Wisam Gibran*

*Dedicated to Nashirah: the Jewish Choral of Greater Philadelphia and Shirei Chesed Community Chorus of Ansche Chesed. Dedicated to Julia Zavadsky and Natasha Hirschhorn, Nazareth 2018*

For Love is sufficient unto Love

*(Translated from Arabic by Wisam Gibran)*

## ***Tzur Mishelo***

*Text: Friday night zemer (author unknown)*

*Music: Meir Finkelstein*

*Soloist: Cantor Natasha Hirschhorn*

**The Rock, from Whose bounty we have eaten:**

**Bless God, my faithful ones.**

**We have eaten our fill and yet food remains,**

**In accord with the word of Adonai.**

The One Who provides sustenance for the world:

Our Shepherd, our Father.

We have eaten of Your bread, and drunk of Your wine.

Therefore let us give thanks to Your name

and praise You with our mouths.

Let us say and respond yet again:

“There is none as holy as Adonai.”

**(Refrain)**

With song and the sound of thanksgiving  
let us bless You, our God  
For the land so desirable and good  
that You bequeathed to our ancestors.  
With food and sustenance have You sated our lives.  
Your graciousness was mighty for us,  
as was Your truth, Adonai!

**(Refrain)**

Have mercy, in Your graciousness,  
upon Your people, our Rock of strength  
And upon Zion, the dwelling-place of Your glory,  
The Temple that is our house of splendor.  
And the descendant of David Your servant  
will come forth and redeem us  
He is the very air we breathe:  
The anointed one of Adonai.

**(Refrain)**

The Holy Sanctuary will be rebuilt,  
and the City of Zion once again be filled (with pilgrims)  
And there we shall sing a new song,  
and with joy shall we ascend (to Jerusalem).  
The Holy and Merciful One, will be praised and exalted  
Over a full cup of wine,  
according to the blessing of Adonai.

## Shirei Chesed Community Choir

### *Tzur Mishelo*

*Text: Friday night zemer (author unknown)*

*Music: Gil Aldema*

(See the previous translation)

### *Acheinu – Our Siblings*

*Text: traditional liturgy, Music: Abi Rotenberg,  
arr. by N. Hirschhorn*

*Acheinu kol beit yisrael,  
han'tunim b'tzara uvashivyah,  
ha'omdim bein bayam  
uvein bayabasha.*

*Hamakom y'racheim aleihem  
v'yotziem mitzara lirvacha,  
umei'afeila l'orah umishibud lig'ulah,  
hashta ba'agala uvizman kariv.*

Our brothers, our sisters,  
the entire family of Israel,  
all who have been suffering from distress  
and taken into captivity,  
whether on the sea or on dry land.  
May the Ever-present One  
have mercy upon them  
and bring them out from suffering to relief,

from darkness to light,  
from oppression to redemption,  
now, speedily, and soon, and let us say, Amen.

## **The Choirs of Israel**

*Text: Shabbat morning liturgy,*

*English lyrics: Isaac Sonett-Assor*

*For the Intergenerational Community Choir of  
Westchester Reform Temple in honor of our  
congregation's 70th anniversary (2023)*

*Uv'mak'halot riv'vot amcha, Beit Yisrael...*

(And in great choirs shall all of Israel sing)

From your very first notes to your final masterpiece  
Come sing with us  
For the ones who have planted the song within your heart  
Sing it out loud!

For our chord is missing you  
And we need your brand new tune  
Together, let's make something beautiful!

For the feelings deep down that the words will not express  
Come find your voice  
For the aching and seeking, for the hope you won't suppress  
Let it ring out!

From the day we found our song,

We were taught to sing as one  
Today, let us make something beautiful!  
*B'rinah yitpa'eir Shim'cha b'chol dor vador*  
(In joy shall they glorify Your Name in each and every  
generation)

## **Concert Ensembles**

### ***Zemer Nugeh***

*Text: Rachel Bluwstein, Music: Shmulik Kraus*  
*Soloists: Soyeon Bin, Marc Szechter,*  
*Natasha Hirschhorn*

Will you hear my voice so far away from me  
Will you hear my voice wherever you are  
A strong voice praying silently over time  
Sending a blessing

This country is big and has many roads  
We meet for a moment and separate forever.  
A man tries, but his legs fail.  
He will never find what he has lost.

