



Cantor Ben Tisser

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PROFILE

Since the age of six I have been drawn to synagogue life, beginning with davening my first Shacharit alongside my childhood Cantor, Herschel Fox. Since then I have dedicated my life to becoming a vessel for carrying on the beautiful tradition of Jewish music. As a Cantor, I use my skills and talents to bring individual Jews closer to God and Torah, in relevant and meaningful ways. As a community leader, I provide opportunities to bring people into the fold of *kehillah kedosha*—sacred community. As a musician, I use my talent to communicate what cannot be said by words alone. And as a teacher, I am committed to ensuring that the beauty of our tradition is passed down to future generations.

EXPERIENCE

Hazzan, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El; Highland Park, IL 2015 Present

- Cantor of 1,050-unit congregation
- Re-imagined the congregation's music program, establishing a music committee with a mission statement and appropriate budget
- Enhanced the b'nai mitzvah program (20-30 annually), including implementing use of MitzvahTools; oversee all areas of program
- Taught a variety of successful Continuing Education classes
- Revamped High Holy Day professional choir, including much new music (including many original and commissioned arrangements); brought teen soloists to the bimah for major pieces of the High Holy Day liturgy for the first time

Cantor, B'nai Torah Congregation; Boca Raton, FL 2013 2015

- Cantor of 1,300-unit congregation
- Re-wrote b'nai mitzvah program handbook; streamlined process for assigning dates/intake; implemented new hybrid education system; oversaw all aspects of program (60-80 annually)
- Produced and participated in highly successful concerts
- Produced several Holocaust Education programs

Cantor, Temple Gates of Prayer; Flushing, NY 2010-2013

- Cantor of 185-unit congregation while studying at JTS
- Primary responsibilities included davening Shabbatot and Chagim, and minyan attendance

Cantor, Adat Shalom; Los Angeles, CA 2007-2010

- Cantor of 385-unit congregation
- Created annual Cantor's Concert
- Created monthly musical Kabbalat Shabbat experience

Organist, Valley Beth Shalom; Encino, CA 1997-2007

Served as High Holy Day organist for 2 cantors 1997-2006; year-round organist for Cantor Herschel Fox 1997-2007.

Judaic Music Specialist, Heschel School & Sinai-Akiba Academy; Los Angeles, CA 2005-2010

Judaic music specialist for pre-K thru 6th grade. Spent summer of 2005 as *Rosh Muzika* at Camp Ramah in California (Ojai).

EDUCATION

JTS, New York, NY — Cantorial Investiture & M.S.M., 2013

American Jewish University, Los Angeles, CA — B.A. Hebrew Literature, Holocaust Studies, Mid East Political Science, 2009

SKILLS

Instruments: Piano/organ, guitar

Composer and choral arranger

Languages: Hebrew & French

Enjoys cooking (and teaching cooking!), wine, and travel