



Jewish music enriches the spirit. It is the soul of Jewish prayer and the heart of Jewish life.

Hebrew College's School of Jewish Music (SJM) is your central address for the study, preservation and performance of Jewish music and offers a rich array of options for engaging the music of the Jewish people, within a pluralistic setting.

#### CANTORIAL ORDINATION WITH PROFESSIONAL OPTIONS

The traditional role of cantor—the leader of congregational prayer, who inspires through beautiful musical interpretation of Jewish liturgy—is evolving. More and more congregations are seeking cantors who can fill additional professional roles, from Hebrew school principal to community life director. Congregants want to feel personally involved in Jewish prayer and value cantors whose musical talents encourage participation. Beyond the congregational setting, ordained cantors now serve as full-time educators, chaplains and spiritual leaders in other Jewish communal institutions, and the range of professional opportunities is expanding.

To meet this growing demand, the School of Jewish Music prepares men and women in a pluralistic setting to become cantors who can serve a variety of Jewish communities in diverse roles—as spiritual leaders, Jewish educators, scholars of Jewish liturgy and skilled performers who are committed to fully engaging congregants in Jewish prayer.



160 Herrick Road  
Newton Centre, Massachusetts 02459

[hebrewcollege.edu/sjm](http://hebrewcollege.edu/sjm)

Dr. Joshua Jacobson, DMA, SJM Acting Dean  
Cantor Brian Mayer, DSM, CEP Associate Dean  
Rabbi Daniel L. Lehmann, President

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*\* [www.hebrewcollege.edu/accreditation](http://www.hebrewcollege.edu/accreditation)*



Hebrew College School of Jewish Music

Ordination/Cantorial Studies



When Shana Onigman MJE'd'06, CEP'07 joined Congregation B'nai Israel, a Conservative synagogue in Basking Ridge, New Jersey, as its first full-time cantor in August 2007, the synagogue's Shabbat morning Torah service was a largely clergy-driven affair. But since she launched an ongoing, congregation-wide Torah chanting workshop, the *bimah* has become a lot more crowded.

Drawing on skills she honed at Hebrew College, Onigman devised a highly accessible system to teach the melodic notations that uses colored highlighters, English translations and digital recordings. "I now have 23 congregants who can independently read Torah," says an effusive Onigman. "On a given Saturday I can get seven people chanting."

Cantor Onigman has also enabled dozens of people to give voice to Jewish prayers, holiday songs and folksongs in the sanctuary and beyond. Rather than hire outside

professionals to make a Friday night service special for last year's Shabbat Across America service, she decided to "promote from within" and co-founded (along with her husband Matthew, who once sang with her in the Zamir Chorale of Boston) a congregation-wide intergenerational choir.

Featuring up to 30 voices of all skill levels, the group has sung at *havdalah* services, holiday celebrations and more. Its repertoire has included a number of songs that Onigman adapted using techniques gleaned from Hebrew College music composition classes.

As Cantor-Educator, Onigman aims in both Torah chanting and choir initiatives to empower congregants to connect more with Jewish texts, liturgy and culture so that they become more active and involved in services and holiday observances. "The more participation and leadership they take on, the more they own their Judaism and the more the text becomes a part of them," Onigman observes. "At every service, everyone sings a bit louder and stronger."

Onigman's trajectory to the cantorate started in her junior year in college, when she volunteered to help lead High Holy Day services at her hometown *shul*. After assuming this role for three consecutive years, she became hooked.

"A rabbi told me, 'You're a conduit through which the congregation is reaching something higher.' I never forgot that."



"There are chambers in heaven that can be opened only through song."

Zohar: Hayyey Sarah

### THREE PATHS TO ORDINATION

You may choose from three Cantorial Ordination tracks:

- The five-year, full-time **Cantor-Educator Program** (CEP) combines musical studies with education courses in the Shoolman Graduate School of Jewish Education; graduates earn a Master of Jewish Education in tandem with ordination and qualify as clergy to fill roles such as Hebrew school principal, community life director and teacher.
- The four- or five-year, full-time **Cantorial Ordination Program** gives students the opportunity to choose courses in their areas of interest, including focused study of Jewish texts and liturgy; graduates earn ordination plus a Master of Arts in Jewish Studies with a concentration in Jewish Sacred Music.
- The **Rav-Hazzan Program**, offered by the School of Jewish Music and the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, is a comprehensive course of study leading to dual ordination as a rabbi and cantor; the integrated curriculum enables students to complete both programs within a condensed time frame.