My final days are very close.  
Near is the day of goodbye tears.  
I will wait for you until my life ends.  
Like Rachel waited  
For her lover.

## **Show Me Your Ways, Oh Lord**

*Text: Psalm 25, Music: Charles Davidson  
(Nashirah Chamber Ensemble)*

Show me Your ways, O Lord;  
Teach me Your paths.  
Guide me in truth and teach me,  
The ways of Your salvation;  
Remember Your mercies and compassion.  
Turn to me, and be gracious;  
Keep my soul, and deliver me.

## ***Sulam Ya'akov* – Jacob's Ladder**

*Text: Yoram Taharlev, Music: Nurit Hirsch  
Soloists: Naomi Katz Cohen, Marc Szechter,  
Natasha Hirschhorn*

In the morning to the wet grass of my house,  
Came down from the sky with white wings,  
An angel from Jacob's Ladder.

Where will you come from and where will you go.  
From the Negev to the Gilad.  
Who will you see there, a good angel?  
The tent of Esau and the house of Jacob.

Before I could open my door to him  
He spread his wings and flew to the sky,  
An angel from Jacob's Ladder.



Please wait another moment, wait and I—  
Here I will go down the path of my garden  
And we will pick one of the jasmine flowers.  
Bring it, a gift to my brother Benjamin.

### **It Could Have Been Me**

*Text and Music: Lionel Faretein*

*Choreography: Oded Ronnen*

*Soloist: Yuval Cohen*

## **Nashirah and Shirei Chesed Choirs**

### **October Rain**

*Text and Music: Stav Beger, Karen Peles and Avi Ohayon*

*Choral arrangement: Natasha J. Hirschhorn,*

*commissioned by Rabbi Cantor Howard Glantz*

1. Writers of the history  
Stand with me  
Look into my eyes  
and see  
People go away  
but never say goodbye  
Someone stole the  
moon tonight  
Took my light  
Everything is black and  
white

Who's the fool who told  
you  
boys don't cry?

*Hours and hours and  
flowers*

*Life is no game for the  
cowards*

*Why does time go wild  
Every day I'm losing my  
mind*

*Holding on in this  
mysterious ride  
Dancing in the storm  
We got nothing to hide  
Take me home  
And leave the world  
behind*

*And I promise you that  
never again  
I'm still wet from this  
October rain  
October rain...*

2. Living in a fantasy.  
Ecstasy. Everything is  
meant to be.  
We shall pass but love  
will never die.

*Hours and hours and  
flowers  
Life is no game for the  
cowards  
Why does time go wild  
Every day I'm losing my  
mind*

*Holding on in this  
mysterious ride  
Dancing in the storm  
We got nothing to hide  
Take me home  
And leave the world  
behind  
And I promise you that  
never again  
I'm still wet from this  
October rain  
October rain*

...Don't need big words, just prayers,  
Even when it's hard to see.  
You will always remain my one small light

## **Nashirah: the Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia**

### ***Eli Eli – Walk to Caesaria***

*Text: Hannah Senesh, Music: D. Zahavi,  
arr. By Gil. Aldema*

My God, My God  
May these things never end:  
The sand and the sea  
The rush of the water  
The lightning in the sky  
The prayer of a person.

### ***Tzur Mishelo***

*Text: Friday night zemer (author unknown),  
Music: Ladino Folk Song Los Bilbilikos,  
arr. by Ariel Levanon*  
(See the translation on p. 2)

### ***Tzadik Katamar – The Righteous As A Palm Tree***

*Text: Psalm 92, Music: Emanuel Kirschner*

The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree  
They shall thrive like a cedar in Lebanon.  
Rooted in the house of the Lord  
In the courtyards of our G-d  
They shall bring forth fruit in their old age  
they'll be ever fresh and green,  
Proclaiming that the Lord is just,  
my Rock, in whom there is no wrong.

