



CELEBRATING 41 YEARS WITH

*Cantor Benny Maissner*

# On the Occasion of Cantor Maissner's Retirement

There are some events that change everything, that impact Holy Blossom Temple life for a generation. The L'Chaim for Cantor Beny Maissner is one of them. This one of a kind night brought memory, music, friends, and family together to raise our glasses with song in our hearts. Together, we made the L'Chaim a powerful celebration of Beny. We watched it and shared joy, gratitude and love. It was wonderful, and it surprised us all by how much it moved and connected us. (Joan Garson)

## L'Chayim

Originally, this night was to be a gorgeous concert in our historic sanctuary and a delicious gala in our magnificent new Schwartz/Reisman Atrium. When Corona took us by surprise, we knew we'd have to find a way to celebrate online. And we came to call it a L'Chayim. Why a "L'Chayim"? Because tonight - in the midst of a global pandemic, at a time of real isolation and under the shadows of real fears - we need to come together and affirm this beautiful and messy God-given life.

So thank you, Cantor Maissner, for giving us one more gift. That is reason to celebrate in the midst of a challenging time. Thank you, for being a bright light every day. And especially now, when we long to be reminded of what it means to belong to a people, to belong to an extraordinary congregation to be inheritors of traditions that are old and strong and enduring. Tonight's celebration came right on time, when we need you most, Beny. You continue to be with us when we need you to lift our spirits.

We thank the 120 volunteers who have made this year of celebrations joyful, meaningful and memorable. I must single out Joan Garson, Chair of the Steering Committee as well as the co-chairs of the Cantor's Celebrations Committee. They are the extraordinary Helena Fine and Susan Cohen. We thank the producer of tonight's program, Alan Gordon for his vision and direction. And we thank our unstoppable Director of Communications, Deanna Levy.

We thank everyone for joining us for this L'Chayim from near and far. I understand there are more than 3000 screens open for this celebration, so that must be more than five thousand people with us. We thank you for the generosity you are showing to honour Cantor Maissner. The gifts you make now will ensure the continuation of Cantor Maissner's musical legacy of excellence for years to come.

To cap off this wonderful night of celebration and loving tribute, I invite everyone to raise a glass wherever you are and at the count of three we're going to shout: "L'Chayim!" Ready? Achat... Shteyim... Shalosh.... L'Chayim!!

*(excerpt from Rabbi Yael Splansky's remarks)*



CLICK PLAY

A L'Chaim for

*Cantor Maissner*

WATCH A L'CHAIM  
FOR CANTOR MAISSNER

BRICH SH'MEI



Greetings

A - NA AV-DA D-KUDSHA B-RICH HU D'-SA-GID-NA KAMEI U-MI

KAMA DI-KAR O-RA-TEI B-CHOL I-DAN V-I-DAN

LO AL E-NASH RA-CHITZ NA VE-LO AL BAR E-LA-HIN SA-MICH NA LO AL E-

NASH RA-CHITZ NA VE-LO AL BAR E-LO-HIN SA-MICH NA

E-LA B'-E - LO-HA DISH-MA YA. DHU E-

LO - HA KSHOT V-O-RAI-TE K'SHOT UN-VI-O MI K'SHOT.

U-MAS-GE LE-ME-BAD TAV-VAN U-MAS-GE LE ME

BAD TAV - VAN TAV-U-VAN

TA-VE-VA UK-SHOT BEI A-NA RA-CHITZ V-LISH-

ME KA-DISHA YA-KI-RA A-NA E-MAR TUSH-B'CHAN BEI A-NA



THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ONTARIO  
LA LIEUTENANTE-GOUVERNEURE DE L'ONTARIO



June 2020

Whether as a means to relaxation or reflection, celebration or devotion, music is transcendent. Melodies summon humanity's inherent goodness. Harmony evokes resilience and our need to go through life together. Blessed are those who open our hearts to music.

It is therefore with great pleasure that I recognize and congratulate Benjamin Maissner as he concludes an impressive 41-year tenure as Senior Cantor of Holy Blossom Temple in Toronto. His spirit, commitment, and, of course, voice are legendary, as is his repertoire and knowledge of Jewish liturgical and secular music.

To everyone taking part in this tribute to his legacy of service, you have my best wishes for a memorable celebration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elizabeth Dowdeswell".

