

Cantor Lauren Adesnik

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Bright, dynamic spiritual leader who specializes in Jewish music and the cantorate as a vehicle for spiritual growth, connection, and transformation. Collaborative partner and teammate who shapes vibrant and engaging Jewish communal life. Passionate builder of inclusive sacred relationships through learning, teaching, and living Torah.

Professional Profile

- Uses a wide range of music as a platform to build Jewish community.
- Utilizes flexible vocal ability and expert musicianship to engage congregants in meaningful and accessible worship.
- Designs innovative, sensitive, and relevant musical programming.
- Offers authentic welcoming and warm engagement to newcomers and cultivates deep sacred relationships with congregants of all ages, co-clergy, and collaborators.
- Dedicated to crafting a wholly inclusive Jewish environment for all people regardless of different needs or abilities.
- Energetic and sensitive mentor who empowers and guides learners of all ages.
- Provides sensitive and empathetic spiritual direction and pastoral care.

Cantorial Experience

Temple Emanu-El of Greater Atlanta, Cantor 2013-Present

Musical Vision and Worship

- Employed perceptive and intuitive listening to establish a thriving, vibrant and engaging Jewish musical life from scratch. This grew into a warm and inclusive environment based on comradery and love of music that fostered a community of congregational singers at all musical levels.
- Developed Shir HaEsh, an adult choir that grew from an eight-member high holy day choir into a year-round community choir of thirty singers who sang monthly on Shabbat.
- Established Zimria, a junior choir that grew from five young singers into thirty-five students who regularly joined Erev Shabbat services and community events.
- Consistent mentorship of teen singers resulted in their regular engagement in Jewish life.
- Produced vision for Shir Magic! Concert series, a yearly season of 2-3 concerts of various styles including annual parlor concert as a highly successful fundraising effort for the synagogue.
- Regularly incorporated musical congregants into worship and musical programming.
- Reinvigorated synagogue Parody Troupe “The New Shticks on the Block” into an annual Purim parody troupe with original spiels that successfully re-engaged a core group of temple members who were previously uninvolved in synagogue life.
- Designed creative worship experiences blending multi-instruments with traditional and contemporary music, nusach and relevant popular music to bring community together through song.
- Fostered collaborative Jewish music experiences with area colleagues bringing together the Atlanta Jewish community at large.

Talmud Torah

- **B'nai Mitzvah**

- Re-envisioned the B'nai Mitzvah program, aligning it within current vision of the temple.
- Created a holistic foundation of empowering, supportive Jewish education, and sacred guidance for b'nai mitzvah and their families that resulted in a 95% increase in positive experience and retention beyond the ceremony.
- Originated inclusive and creative methods of b'nai mitzvah study and ceremony to fully welcome and support students with different needs and abilities.
- Managed and mentored a network of core b'nai mitzvah tutors advising and guiding student progress together.

- **Religious School**

- Partnered with clergy team and religious school principal to overhaul religious school curriculum, resulting in a 15% increase in enrollment and engagement.
- Teamed with clergy cohort and religious school principal to provide specific outreach to post b'nai mitzvah students, resulting in a 10% increase of engagement in post b'nai mitzvah curriculum from madrichim -post confirmation.
- Developed multi-year liturgical and prayer curriculum for our most advanced learners, combining social justice and values-based learning with liturgy and Torah study.
- Built thriving student musical engagement as a safe place for students to express themselves through Jewish music with weekly t'filah, jr. choir, pre-K-2 music, and teen mentorship.

- **Adult Education**

- Partnered with clergy team to more than double weekly Torah study participants over eight years.
- Enriched teaching opportunities covered a dynamic range of subjects including liturgical history and prayer study, favorite liturgical music and why we love it, teaching congregants popular synagogue worship melodies, midrash, Jewish spirituality, Torah and text study, holidays, Jews on Broadway, Israel and more.

Community

- **Music Outreach**

- Though relationship with Maestro of Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra to institute an annual "symphony in the sanctuary" concert. Highlighting a wide range of Jewish and secular music became a synagogue cornerstone and welcomed over 600 members of the metro-Atlanta community and musicians from all over the world.
- Created "From Darkness to Light: A Hanukkah Concert" as a tribute alongside the Breman Jewish Heritage Museum's exhibit: "*Vedem Underground*" that highlighted the teen produced secret magazine of Terezin. Jewish generations of all ages across Atlanta demographics came together through partnership with ACSO Maestro, The Breman Jewish Heritage Museum and composer Dr. Laurence Sherr of Kennesaw State University.
- Capitalized on relationships with American Jewish Committee and the Archdiocese of Atlanta to spearhead an interfaith multi-denominational concert celebration of the 50th anniversary of Vatican II.