## **Nashirah and Shirei Chesed Choirs**

### **Blessing of Peace**

*Text: Marcia Falk (from the “Book of Blessings”)  
and traditional Jewish Liturgy*

*Music: Natasha J. Hirschhorn*

*Soloists: Soyeon Bin and Marc Szechter*

*Commissioned by the Bucks County Choral Society and  
Nashirah: the Jewish Choral of Greater Philadelphia,  
through a generous gift from Michael and Karen Noland*

Eternal wellspring of peace -  
May we be drenched with the longing for peace  
That we may give ourselves over  
As the earth to the rain, to the dew,  
Until peace overflows our lives  
As living waters overflow the seas.

May the one who makes peace above make peace for us,  
And for all Israel, and for all who dwell in this world,  
And let us say: Amen.

### **Total Praise / *Esa Einai***

*Words and Music by Richard Smallwood, based on Psalm 121*

*Arranged by Patrick Barrett and Doreen Rao*

*Hebrew text adapted by Ramon Tasat*

Lord, I will lift mine eye to the hills  
Knowing my help is coming from You.  
Your peace you give me in time of the storm  
You are the source of my strength  
You are the strength of my life  
I lift my hands in total praise to You. Amen

## About the Artists:

### **Shirei Chesed Community Chorus at Anshe Chesed**

*Hazzan Natasha J. Hirschhorn, Artistic Director*  
*Marc Szechter, Choral Intern*

**Shirei Chesed** celebrates its 20th year of building community through learning a rich and diverse repertoire of Jewish music, and bringing harmony into the world that needs it more than ever. Founded in 2005 by the generous support of the Rabbi Gershon Schwartz memorial fund, our 4-part chorus brings together lovers of choral singing from both Anshe 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 and a collaboration with the Grammy nominated vocal sextet *The Western Wind*. We are delighted to once again collaborate with Nashirah: the Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia and their Artistic Director Dr. Julia Zavadsky.

In addition to our concert work, we help build community through song in our Shirei Shabbat Friday night services at Anshe Chesed. If you are inspired to join us, please reach out to Cantor Hirschhorn at [NHirschhorn@AnsheChesed.org](mailto:NHirschhorn@AnsheChesed.org) for more information or to schedule an audition.

**Sopranos:** Helene Adlerstein, Helene Benaim, Naomi Katz Cohen, Diane Finger, Diane Schoer, Ellen Tucker, Wendy Phillips, Alina Zucker Aronoff

**Altos:** Sara Berman, Alma Birnboim, Yona Corn, Ronnee Schier David, Barbara Friedland, Ella Gregory, Erica Gruen, Nancy Reibstein, Cherie Rosen, Mirina Rosen, Elizabeth Wilen-Berg

**Tenors:** Mark Donato, Martin Green, David Golden, Ariela Heilman, Marc Szechter, Tommy Treitel

**Baritones:** Marvin Davenport, Nick James, Richard Mark, Michael Mortenson, Bruce Noble, Jeff F. Segall, Bill Zukof



**Hazzan Natasha Hirschhorn** has been privileged to serve as Cantor and Music Director of Congregation Ansche Chesed since 2004. She also teaches at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary since 2006. A native of

Kyiv, Ukraine, Hazzan Hirschhorn studied musicology, piano, and composition at Moscow's Gnessin Musical College and the Kyiv State Conservatory. Ordained by the Academy for Jewish Religion, Hazzan Hirschhorn is the author of numerous liturgical and secular compositions and an accomplished performer and recording artist.

She has been featured as a singer, pianist, conductor and composer in 10 recordings, including her solo CD of original music "They Call Me", as well as at

congregations, music festivals, and concert halls throughout the country, including Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Toronto Jewish Music Festival, and the Curtis Institute of Music, among others. Her compositions include commissioned works from Hazamir: the International Jewish Teen Choir, the Bachanalia String Orchestra, Bucks County Choral Society, Nashirah and the Western Wind Ensemble.