Elizabeth Dowdeswell



**Jill Andrew**  
MPP Toronto—St. Paul's

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June 10th, 2020

Dear Cantor Maissner,



On behalf of the Ontario Legislative Assembly and the people of Toronto-St. Paul's, I am deeply honoured to extend my sincere congratulations to Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple for your 41 years of service, and on your new transition to Cantor emeritus!

Cantors fill a uniquely important role in the congregations within which they serve. You have provided knowledge and guidance to many, and the value of your work cannot be overstated. To have been working diligently in this role for 41 years shows us your deep commitment to your faith and the community at Holy Blossom.

Thank you for dedicating your life to this work. Our community is a better place because of you. I hope you enjoy this transition to Cantor emeritus, and that you find deep meaning in this new chapter of your life.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jill Andrew  
Member of Provincial Parliament  
Toronto—St. Paul's



## Councillor Josh Matlow

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Dear Cantor Benjamin Maissner,

On behalf of our community, thank you for your service.

You have always been dedicated to enriching the many lives you've touched through your voice, enthusiasm, devotion, faith and hard work. Your leadership in prayer, and your gift of music, at Holy Blossom Temple has been admired and loved.

I wish you congratulations on your retirement and many years of happiness, fulfillment and good health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Matlow". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Councillor Josh Matlow  
City Councillor  
Toronto – St. Paul's  
[www.joshmatlow.ca](http://www.joshmatlow.ca)



**June 2020**

Dear Beny,

For twenty-two of your forty-one years with Holy Blossom, I have been lucky enough to work with you, Cantor Maisner, and to learn from you. I knew I was lucky to first call you my colleague and my teacher, and then my partner and friend. It has been a true privilege to stand by your side on the bimah shoulder to shoulder and lead this magnificent congregation forward.



As our Cantor, you have been Holy Blossom's *Shliach Tzibur*, our representative at prayer. It takes real strength to carry the responsibility for the spiritual wellbeing of so many Jewish souls gathered in prayer. I admire you for it. Even if we don't know the words, even when we don't know the melody, we believe our prayers have a shot at reaching The Almighty because you infuse every word, every note with meaning. You stir up in the congregation prayers of longing we may not have even been aware we had within us until we arrived in the sanctuary. This is how much we depend on you, our Cantor.

It takes more than a voice to be a *Shliach Tzibur* and stand before God with the congregation's prayers in your hands. It takes courage. Everyone knows of your many skills, vast knowledge, and natural talents, but today as we celebrate your illustrious career, I wish to call attention to your *neshamah*. Beny, you have been creative and fearless in the arena of prayer. *Yasher Koach* for taking up this sacred task. You have carried the Jewish People, and I pray, you have, in turn, been uplifted. You have enriched the lives of our congregants, and I pray, your life, in turn, has been enriched. You have sung our blessings to God and now we, in turn, ask that God will continue to bless you.

With deep gratitude and endless admiration,

Yael Splansky  
Senior Rabbi, Holy Blossom Temple





## June 2020

We at Holy Blossom Temple haven't been privileged to have Cantor Maissner as our Senior Cantor for the past 41 years, and now, as our first Cantor Emeritus. With the extensive breadth and depth of his musical training, coupled with his traditional Jewish background mixed with Reform Judaism, we have had the opportunity to learn from Cantor Maissner, grow with him, sing with him and for some congregants, even travel with him. I have so many memories of Cantor Maissner in the main sanctuary for Shabbat or High Holiday services, many of which I am sure you share with me. There is the vision of Cantor Maissner kneeling when a Bar or Bat Mitzvah chanted so beautifully; I see him blowing the Shofar year after year with his son, Tal; and of course, I see him raising his arms to beckon us to sing with him. We did, always smiling and also, singing. To this day, when Cantor Maissner blesses the congregation by singing Shehecheyanu, I have tears in my eyes, most recently in October 2019, his last Kol Nidre service as our Senior Cantor at Holy Blossom Temple.

