

THE
SONG
SHUL

A Community
in Harmony

THE FUN SHUL
THE IDEA SHUL
THE HAPPY SHUL
THE COOL SHUL
THE FAMILY SHUL
THE EXCITING SHUL
THE CREATIVE SHUL
THE FRIENDLY SHUL
THE INSPIRING SHUL
THE SONG SHUL

5781
2020-2021

Getting ready for our 5th exciting year!

Rethink Shul.



News from The Song Shul Directors

What a year it has been, for the world and for The Song Shul as well! At the start of the year, we were welcoming crowds of 400+ to each of our fantastic Shabbat and festival services. The creative programs and classes on our growing roster were all well attended and always enthusiastically received. With the Covid-19 shutdown, we created "The Song Shul at Home" and moved programming online to Zoom and YouTube, where our members were able to continue enjoying so much that The Song Shul has to offer.

Most recently, The Song Shul moved to our new location which now hosts the business office, music library, choir rehearsal space, Cantor's study, and room for classes and programming. We are thrilled with this relocation, and we hope to see you in our new space for programs, classes, rehearsals and meetings throughout the coming year. We are living in extraordinary times, and every donation received is valued and appreciated.

Welcome back to The Song Shul! Thank you for your continued support!

Randolph Masters and Howard Orfus
The Song Shul Directors



Randolph Masters



Howard Orfus

Thank you from Cantor Simon and Aliza

In this surreal time when so much is changing, one thing is for sure: The Song Shul is thriving and stronger than ever. In just under four years, it has grown into a congregation even more exciting and spectacular than we could have imagined.

Something that we never take for granted is that YOU are the heartbeat of The Song Shul. We lead, create programming, offer speakers and classes, and present musical Shabbat services, but it is our members who have made The Song Shul a true Community in Harmony. Your enthusiasm and support mean the world to us.

Thank you for being the most important part of The Song Shul. We look forward to another fantastic year together in good health!

Cantor Simon and Aliza Spiro
Spiritual Leader and Creative Director



Cantor Simon Spiro



Aliza Spiro

To read more about Cantor Simon and Aliza visit
www.songshul.com/our-leaders



The Signature Sound

Young, vibrant and fun, The Toronto Festival Singers is the resident choir of The Song Shul under the direction of Cantor Simon Spiro. Each member is a professional vocalist and master musician with stellar soloist credits in opera, musical theatre and jazz. Coming together, their voices have been moulded and further shaped to present a unique sound – the smooth blend of voices that move together seamlessly. With musical material both traditional and contemporary, they sing on Shabbat and festivals, in concert and at special events. The Toronto Festival Singers. The sound of vocal excellence.



To read more about the Toronto Festival Singers visit
www.songshul.com/toronto-festival-singers

How are we like other Shuls?

The Song Shul accommodates all life cycle events, offers learning opportunities, and provides pastoral support.

The Song Shul can provide cemetery plots in its own private section of the Pardes Chaim cemetery.

The Song Shul's leaders are Shomrei Shabbat.

We are a registered charity with CRA, so all donations are tax receiptable.

How are we different from other Shuls?

We are a music haven for those who want a fresh experience in their davening. With world-class music presented on Shabbat and holidays, there's nothing like this anywhere. We are truly unique.

We are an independent congregation, not affiliated with any organized movement. We are united, with no labels to separate us. We welcome people from all Jewish backgrounds and make everyone feel comfortable.

Our spiritual leader is world-renowned Cantor Simon Spiro, a man of extensive Jewish knowledge and musical talent, rare integrity and compassion, coupled with an outrageous sense of humour.

We bring people together -- both within their own families and while connecting them to others in the community -- through our exquisite music, engaging and lively services, creative and meaningful programming, and positive spirit.

We are a volunteer-driven congregation with a very low overhead and no building fund obligations. This means that your annual contribution is maximized in delivering the high-quality musical and spiritual experiences that have become the signature of The Song Shul.

