

PLAYBILL

THE BERMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



THE BERMAN
Center for the Performing Arts



Lag BaOmer

A CELEBRATION IN SONG

TUESDAY, MAY 9 | 7:30PM



The Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit
D. Dan & Betty Kahn Building, Eugene & Marcia Applebaum
Jewish Community Campus
6600 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48322



Supported by
The Jewish Federation
of Metropolitan Detroit

THE BERMAN
Center for the Performing Arts

-PRESENTS-

Lag BaOmer

A CELEBRATION IN SONG

Featuring: Earl Berris, Tiffany Green, Daniel Gross,
Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz, Steve Klaper, David Propis, Pamela Schiffer,
Michael Smolash, Penny Steyer, and Barry Ulrych

DIRECTOR & PROJECTION CURATOR

Penny Steyer

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Cliff Monear

LIGHTING ENGINEER

Neil Koivu

SOUND ENGINEER

Lumumba Renolds

MUSICIANS

Cliff Monear - Piano

Dan Maslanka - Drums

Russ Miller - Sax, Clarinet, Keyboard

David Stearns - Bass

CONCERT COMMITTEE

Earl Berris

Daniel Gross

Penny Steyer

PUBLICIST

Tina Fleming

Uncaged Communications

MARKETING

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Rachel Glowski

OFFICERS OF THE MICHIGAN BOARD OF CANTORS

President: David Propis

Financial Vice-President: Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz

Secretary: Kelly Onickel

MUSICAL SELECTIONS

- Shiru L'Adonai**by *Laurie Aikers*
MICHIGAN BOARD OF CANTORS ENSEMBLE
- Ki Eilecha**by *Shirona*
HAZZAN STEVE KLAPER
- Ivdu Et HaShem**by *Rockoff*
Arranged by C. Heller
CANTOR EARL BERRIS & HAZZAN DAVID PROPIS
- The Spark of Creation**from *Children of Eden* by *Steven Schwartz*
CANTOR RACHEL GOTTLIEB KALMOWITZ
- Amar Rabbi Akiba**by *Douglas Cotler*
CANTOR PENNY STEYER, CANTOR STEVE KLAPER, CANTORIAL SOLOIST TIFFANY GREEN
- Around the Campfire**“*Finjan,*” “*Zemer Lach,*” and “*Rad HaLailah*”
Lag Ba’omer Medley arranged by Jacobson
MICHIGAN BOARD OF CANTORS ENSEMBLE
- Bo’l Kalla**Adaptation of “*Con te Patiro*” by *Francesco Sartori*
Original by Tal Vakin & Yossi Azulay
HAZZAN DAVID PROPIS
- I’d Give It All For You**from *Songs for A New World* by *Jason Robert Brown*
CANTOR RACHEL GOTTLIEB KALMOWITZ & CANTOR MICHAEL SMOLASH
- Arise My Love**by *Richard Hundley*
HAZZAN DANIEL GROSS
- Make Someone Happy**from *Do Re Mi* by *Jule Styne, Adolph Green, Bette Comden*
CANTOR PENNY HELLER STEYER
- The Wedding Samba**by *Ellstein, Small and Liebowitz*
CANTOR MICHAEL SMOLASH
- Wedding Vows**by *Debbie Friedman*
CANTOR RACHEL GOTTLIEB KALMOWITZ, HAZZAN DAVID PROPIS & CANTOR PENNY HELLER STEYER
- Getting Married Today**from *Company* by *Stephen Sondheim*
CANTOR PAMELA SCHIFFER
with HAZZAN DANIEL GROSS & CANTOR PENNY HELLER STEYER
- Adon Olam**Music by *Benj Pasek and Justin Paul*
Setting by Chris Hardin
MICHIGAN BOARD OF CANTORS ENSEMBLE
- Siman Tov**by *Ben Soussan*
Arranged by David Propis
MICHIGAN BOARD OF CANTORS ENSEMBLE

DIRECTORS NOTE

Welcome!