The musical legacy that Cantor Maissner has left us will continue, with the contributions our congregants have made to the Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner Musical Legacy fund, to be applied at the direction of the Board of Directors, for musical purposes at Holy Blossom Temple. I thank all of our donors for their generosity to this fund in honor of our beloved Cantor. Cantor Maissner not only leads the congregation in song, but he is a teacher to so many, from Bnei Mitzvah (more recently second-generation) students to the choir members. As well, he is a tireless and devoted visitor each Shabbat afternoon to congregants and friends in the hospital, sitting at a patient's bedside to listen and talk, and make it a better place for those who are suffering. These traits and many more are what have made him so endearing to us and why we care so deeply for him.

We are very fortunate at Holy Blossom to have so many talented and dedicated leaders and volunteers, including those who chaired and were on the Cantor Celebration Committee; they seamlessly turned a black-tie gala event into a virtual event overnight, in response to the restrictions we have learned to manage as a result of COVID-19. As well, there were many volunteers and editors who have spent so much time on this beautiful digital Tribute Book for Cantor Maissner, and we are most grateful. Finally, to Cantor Maissner's Transition Committee and all the hours you have spent to bring him to June 30, 2020, and to support him as he transitions into his new role as our Cantor Emeritus, we thank you.

I have calculated that Cantor Maissner has attended approximately 400 Board of Directors Meetings during his tenure at Holy Blossom Temple – a true reflection of his respect and dedication to the leadership at Holy Blossom Temple. I will miss him at our Board table, but I am comforted by the thought that he loves to respond to emails and that he will not be going too far from all of us. And so Beny, as you take this first new step in your incredible musical journey and become our Cantor Emeritus, I thank you for what you have given to my neshama and I say to you one more time, Mazel Tov. Just promise me not to completely fill your days, so that you finally have more time for Hope, your children and beautiful grandchildren, who together with you, will always be part of our community at Holy Blossom Temple.

Avra Rosen  
President, Holy Blossom Temple Board of Directors



**From the Executive Director**

**June 2020**

Dear Cantor,

The L'Chaim on June 10<sup>th</sup> was the culmination of a year of tribute to your many accomplishments and contributions to Holy Blossom Temple over the past 41 years.

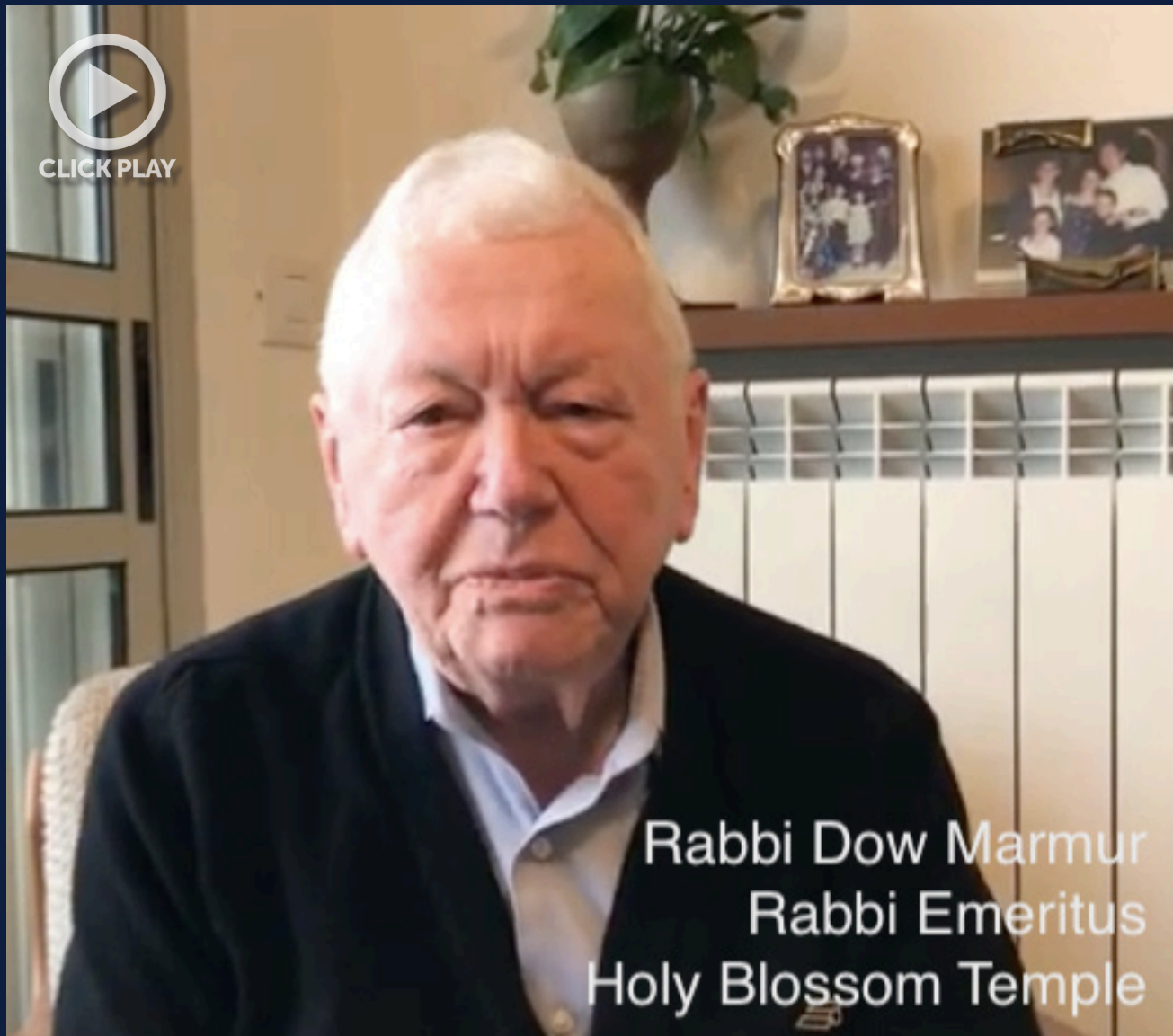
The outpouring of love and gratitude from the congregation, and from the community at large, was extraordinary – but not surprising. Over the past year, it has been a privilege getting to know you, to thank you, and to celebrate you.