**Marc Szechter** grew up in Hartsdale, New York, where he attended the Solomon Schechter School of Westchester from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Marc started playing piano at age five and saxophone at age ten, but

he discovered his love for Jewish music while participating in HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir in high school. Marc graduated from Muhlenberg College in Allentown, Pennsylvania in 2022 with BA in Jewish studies and music composition, and he was named a semi-finalist in the Fulbright Program. While in college, Marc composed several musical settings of Jewish liturgical texts and wrote an honor's thesis on the development of cantorial music. After spending a year learning at Yeshivas Tiferes Bachurim in Morristown, New Jersey, Marc began his cantorial studies at the Jewish Theological Seminary in the fall of 2023. He currently serves as the cantorial intern at the Westchester Jewish Center and a choral intern at Shirei Chesed Community Chorus.

## **Nashirah: the Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia**

Julia Zavadsky, Artistic Director

Soyeon Bin, Collaborative Piano and Vocal Coach

### **Board of Directors**

Cynthia Silber, M.D.,  
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Hazzan Eliot Vogel

Dan Weiner

Janet Yamron

Nashirah: The Jewish Chorale of Greater Philadelphia is an auditioned chorale centered in the greater Philadelphia area. Since our founding in 2002, we have come together from all areas of the greater Delaware Valley region and from all walks of life to share our love of Jewish choral music. Nashirah performs Jewish music of the highest artistry, and presents concerts programmed to entertain and to educate a diverse audience. We define Jewish music in its broadest possible sense. We sing settings of classical, liturgical, folk, or contemporary poetry, pieces inspired by Hebrew texts or themes, and music written by Jewish and non-Jewish composers for mixed ensembles in four-to-eight voice parts, with instrumentation or *a capella*. Nashirah is deeply committed to building bridges and believes that choral music creates community, and has performed both alone and in collaboration with many diverse singing communities both within the US and internationally over the years.



We sing in languages common to the Jewish diaspora—Hebrew, Yiddish and Ladino—as well as world languages, including English, German, French and Ukrainian. Performances of original music from the 16th through the present century have been offered in many spaces, such as synagogues, churches, concert halls and outdoor venues, home salons, public radio and the virtual universe during the pandemic. Nashirah reaches thousands of audience members each year, and we continue to grow as a unique arts organization and cultural resource, with a voice all our own.

Nashirah cultivates a broader audience by collaborating with choirs of other faith traditions, as well as secular community choruses, all of whom share a love of choral singing and a goal of musical excellence. In recent years, these have included Singing City, Choral Arts, The PhilHarmonia, Korean Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia Voices of Pride, the Philadelphia Heritage Choral, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and the Lewis Lewandowski Choral Festival in Berlin, Germany. These inspiring partnerships are at the heart of Nashirah’s urgent mission—to perform Jewish music at the highest possible level, while bringing people together and creating community through music.

Learn more at [www.nashirah.org](http://www.nashirah.org).

**Sopranos:** Soyeon Bin\*, Roberta Cooks, Barbara Marx, Michele Pearlstein, Jaclyn Rakhman\*, Emily Reich\*, Toby Winter

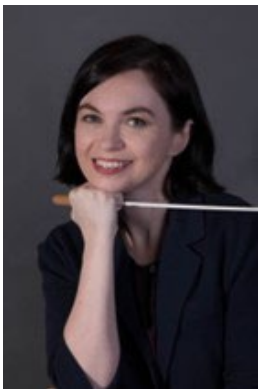
**Altos:** Malka Chu, Debbie Cohen, Lynne Ellis, Talya Fishman, Janet Gevanyahu, Jackie Landau, Donna A. Levin\*

**Tenors:** Scott Beadenkopf, Hal Goldberg\*, Jake Kriger, Joel Kutner\*, Stephen Pearlman, Dan Weiner, Howard Winter\*

**Basses:** Peter Boyer, Dicky Dutton\*, Art Feldman, Jeff Garelik, Mitch Hirsch, David Weisman, Ira Miller, Steven Pollack, David Weinstein

