

Ze'evi Berman (they/them) is honored to join Congregation Gates of Heaven as Student Cantor. Growing up at Temple Shalom of Newton, MA and URJ Eisner Camp, Student Cantor Ze'evi first encountered the joy of Jewish music and sacred community. As a song leader at Eisner, Student Cantor Ze'evi grew their love for the transformative power of tefilah and communal singing. At Bennington College, they deepened their knowledge of music, earning a BA in vocal performance and music composition. After graduation, Student Cantor Ze'evi pursued work as a Jewish educator in NYC. They served five different synagogues, developing and leading new programming to create sacred communities of prayer, song, and learning for toddlers, religious school students, teens, and adults.

As a student at HUC-JIR, Student Cantor Ze'evi is a candidate for cantorial ordination from the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music in New York (anticipated 2023), and a Masters of Jewish Education from the Rhea Hirsch School of Education in Los Angeles (anticipated 2021). Student Cantor Ze'evi holds the *Joyce Rosenzweig Prize for Creativity in Worship Music*, and the *Cantor Edward R. Fogel — St. Louis Circle of Jewish Music Prize for Vocal Development*, awarded by the faculty of HUC. As an alumnus of the T'ruah Clergy Student Fellowship, social justice is central to Student Cantor Ze'evi's cantorial work. As one of the first transgender cantorial students, Student Cantor Ze'evi believes in our collective capacity to build communities of belonging for all Jews. Student Cantor Ze'evi lives with their partner Ariel Zitny, an HUC rabbinical student, and their two cats Darling and Turtle.