Beny, as you begin this new chapter, I wish you many years of good health and good humour.

Hazak Hazak V'nit'hazaik!

Ron Polster, Executive Director





Watch video greeting from  
Rabbi Dow Marmor, Rabbi Emeritus



**June 2020**

The story goes that a Hassidic gentleman goes to his rebbe and says, “Rebbe, I had a dream last night that I was the leader of a Hassidic court and I had three hundred followers”



To which the rebbe replies, “When three hundred Hassidim have a dream that you are their leader, come back and we’ll talk.”

Well, for more than forty years now, Hazan Benjamin Maissner has enjoyed a court of many hundreds of admiring followers at Holy Blossom and beyond. And, God willing, this court and their maestro will make music together for another forty, which will get Benjamin Maissner quite close to Moses’ 120 years.

May that be God’s will, the good fortune of Beny and his family, and ours, as well.

Rabbi John Moscovitz, Rabbi Emeritus



CLICK PLAY

Cantor Sheldon Merel  
Cantor of Holy Blossom Temple  
1969 - 1979



Watch video greeting from  
Cantor Sheldon Merel



**June 2020**

Dearest Beny,

One of the most important concepts in our tradition is *shalsholet hakabbalah* - שלשלת הקבלה - the long chain of tradition which demands that we do our part to stand strong in holding the past and the future together. Your link is stronger than many, and to stand next to you is to stand in connection to Israel Alter and the great chazanim of Ashkenaz, and also to David Rosen and so many others of your students who continue this chain into the future.



You are a master of the *nusachot* of life, and you coach us all in recognising those forms around us. Your teaching has created generations of students able to pick out the melodies in the flow of time and recognize how nuance can illuminate and bring special attention to the change in the seasons of life.

And most of all, you teach Judaism through music, deepening our connection to our ancient tradition, our modern State, and to each other. Thank you and looking forward to continuing to learn from you!

Rabbi Jordan Helfman



**June 2020**

Beny,

I can never articulate what an honour it has been to begin my career with you at Holy Blossom as you were bringing your illustrious one to a conclusion. It has been an absolute pleasure sharing the pulpit with you!

You have strengthened me in ways that are challenging to express. In just one short year, Katie and I have grown to love you, Hope, and your family. Your warmth, kindness and *kavanah* are infectious and I feel very grateful to know you. I am proud to call you my colleague, mentor, and most importantly, my friend!

May your next chapter bring with it as much happiness and *kavod* as your first act!