To read more about The Song Shul, visit
www.songshul.com/about



The Song Shul at Home

During the Shutdown, The Song Shul adapted, came to your home via Zoom and YouTube, and continued to blaze a trail, setting the bar high for musical, spiritual and inspirational programming.



Cantor Simon and Aliza broadcast the weekly “Shalom Aleichem Series” on YouTube, sharing melodies and beautiful music for Shabbat, presented at the highest technical level. Thousands have welcomed Shabbat together with the music of The Song Shul.

The Song Shul’s programming transitioned to Zoom. This included everything from Bar/Bat-Mitzvah lessons to our monthly Rosh Chodesh Group, weekly get-togethers for Uptown Sound and Special Voices, and more.

We also introduced new weekly programs like *Cantor Simon Says* and *Staying In With The Spiros*, as well as special international events like *The Surprising Legacy of Anne Frank* (live from the UK) and, for Yom Ha’Atzmaut, *A Conversation with Aviva Lavi, El Al’s Director of Public Relations* (live from Tel Aviv). Most recently, we presented a program on *Coping With Our New Reality*, to equip everyone with coping techniques for living in isolation.



Through The Song Shul’s new YouTube channel, we’ve been able to share our music with music lovers around the world. Special music videos for Father’s Day, Shavuot, Yom Yerushalayim, and Tu B’Av have been viewed by tens of thousands, showing us once again that people love how we are Rethinking Shul.



To enjoy our music videos, visit
www.youtube.com/thesongshul

Musical Guests

The Song Shul raises the bar in synagogue music – on the bimah, the concert stage, and now online. These world-class vocalists have joined Cantor Simon in bringing great music from The Song Shul to the entire community, and there's more planned for this year!



The Manhattan Transfer
Grammy Award-Winning Jazz Vocal Group



Lorraine Lawson
Pop Superstar and Vocal Coach for TV's The Launch



Amy Sky
Multi-Juno Nominee and multi-SOCAN Winner



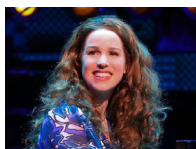
Mark Masri
Grammy and Juno-Nominated Vocalist



Micah Barnes
Billboard Chart-topping Recording Artist (The Nylons)



Wendy Lands
Juno-Nominated Singer/Songwriter



Chilina Kennedy
Broadway Star of Beautiful and The Band's Visit



Noa Vlessing
Toronto's Newest Pop Sensation featured on The Launch



Thom Allison
Star of Broadway and Television



Elicia Mackenzie
Dora Award-Winning Star of The Sound of Music



Jackie Richardson
Canada's First Lady of Gospel, Blues & Jazz



The Ault Sisters
Ontario's Top Sibling Vocal Jazz Trio

Guest Speakers

The Song Shul Speaker Hall Of Fame includes published authors, lawyers, scholars, doctors, politicians, scientists, filmmakers, actors, criminologists, academics, journalists, CEOs, TV personalities, sports commentators, businessmen, Israeli soldiers, and one American songwriter.



Barry Avrich
Film Producer/Director



Josh Cooper
President and Chief Executive Officer, Baycrest Foundation



Norman Bacal
Author of Breakdown: The Inside Story of The Rise and Fall of Heenan Blaikie



Shai Deluca-Tamasi
Television Personality, CAMERA On-Campus Israel Education Ambassador



Galit Baram
Consul General of Israel to Toronto and Western Canada



The Honourable Linda Frum
Member of the Senate of Canada



Dr. Guila Benchimol
Criminologist, specializing in Domestic and Sexual Violence



Eric Gertner
30-Year Director of Research at McCarthy Tetrault



Julian Brass
Author of International Best-Seller Own Your Anxiety



Paul Godfrey
President and Chief Executive Officer, PostMedia Network, Inc.