On behalf of the Michigan Board of Cantors, I want to welcome you to our 2023 Concert and thank you for coming out to support us tonight. We are delighted to be back on stage at The Berman after such a long hiatus. Our concert this year falls on the holiday Lag B'omer, the 33rd day of the traditional Counting of the Omer, which for those who may not recall, is the 49-day period between Passover and Shavuot. We took this unique opportunity to shape our musical program around the themes of this holiday – the gathering of friends and family around bonfires to dance and sing, the celebration of weddings, which according to tradition are permitted on this special day; we honor and remember the wisdom of Rabbi Akiva and of course, we praise G-d for the blessings which have been bestowed upon us.

The Michigan Board of Cantors was established to promote, educate and create awareness of the importance of Jewish music and prayer in our congregations and throughout our entire Jewish Community. It is our wish that this concert will not only fulfill part of our mission but will also help bring our community a little closer together.

Tonight's concert begins with a quote from Psalm 92 - which aptly describes how we, as Chazzanim, live our lives each and every day. "Shiru l'Adonai Shir Chadash - Sing unto God a new song!"

Cantor Penny M Steyer, Director 2023



BIOGRAPHIES



Earl Berris - Congregation B'nai Moshe

A composer of Jewish music used in synagogues throughout the world, is also a marriage counselor and family therapist. He is co-editor of *Tefillah L'Moshe*, a Shabbat prayer book, now in its second edition. Berris is past president of the Michigan Board of Cantors, Cantors Council of Detroit and a past chairman of the Great Lakes and Rivers Region of the Cantors Assembly. He received an Honorary Doctorate from JTS in 2008.

Tiffany Green -

Raised in a family of professional musicians, Tiffany has recorded with Cantor Meir Finkelstein and with her family vocal ensemble, Heller, Steyer & Green. She enjoys working with teens, creating innovative programs which instill a love of Judaism and develop self-esteem. She has served as Cantorial Soloist and Educational Director for Temple Kol Ami, and has worked at Temple Beth El in Traverse City and Temple Shir Shalom in West Bloomfield. Tiffany lives in Sylvania Lake with her husband, Curin and son, Asher.



Daniel Gross - Adat Shalom Synagogue

Daniel has been the cantor of Adat Shalom Synagogue since 2009. Prior to the cantorate, Hazzan Gross was a renowned opera singer who performed with the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, Pittsburgh Opera, Spoleto Festival USA, Los Angeles Philharmonic, National Symphony Orchestra and many other organizations. His composition "I Believe – A Shoah Requiem," a complete musical liturgy for Yom HaShoah, premiered in 2013 at Orchestra Hall. Daniel is on the Executive Committee of the Coalition For Black & Jewish Unity, is an enrichment specialist for the Jewish Hospice and Chaplaincy Network, and has served on the Executive Council of the Cantors Assembly. He and his wife, Lauren, are the proud parents of Maxim, Zev, Zosia and Bram.

Rachel Gottlieb Kalmowitz - Temple Beth El

Rachel is honored to have served as Cantor at Temple Beth El in Bloomfield Hills since 2004. She is active in the national Reform movement, as a member of the Executive Board of the American Conference of Cantors (ACC). A District Winner in The Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Grand Award winner for Best Supporting Female Actor in a Musical (*Clara in Passion*), her talents encompass many genres. She began 2023 by returning to her roots in



BIOGRAPHIES

in community theatre, as Arlene in *Baby* with Ridgedale Players in Troy. A graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, University of Michigan, Eastman School of Music, and Interlochen Arts Academy, she shares her life with her husband, Carey, and daughter, Ilana.



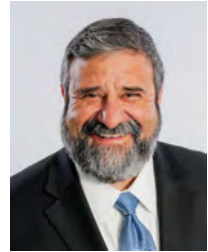
Steven Klaper - Congregation Shir Tikvah ; Shir Hanishama

Steven is a Jewish troubadour, a spiritual storyteller, minstrel and teacher. Co-founder of the Song and Spirit Institute for Peace (Royal Oak), and High Holiday Hazzan at Congregation Shir Tikvah (Troy), Steve infuses traditional Jewish worship with mystical chant and melodies from a variety of traditions. He has smicha as both Hazzan and Maggid, has recorded multiple CDs, and performs and teaches nationally.