Yasher Koach!

Rabbi Zachary Goodman





**June 2020**

Mazel Tov on 41 years of devotion and excellence, dear Beny.

I am forever grateful to have shared your bima. *B'hatzlacha* and enjoy your new adventures.

With love,

Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers







Rabbi Rick Jacobs

April 30, 2020  
6 Iyyar 5780

Cantor Benjamin Maissner  
Holy Blossom Temple  
1950 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5P 3K9

Dear Benjamin,

How delighted I am—both personally and on behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism—to add my own *mazel tov* and *yasher koach* to the many others I know you are receiving as you are honored by Holy Blossom Temple for 41 inspired years with this community. Indeed, it is no surprise that the members of your congregational family are celebrating you, their beloved cantor, teacher, and friend, and I am proud and pleased to join with them in spirit for this *simcha*.

Throughout the past 41 years, you have demonstrated unwavering passion and commitment to building and sustaining Holy Blossom Temple as a holy community in which God dwells and meaningful prayer is integral to the lives of members and their families. You have truly elevated your congregation's experience of music and worship, and your leadership in all facets of congregational life have been crucial to making Holy Blossom Temple into a beacon of Reform Judaism in Toronto. Indeed, Reform Judaism is proud and honored to count you among its leaders and grateful for your partnership to create meaningful Jewish experiences for congregants, seekers, and others – both within the community and beyond its walls. Your voice and commitment to the Jewish people and our Jewish tradition echo well beyond the hallowed walls of Holy Blossom Temple to our global Movement and to so many beyond our Reform Movement. You are a cantor's cantor and a source of wisdom and inspiration for all of us.

As you and your family stand on the brink of a new phase in your lives, it is most fitting that congregants, friends, and colleagues – myself included – are bestowing much deserved praise, recognition, and affection upon you. It is my hope that as you reflect on this exceedingly well-deserved tribute, you take pride in the many sacred moments that have been associated with your professional endeavors throughout your career. On this milestone occasion – and always – may the countenance of the Holy One shine brightly upon you and your family, bringing you new opportunities, fulfilling experiences, and an abundance of blessings as you continue to go from strength to strength. *Yasher koach*.

*L'shalom,*

Rabbi Rick Jacobs

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[URJ.org](http://URJ.org)  
[ReformJudaism.org](http://ReformJudaism.org)  
[URJ.org/TheTent](http://URJ.org/TheTent)





## Canadian Council for Reform Judaism



17 May 2020

Cantor Benjamin Z. Maisner  
Holy Blossom Temple  
1950 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, Ontario M5P 3K9

Dear Cantor ~~Maisner~~ *Bemy*:

It gives me great pleasure, on behalf of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism and the entire Canadian Reform Movement, to wish you a hearty *Mazel Tov* on your retirement and to recognize the tremendous service you have given not just to Holy Blossom, but the entire Reform Movement.

Congregations are the bedrocks of our Reform community, and the clergy who serve them are our leaders and role-models. They are the ones that help us celebrate our life cycle events and console us in times of grief and loss. They define us and strengthen our commitment to shared values and goals.

Cantors have a particularly special role in our *kehillot*, and you are simply *cantor extraordinaire*. You have shown us how our liturgy, expressed in musical form, lifts us higher and strengthens our spirituality –bringing us closer to our God – while also enabling us to reflect and be moved by your voice and interpretations. You have exemplified what it means to be a cantor and have set the bar very high for both your colleagues across this movement and for your successor.

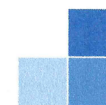
But we, your extended Reform family, have been the true beneficiaries of your musical oratory and gift of song over many decades. We truly have been made better by it.

I wish you *naches* and joy as you are celebrated for your many years of devoted service to our movement, and continued success in this new stage of life. I'm certain that we will continue to be inspired by whatever you choose to do.

Mazel tov and warmest wishes,

*Pekka K. Sinervo*

Pekka K. Sinervo, C.M.  
President, Canadian Council for Reform Judaism





May 1, 2020  
7 Iyyar 5780

President

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Rabbi Michal Shekel

### **In Honour of Cantor Beny Maissner on his Retirement**

On behalf of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, we want to share our best wishes of “Mazal Tov” to Cantor Beny Maissner on the occasion of his retirement from Holy Blossom Temple after 41 years of devoted and dedicated service.