- Fostered relationships with area conductors to create community wide choral concerts that brought together both inter-denominational Jewish and inter-faith religious communities.
 - Elevated exposure to greater Jewish music world through artist in residence series with Elana Arian, Joe Buchanan, Alan Goodis, Shira Kline, Danny Maseng, Hazzan Jackie Mendelson, Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, and Josh Nelson.
 - Built upon existing relationship with Governor's mansion and sisterhood to become the only synagogue in metro and surrounding Atlanta to feature a display and performance by Zimria junior choir during their Chanukah/Christmas season for eight years.
- **Inclusion Awareness**
 - Partnered with congregants who specialize in work with the special needs community to create Koleinu, an inclusion awareness vision of building Jewish community and connection to all regardless of different needs or abilities. Over four years it quadrupled into an active committee that makes Jewish life accessible to all.
 - Developed a relationship with the Jewish Abilities Alliance of The Jewish Federation of Atlanta that led to community wide think tank meetings focused on creating inclusive Jewish life.
 - Winning the Jewish Abilities Alliance microgrant two years in a row steered the fulfillment of two relevant communal needs:
 - Transformed the “cry room” space into the Shalom Sanctuary: a space that allows folks of all ages and different needs and abilities to participate in meaningful worship and still feel a part of the larger community.
 - Produced “Coping Together in a Covid World,” a year-long program directed towards the religious school demographic to help both students and parents recognize, address, and cope with feelings of anxiety brought on by the pandemic and its transitions of re-entry into a new normal.
- **Congregant Life**
 - Partnered with Senior Rabbi and Rabbi Emeritus to call each congregant over a year, resulting in 30% growth of deeper clergy congregant relationships.
 - Parleyed member touch points to increase member engagement through coffee with the clergy and fostered the growth of committee outreach and initiatives that drive current congregational life.
 - Pivoted during pandemic from coffee to phone outreach, building an extensive network as a clergy and staff team caring for each member of the synagogue. This resulted in 50% greater access to spiritual care for each member during the pandemic.
 - Attentive pastoral care and spiritual direction resulted in enriched, close relationships with 75% of congregants moving through illness or crisis.
 - Oversight of synagogue sound system allowed for its growth into state-of-the-art technology operated at the touch of a button.
 - Member growth from 550 to 750 family units over eight-year presence.

Professional Experience

Student Cantor

- Temple Beth-El, Jersey City, New Jersey July 2012-May 2013
- Temple Har Sinai, Pennington, New Jersey July 2011-June 2012
- Temple B'nai Israel, Southbury Connecticut July 2009-June 2011

Chaplaincy Intern

- Health Care Chaplaincy, New York, New York St. Luke's Hospital June 2010-August 2010

B'nai Mitzvah Education

- Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Brooklyn Heights, New York 2010-2013
- Shaaray Tefilah, New York, New York 2012-2013
- Central Synagogue, New York, New York 2010-2011
- Temple Israel of the City of New York 2009-2010

Soloist Work, New York 2009-2013

- Stephen Wise Free Synagogue
- Brooklyn Heights Synagogue
- Congregation Beth Elohim, New York

Additional Experience

- Temple Judea, Tarzana, California, Cantorial Intern, 2004-2008, *summer 2011*
- Temple Beth Shalom, Santa Ana, California Adult Education, 2007-2008
- Temple Isaiah, Los Angeles, California Cantorial Intern, 2007-2008
- Temple Beth Shir Shalom, Santa Monica, California Soloist *summer 2007*
- Temple Emmanuel of Beverly Hills, Beverly Hills, California Soloist *summer 2007*
- Classical Vocalist, Los Angeles, California 2001-2004

Education and Professional Development

- Institute for Jewish Spirituality Clergy Cohort, 2019-Present
- HUC-JIR NY Bekhol Levavkha Spiritual Director Certification Program, Certified 2017
- Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Cantorial Ordination May 2013
 - Thesis: M'Chorban L'Binyan, From Destruction to Rebuilding: Lament as a Petakh Tikvah, a Doorway of Hope
- Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Master of Sacred Music, 2012
- HUC-Jewish Institute of Religion, Los Angeles Cantorial Mechina Program 2004-2008
- University of Southern California Bachelor of Music, Vocal Arts Performance: Opera, 2001

Awards

- **HUC-JIR DFSSM:** *Abraham and Anna Helman Memorial Prize for Academic Excellence, Lavine Scholarship, Josef Freudenthal Memorial Prize for Excellence in Composition, Jodi Sufrin Prize, Israel Goldstein Master of Hazzanut, HUC-JIR Be Wise Grant Competition for Communal Outreach*
- **University of Southern California,** Merit Scholarship