

Cantor Dara Rosenblatt

Background & Pre-Cantorial School Experience Cantor Dara Rosenblatt grew up in Connecticut and attended public schools. She participated in a variety of Jewish summer programs, allowing her to appreciate and learn about varied Jewish traditions and practices and develop a strong sense of the Jewish life she wanted. Dara earned a B.A. from Muhlenberg College, majoring in English and Music with concentrations in Vocal Performance and Music History. She was actively involved in Hillel; was a member and musical director of a Jewish *a cappella* group; was selected to participate in KlezCanada (workshops revolving around Klezmer music, Yiddish culture and language, and history of the Jewish people in Eastern Europe); and spent a semester studying in Prague.

Upon college graduation and until beginning Cantorial School, Cantor Rosenblatt was the Jewish Student Life Program Director for the Jewish Student Union and Hillel at the College of Charleston in South Carolina, planning/implementing programs for approximately 800 Jewish students. During the summers, she led Birthright Israel trips and studied Talmud, Tanakh and Jewish Liturgy at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem and immersive study of Jewish text and liturgy at Yeshivat Hadar in NYC. She served as Cantorial Soloist and Gabbai for Shabbat and Rosh Hashanah services at the Conservative Synagogue Emanu-El in Charleston, including regularly leyning Torah. Through all these experiences, she determined she wanted to combine her Jewish life and her musical passion, which led to attending Cantorial School at Hebrew College outside of Boston, Massachusetts.

Cantorial School & Experience Cantor Rosenblatt will receive Cantorial ordination as well as a Masters in Jewish Education the Spring 2018. She has attended multiple workshops focused on the intersection of Jewish music, spirituality, prayer and synagogue life. She sings in the choir and loves Jewish music. She has served as the Cantorial intern at three synagogues, with duties including leading weekday, Shabbat, holiday and High Holy Day services; officiating at b'nei mitzvah; leyning Torah; and leading tefillah in synagogue religious school. She has been a religious school teacher and educational intern teaching Judaics and electives, trope, prayers, and preparation of d'verei Torah, including work with special needs students. Her graduate research thesis is on the bar/bat mitzvah experience, and she has tutored adult b'nai mitzvah students of all ages.

Cantor Rosenblatt loves leading services with both traditional and more contemporary elements drawing from varied traditions. She has worked with vocal and instrumental music groups for services, including a High Holiday volunteer choir comprised of people of varied levels of Jewish and musical knowledge, a Shabbat band, and she plays guitar herself.

Cantor Rosenblatt's Application to Temple Beth-El In speaking with Cantor Rosenblatt's professional references from all of her work experiences, the themes were consistent: She is described as a lovely, warm, down-to-earth and authentic person who engages well with all ages; having a lovely voice; proficient in davenning, leyning Torah, chanting Haftorah, and teaching; organized and prepared; eager to learn and contribute, appreciates the importance of understanding and adapting to a synagogue's culture and traditions; able to engage the congregation in song and prayer in a way that deepens their connections and elevates their davenning. Synagogue clergy described Cantor Rosenblatt as being loved by their congregations, wishing they had the ability to hire her as their full-time Cantor.

At its core, Cantor Rosenblatt believes synagogue life and making Judaism relevant and meaningful is about building relationships both within the synagogue and the larger community, forging connections with each other, and finding ways to appreciate and embrace everyone where they are. She is seeking a position and a community in which she can grow and contribute: a community that is warm, welcoming, loving and heymish.