\* Nashirah Chamber Ensemble

### **Artistic Director: Dr. Julia Zavadsky**



**Julia Zavadsky** is a Ukrainian/Israeli/American conductor and educator who lives in Philadelphia. She has been the Artistic Director of Nashirah: the Jewish Chorale of Philadelphia, since 2015. A recipient of the Elaine Brown Award for Choral Excellence and winner of numerous international choral festival competitions, she has

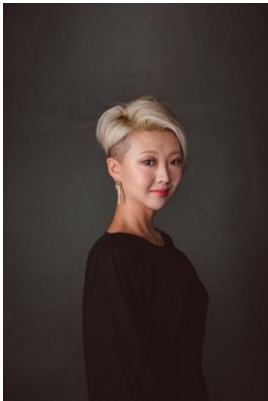
been a faculty member of the Department of Musical Studies at the Curtis Institute of Music since 2019. Dr. Zavadsky received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in conducting from Stony Brook University and her Master of Music degree in conducting from Temple University, where she has taught since 2000. Before immigrating to the United States, she earned Bachelor of Music degrees in music theory, conducting, and composition from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and the R. Glier Kyiv Municipal Academy of Music. Dr. Zavadsky studied conducting with Timothy Long in New York; Alan Harler and Janet Yamron in Philadelphia; Aharon Harlap in Jerusalem; and Mikhail Hardayev in Kyiv, Ukraine.

Dr. Zavadsky's ensembles have performed in such venues as Carnegie Hall, the New York Theatre Workshop, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, the Field Concert Hall of the Curtis Institute, and the Temple University Performing Arts Center in Philadelphia. They have also participated in tours to the Middle East and Europe. As director of the Rutgers University Singers since 2006, Dr. Zavadsky has organized and hosted annual choral festivals for high school, university, and community choirs. In 2011 she founded the Singing Hearts Choral Society of Southern New Jersey.

Fluent in Ukrainian, Russian, and Hebrew, Dr. Zavadsky has worked with musicians worldwide. She serves as a Russian repertoire language coach at Philadelphia's Academy of Vocal Arts. Her artistic career demonstrates her commitment to bringing diverse performers and

audiences together through music. Toward this end, she has worked and performed with ensembles like The Synagogal Ensemble Berlin; Choral Arts Philadelphia; Singing City; Philadelphia Voices of Pride; Temple University Singing Owls; ANNA Crusis Feminist Choir; Zamir Chorale of Boston; Jewish Theological Seminary of America's H. L. Miller Cantorial School Choir; PhilHarmonia; and the Cheltenham Korean Presbyterian Church.

Dr. Zavadsky is dedicated to highlighting contemporary political issues through musical collaborations. In recent times, she has worked together with Israeli and Palestinian musicians and, since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, has performed and educated audiences about Ukrainian musical traditions and repertoire.



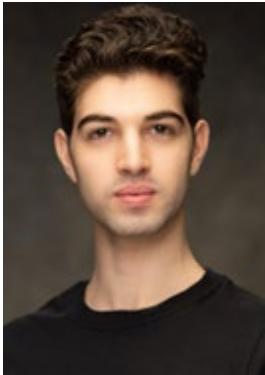
**Soyeon Bin** began her musical training at a young age, studying both piano and voice. She made her public debut with Seoul Metropolitan Chorus at the age of 8 and held her first piano recital at Perelman Theater at Kimmel Center. As a soprano and pianist, she possesses a rare combination of vocal and instrumental abilities, allowing her to excel in both

fields. As a multifaceted musician, she serves as a collaborative pianist and a vocal coach for two choirs, Singing Hearts Choral Society of Southern New Jersey and Nashirah: the Jewish Chorale of Greater

Philadelphia. She also is a soprano soloist at Cheltenham Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia.

Ms. Bin studied piano privately with Brian Kovach from Philadelphia Community College and Seymour Lipkin from Curtis Institute and holds degrees in music education and opera performance from Temple University, Boyer College of Music, while studying with Philip Cho. She serves as a voice and piano faculty member at Rutgers University, directing the Rutgers Concert Choir and as a musical director for numerous productions in the theatre department. She directs and accompanies various international competitions and choral festivals and continues teaching piano and voice in Philadelphia and South Jersey.