Dr. Sandy Buchman
Palliative Care Physician; President-elect, Canadian Medical Association



Dr. Anna Goldenberg
Senior Scientist in Artificial Intelligence at SickKids



Rooe Chen
Dramaturg and Playwright with Israel's renowned Gesher Theater



Dr. Brian Goldman
ER Doctor, Radio Host, Author of The Power of Kindness



Dr. Jacques Gauthier
International Jurist
and Scholar



Steve Paikin
TV Host, Documentary
Producer and Author



Lorrie Goldstein
Editor Emeritus, Toronto Sun



Gillian Walnes Perry
Author of *The Legacy*
of Anne Frank



Jonathan Kay
Author and Award-Winning
Journalist



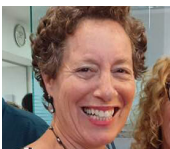
Lynn Posluns
Founder and President
of The Women's Brain
Health Initiative



Jodi Kovitz
CEO AceTech Ontario,
and CEO and Founder of
#MoveTheDial



Edward Prutschi
Chief Legal Analyst, NewsTalk1010
Radio and CTV News; Criminal
Justice Columnist, Toronto Sun



Aviva Lavi
Director of Public Relations,
El Al Israel Airlines



Ellen Schwartz
Author and Founder
of Jacob's Ladder



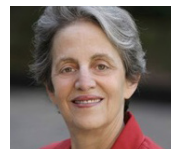
Bonnie Lawrence
Author of *Dinner*
on Dunvegan



Anna Shternsis
Yiddishist, Professor, Author,
and Co-Editor of *East*
European Jewish Affairs



Sue-Ann Levy
Author and Investigative
Reporter Toronto Sun



Janice Gross Stein
Political Scientist and
International Relations Expert



Mark Masters
Dedicated Hockey
and Tennis Reporter for
The Sports Network



"Tomer"
Sergeant First-Class Reserve
from Duvdevan, the IDF Counter
Terrorist Unit that inspired the
TV drama *Fauda*



Judie Oron
Award-winning Author
of *Cry of the Giraffe*



Noah Weisberg
Actor, starring as Willy Wonka
in *Charlie and the Chocolate*
Factory

To read about all our speakers visit
www.songshul.com/our-speakers



Rethink Programming

We have programs for everything and everyone, thanks to our secret weapon, creative director, Aliza Spiro. She knows about living Jewishly, always thinks outside of the box, and welcomes suggestions for new programs from our members. Here are just a few of the programs Aliza has brought to The Song Shul:

Singing

- Uptown Sound adult volunteer choir
- Downtown Sound children's choir
- Special Voices – Toronto's first Jewish choir for people with developmental disabilities

Friendship

- Ladies Rosh Chodesh Group – Monthly get-together to welcome the new Hebrew month in discussion, song and camaraderie
- Lo Levad (Not Alone) – Support group for people who have family members suffering from mental illness
- Hebrew News & Shmooze – A coffee hour in Hebrew for people who love the language
- Student Advisors – High School students meet up and also get community hours while helping to build The Song Shul (and build leadership skills, too!)
- Match Me – Are you single? Maybe not for long at The Song Shul!

Learning

- Alef Bet Challenge – For people who love the music at The Song Shul but can't yet read the Hebrew prayers.
- Brush Up Your Siddur – Hebrew a little rusty? This one's for you.
- Yad Squad – Learn to read Torah, and then read it on our bimah.
- Lively Learning with Cantor Simon – Get fabulous insights into the Torah parsha, presented as only our unique Cantor can!
- Best Bar/Bat-Mitzvah Program Ever – Comprehensive, interactive, and engaging for the student and family
- Guest scholars – Always riveting, always trailblazing

Life Cycle Events

Baby naming and bris; bar and bat mitzvah; aufruf and wedding; cemetery plots and shiva

The Song Shul is with you and your family through the years.