All ordination programs begin with a year of *Mekorot*. Under the supervision of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College, cantorial students join with beginning rabbinical students to immerse in the study of Jewish life and practice, Hebrew language and texts, both classical and modern. Students who enter the ordination programs with advanced standing may qualify to complete their course of study within a shorter time frame.

Cantorial coursework includes classes in the history of Jewish music, choral conducting, musicianship, liturgy and the prayer book, vocal performance, *nusach* (prayer-song), cantillation (vocalization of sacred texts), song-leading, contemporary liturgical music and composition, as well as professional training in religious leadership and pastoral counseling. The program includes voice lessons and coaching by Boston's finest teachers, as well as an opportunity to participate in several choir ensembles, including Shir Tzion, SJM's cantorial student ensemble, and the renowned Zamir Chorale of Boston, artists-in-residence at Hebrew College.

### WHERE OUR GRADUATES GO



Hebrew College cantorial graduates are eligible for membership in the Cantors Assembly, the world's largest professional cantorial association, and have access to the leading cantorial placement services. All of our graduates have found meaningful employment. Placements have included the following:

- Beth El Synagogue, Southbury, Conn.
- Congregation Beth Elohim, Acton, Mass.
- Temple Emeth, Chestnut Hill, Mass.
- Temple Emanuel, Andover, Mass.
- Temple Shalom, Salem, Mass.
- Temple Sinai, Worcester, Mass.
- Congregation B'nai Israel, Basking Ridge, N.J.

### OUR FACULTY

Our faculty team of eminent scholars, cantors and educators includes Dr. Joshua Jacobson, Acting Dean, whose book, *Chanting the Hebrew Bible: The Art of Cantillation* (JPSA, 2002), is considered the definitive work in the field; Cantor Jeff Klepper, a leading composer of contemporary synagogue music; Cantor Brian Mayer, DSM, CEP Associate Dean and eminent scholar of Ashkenazic *nusach*; and Cantor Charles Osborne, distinguished vocal artist and composer of Jewish works. Also on our faculty are Cantor Scott Sokol, Cantor Joseph Ness, Cantor Louise Treitman, Cantor Lori Salzman and vocalist Lynn Torgove.

### A MUSICAL LEARNING COMMUNITY

Each week, you will join together for a community meeting to experience guest lectures, master classes and performances, as well as participate in group discussions and shared problem-solving. During *shacharit* and *mincha* prayer services, you will gain experience leading prayer and reading Torah. You may also choose to participate in SJM's weekly, open, *hevruta*-style (partner study) Bet Midrash for the study of *nusach* and cantillation with faculty coaches.

### INTERNSHIPS

As part of your course of study, you will observe and assist a professional cantor in a synagogue or other appropriate setting. In the fall semester, you will spend most of your time shadowing your mentor. During the spring semester, you will have time on the pulpit and be observed by and receive feedback from your cantor-mentor.

### ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year college or university
- GRE or previous master's degree
- Jewish religious affiliation with letter from rabbi or cantor
- Hebrew proficiency through *Hebrew IV*
- Basic musical literacy
- Psychological testing
- Application, essay, letters of recommendation, vocal audition, interview

### FOR MORE INFORMATION

Office of Admissions  
617-559-8610  
admissions@hebrewcollege.edu

### SJM CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Committed to the highest quality standards of performance and scholarship, SJM is also dedicated to bridging the world of academia and the community—making Jewish music accessible by creating a more literate laity through certificate programs for congregants, lay-leaders, cantorial soloists and *gabbaim*. SJM offers certificates in Jewish Sacred Music, Jewish Music Education and Cantillation. For more information, please visit [hebrewcollege.edu/sjm](http://hebrewcollege.edu/sjm).