### **Special Guest - Yuval Cohen**



**Yuval Cohen** is the Marla and Rich Milgram Demi Soloist at Philadelphia Ballet. He began dancing at age six, when he joined the Mehola Dance Company, specializing in folk and modern dance. From 2013-2018, Yuval studied ballet and after winning an excellence scholarship in 2017 from the America-Israel Cultural

Foundation, he joined the Jerusalem Ballet School under the artistic direction of Nadya Timofeyeva.

In 2018, Yuval won first place in Russia's famous *The Nutcracker* competition. That year, he accepted a position at The Vaganova Ballet Academy in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

During his time there, Yuval danced roles including Blue Bird Variation in *The Sleeping Beauty* and the Prince in *The Nutcracker*. After graduating from the Academy in 2021, Yuval joined The Bolshoi Theater in Moscow, Russia. Yuval joined Philadelphia Ballet II for our 2021/2022 Season and was promoted to apprentice for our 2022/2023 season, debuting as the mean stepsister in Ben Stevenson's *Cinderella*. During his two seasons with the company Yuval danced the roles of Ali in *Le Corsaire*, Siegfried in *Swan Lake*, the Prince in *Snow White*, Gold in *The Sleeping Beauty*, and more. In June 2023, Yuval competed in the Jackson International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi where he received a bronze medal. Yuval was the first Israeli citizen to pass to the final round and medal.

## **Upcoming Events at AC:**

### **Three Great Hebrew Poets: Leah Goldberg** **Sunday, December 15 at 10am on Zoom**

At this Zoom session with the great poetry teacher Rachel Korazim from Tel Aviv, we will explore the poetry of Leah Goldberg (1911-1970). Born and raised in Eastern Europe, Goldberg emigrated to pre-state Israel in 1935, composing beautiful, musical poems bridging her childhood and her new homeland. Scarred by WWI and the unfolding Shoah, she wrote lyrics to "remind people that they are still human beings."

Register at [AnsheChesed.org/HebrewPoets](https://AnsheChesed.org/HebrewPoets).

### **Lunch & Learn: Why is That in the Bible?** **Wednesday, December 18 from 12:30 – 1:30pm at AC**

Join Rabbi Kalmanofsky for a monthly lunch-and-learn to study some of the stranger passages in the Hebrew Bible. You'll meet giants and sea monsters, psychedelic visionaries and stone-cold killers. We'll retell the Torah's dirty jokes, sexy poems and gruesome horror stories. Some will raise important religious or moral questions. Most will be fun and funny.

Bring lunch, per AC's Kashrut policy, and we'll provide cookies and drinks.

## Save the Date:

*Hatishma Koli* Performance in Philadelphia  
Sunday, December 15 at 4pm  
Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel  
(300 S 18th St., Philadelphia, PA 19103)

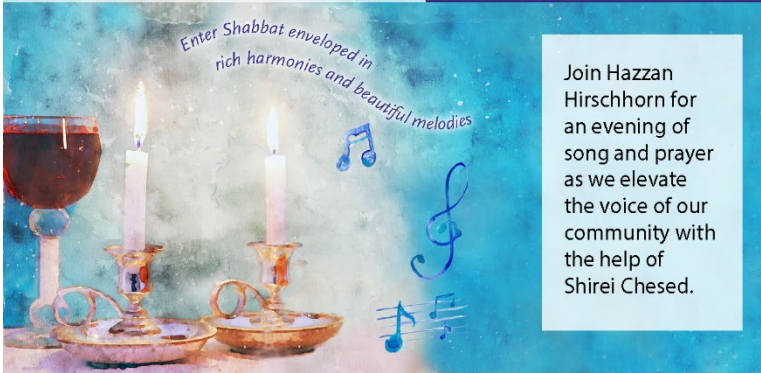
Learn more and register at  
<https://bzbi.org/event/the-laurie-wagman-jewish-music-series/2024-12-15/>

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7  
5:30PM

SHIREI SHABBAT



@ANSCHECHESED



Shirei Chesed Concert with Guest Choirs  
Monday, May 19 at Anshe Chesed



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