Praying and Comfort

- Shabbat and Holidays – There's a reason that hundreds of people attend each of our regular services throughout the year. Come and be part of it!
- The Minyan Community – Do you have yahrzeit on a weekday morning? The Song Shul Minyan Community is there for you! We'll meet to daven so you can say kaddish.
- Musical Wellness Experience – A special and intimate musical evening service each month for all who need physical, emotional or spiritual healing. The music will envelop you, the spirit will give comfort. There is nothing else like this in Toronto!
- One-on-One with Cantor Spiro – Our Spiritual Leader is always ready to assist you, no matter what you are going through. He has helped hundreds here in Toronto. Let him help you.

To read more about our programs visit
www.songshul.com/programs



Who Are Our Members?

Families, singles, millennials, the elderly and the very young all join together at The Song Shul. We are a true Community in Harmony, honouring and including all ages and backgrounds. Our members are people who open their hearts in the greatest spirit of acceptance and friendship.

Join us... and become a part of our Community in Harmony as we continue to change the landscape of Jewish life in Toronto.

The Song Shul Membership 5781 (2020-2021)

- *Membership rates for 5781 (2020/2021) have been kept the same as last year's published rates!*
- *All membership contributions are tax-receiptable.*
- *Children under 18 living in the same household are included in the parents' membership.*

Conductor's Circle \$2500 per person

Song Shul Programs / Reserved seats for all the High Holy Days / High Holy Day Valet Parking (1 car) / Ritual, Lifecycle and Pastoral Support / Exclusive Musical Midsummer Champagne Soiree / Cemetery Privilege / Personal Embossed Song Shul Siddur

Chai \$1800 per person

Song Shul Programs / Reserved seats for all the High Holy Days / High Holy day Valet Parking (1 car) / Ritual, Lifecycle and Pastoral Support / Exclusive Musical Midsummer Champagne Soiree / Cemetery Privilege

Harmony \$900 per person

Song Shul Programs / High Holy Day Seats / Reserved Kol Nidre Seats / Ritual, Lifecycle and Pastoral Support / Exclusive Musical Midsummer Champagne Soiree / Cemetery Privilege

Melody \$700

Song Shul Programs / High Holy Day Seats / Ritual, Lifecycle and Pastoral Support / Cemetery Privilege

Under 40 19-29, \$180 30-39, \$360

Same benefits as Melody membership.

For couples, the rate is determined by the age of the older partner.

Associate Member \$500

Song Shul Programs / Ritual, Lifecycle, & Pastoral Support / No High Holy Day Seats

Accommodations can be made for certain financial circumstances.

For consideration, please send an email to admin@songshul.com for the required application.

To renew your membership or join for the first time, visit
www.songshul.com/membership



High Holy Days 5781 MEMBERS ONLY

We're so excited to tell you that The Song Shul will hold live in-person Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur services which comply with the Toronto Public Health guidelines, and we will also offer a component of our musical services to be experienced at home.

Due to capacity limitations, our live service is only for members of The Song Shul. We will have creative seating, allowing family members to sit together, but distanced from others. We will, of course, be well equipped with sanitizing stations, washing stations, and face masks.

With Cantor Simon and Aliza, plus outstanding guest speakers, The Song Shul High Holy Day services promise to once again be moving, meaningful and inspirational!

High Holy Day Guest Speakers:



Robert Lantos
Film Producer



Dr. Gary Newton
*President & CEO
of Sinai Health*



Doris Bergen
*Holocaust Historian
"High Holy Days in the
Warsaw Ghetto"*

Yizkor Book

A beautiful and meaningful way to pay tribute to loved ones no longer with us is by listing their names in The Song Shul's Yizkor Book, which we use throughout the year whenever Yizkor is recited.

\$18 per name, deadline for submission Friday, September 4, 2020.



To participate in this mitzvah of remembrance, visit
www.songshul.com/yizkor-book

GET TO KNOW US

PHONE, VISIT, OR EMAIL

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Toronto, ON M6A 2W4
416-789-0999

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CREATIVE DIRECTOR
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PARNASIM
Leonard Cappe & Bill Sklar
honours@songshul.com

