

הקשר היהודי שלך

Your Jewish Connection

Brought to you by the Lifelong Learning Committee
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Cantors Sing Out Loud



I hope you were at our Kabbalat Shabbat on Friday, March 13, when Cantor Rosalie Gerut joined us for services as part of our participation in the Boston Jewish Music Festival. Everyone was singing, folks were dancing, and the sanctuary was filled with our community members and *ruach*. What a combination! I felt G-d's *shechinah* and I'm still feeling it several days later. Last year, as part of our participation in the Boston Jewish Music Festival, TBA welcomed [Cantor Gastón Bogomolni](#) and his associates, who provided us with Latin American-influenced Jewish music.

So what does it mean to be a cantor or *hazzan*? The cantor is “the person who leads the congregation in prayer along with the rabbi. The position of cantor is significant because music plays a major role in Jewish prayer services” (from [What IS a Cantor?](#)). My Jewish Learning provides a short [video on the definition of a cantor](#), as well as a [longer description](#).

Jewish Magazine has a short article on the [history of the cantor](#). The [Yivo Encyclopedia](#) provides a more detailed history of the development of the role of the cantor and of cantorial styles. Infoplease discusses [Jewish Liturgical Music](#) and includes descriptions of instruments that might have been used when the liturgy was first developed. For samples of the different melodies and their variations, go to [Sung Nusach](#) and [Virtual Cantor](#).



If you want to train to become a Conservative cantor, check out the [Jewish Theological Seminary](#) and its [Miller Cantorial School and College of Jewish Music](#). Locally, we have [Hebrew College](#) and its new [cantorial program](#) which will provide a pluralistic, multid denominational approach (be sure to click on the Boston Globe article about the new program).



The [Cantors Assembly](#), established in 1947, which offers a yearly conference, resources, and more to members, is the Conservative organization for cantors. Another organization, the [Jewish Ministers Cantors Association of America & Canada](#), was founded in 1897 and remains active. More organizations can be found at the [Jewish Music Web Center](#).

To learn the names of famous cantors and to hear cantors and their music, you can travel to these web sites:

- [The Greatest Cantorial Voices of All Time](#)
- [Judaica Sound Archives](#)
- [Chazzanut Online](#)

One of the more recent developments is the acceptance of women in the role of cantor, as discussed by Cantor Barbara G. Margulis in her [Note From the Cantor](#) and by Cantor Janis Guralnick in [The History of Cantorial Development](#). According to an [article at Haaretz](#), the first female cantor to lead High Holiday services did so in 1884 and her name was Julie Rosewald.

When Cantor Rosalie Gerut joined us in March, she was one in a time-honored series of female cantors who have been singing with congregations since 1884.