David Propis - Congregation Shaarey Zedek, Southfield, MI

David is a seventh-generation cantor who learned the cantorial art from his father, Hazzan/Rabbi Dov Propis (Z"l), he studied voice with the famed Metropolitan Opera diva, Elena Nikolaidi. Celebrating his 40th year in the cantorate and having an international concert career spanning 4 continents, Propis has performed for 4 U.S. Presidents, global PM's and with numerous orchestras and luminaries including Marvin Hamlisch and Dave Brubeck. Producer of the award-winning "The Spirit Series" for the Conservative Movement, Propis has recorded several solo albums (iTunes.com, CDBaby.com).

He is adjunct professor of nusach at the H.L. Miller Cantorial School of JTSA, treasurer of the Cantors Assembly Foundation, served as the International President of the CA, co-chaired the historic missions to Poland, Germany, Spain and Israel, received an Honorary Doctorate from JTS in 2011, is currently a board member of the Zekelman of Cantors, and is cantor of Holocaust Center here in Detroit, President of the Michigan Board of Cantors, and is cantor of Congregation Shaarey Zedek since 2013.



Pamela Schiffer - Congregation Shaarey Zedek East Lansing , MI

Pamela is Cantor Emerita of Congregation Shaarey Zedek in East Lansing. She is a graduate of Indiana University and Towson University. A recipient of the prestigious NEA Solo Recitalist Fellowship, she has performed throughout the United States, Canada and Europe as a soloist and recitalist in both contemporary and traditional repertoire. She is a Past President of the Michigan Board of Cantors and past chair of the Great Lakes and Rivers region of the Cantors Assembly. In

2021 she received the Volunteer of the Year award from the Cantors Assembly for her work on the Uganda Abayudaya COVID Food Relief project and as Editor of its Sacred Sounds Newsletter. She and her husband Charlie are the proud grandparents of Kenzo and Kaito.

BIOGRAPHIES

Michael Smolash - *Temple Israel*

Michael sits proudly in the Stephen Gottlieb z"l Cantorial Chair at Temple Israel. He feels so blessed to be part of an amazing, inspirational team of clergy. His recordings have been featured on the URJ's Ruach and Biennial albums, and he led Friday night services at the Biennial Convention in Toronto. Closest to his heart are his wife, Jen, and their two miraculous children, Cedar and Ayla.



Penny Steyer - Temple Shir Shalom

Penny feels honored to have served Temple Shir Shalom for over 25 years, collaborating with an incredibly creative clergy team. Growing up in the world of professional musicians in New York, Cantor Steyer learned that music brings joy and builds lasting relationships. Cantor Steyer enjoys using her diverse talents to help others express their own Judaism through a variety of musical opportunities. An active composer, producer and arranger, her works appear on multiple record labels around the world. She loves performing with her children, Tiffany and Matthew in their vocal ensemble, Heller, Steyer & Green. When not working, she enjoys life at the lake in Commerce Township, surrounded by nature.

Barry Ulrych

Barry has participated with pleasure in MBC Concerts at the Berman Theatre as well as other Jewish venues. Singing which taps the deep well of his musical soul derives from the training he initially received from his father Baruch Ulrych, local Cantors Chaim Najman, Nicholas Fenekal and Larry Vieder of blessed memory. Over the years he has worked and been mentored locally and in various cities, by hazzanim in Detroit, Chicago, New York City and California. He has been a member of the Cantors Assembly an international organization including Conservative and Reform Jewish Cantors. Cantor Ulrych loves the hazzanim with whom he sings joyfully tonight on this Lag B'Omer Festival.



PRODUCTION

STAGE

LIGHTING ENGINEER	Neil Koivu
SOUND ENGINEER	Lumumba Renolds
MONITOR ENGINEER / A2	Kyle Abrams
STAGE CREW	Katie Werthmann
	Katie Cassell
	Cole Hoffman
FOLLOWSPOT OPERATOR	Shannon Hoey

STREAM

TECHNICAL DIRECTION	Eric W. Maher
ASSISTANT TECHNICAL DIRECTION	Allison McCarthy
AUDIO MIX	Lumumba Renolds
CAMERA OPERATOR	Patrick O'Connor Cronin
	James Quarles

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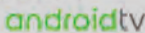
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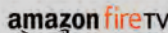
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Neil Koivu	TECHNICAL COORDINATOR

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