Over his long and illustrious career, he has brought to the congregation and the Jewish community at large, his voice and passion for Jewish music. As we recite in Psalm 96, “O sing unto the Lord a new song; sing unto the Lord, all the earth.” He has brought God’s song into our lives, he has lifted us up and allowed us to feel the joy of that song whenever we have been blessed to be in his presence. However, his warmth has extended farther. He has raised up a generation of professionals, lay leaders, congregants and students whose love and commitment to Judaism and Jewish music reflects his deep love for Jewish song and tradition.

Though Cantor Maissner may be retiring at this moment in time, his legacy will be with us forever in the inspiration he has shared with others throughout his life and which will continue to be passed down from one generation to the next. As colleagues, we have appreciated his warmth and friendship and wish him our very best in his new song of devotion to our people and God.

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A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rabbi David Seed". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi David Seed  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michal Shekel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rabbi Michal Shekel  
Executive Director



**AMERICAN CONFERENCE *of* CANTORS**  
*Sacred music. Spiritual leadership. Jewish life.*

June 10, 2020

Dear Beny,

It gives me great pleasure to offer you congratulations on your retirement both personally and on behalf of the American Conference of Cantors. Your career has been an inspiration to your colleagues. Many of us have aspired to reach your level of musicianship, have studied to achieve your knowledge of Judaism and text and have modeled our behavior to be half the mentsch that you are, Beny. You are truly a Cantor's Cantor. Your beloved congregation has been so lucky to have you in their lives and I know they will miss you. We at the ACC are lucky that you will continue to be among us sharing your talents and your gifts. Personally, you have been a loving and supportive friend and I am grateful. Beny, may you go from strength to strength as you embark on this next chapter of your life.

Mazal Tov,

Claire Franco

President of the American Conference of Cantors



## EUROPEAN CANTORS ASSOCIATION

*The future of synagogue music*

Patrons: Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

Cantors Naftali Herstik, Joseph Malovany

Convenor: Alex Klein

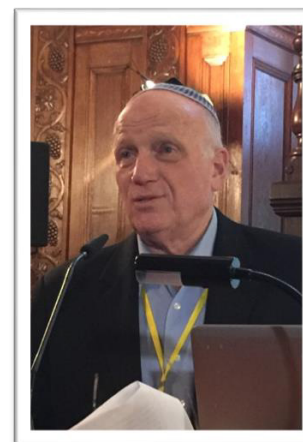
We, the European Cantors Association, salute Cantor Beny Maissner on his amazing forty one year tenure at Holy Blossom Temple.

For the last few years, Cantor Maissner has been a shining light at our annual Cantors Conventions, sharing with us the benefit of his talent and the wisdom of his experience.

His in depth understanding and knowledge of the Cantorate is without parallel, following in the footsteps of his great uncle, Israel Alter, the last Chief Cantor of Hannover.

We wish Beny, Hope and all the family a well deserved and fruitful retirement. We are so pleased that he has agreed to remain as Emeritus Cantor of the Congregation.

Alex Klein and the ECA Executive  
May 2020





Dear Beny

On behalf of ARZA Canada I am honoured to bring greetings and best wishes to you on this wonderful occasion of your retirement.

We are so grateful for your many years of beautiful music throughout our Reform Jewish community. There are so many cherished memories of singing with you and listening to your inspiring spiritual music.

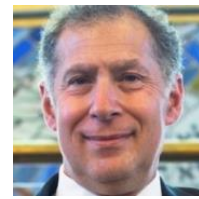
We remember warmly the ARZA Canada Meet-and-Greet reception for Israelis and Canadians at the URJ Biennial 2019 in Chicago. You surprised us by joining with Cantor Evan Cohen of Kehilat Har-El in Jerusalem, in leading us in a beautiful rendition of Avina Shebashamayim. Cantor David Rosen quickly joined in. We all sang our hearts out along with you!

Mazal tov and best wishes for a long and healthy retirement filled with music.

Miriam Pearlman  
President, ARZA Canada



Miriam Pearlman, President, ARZA Canada, Cantor Beny Maissner, Rabbi Gilad Kariv, President, Israel Reform Movement (IMPJ), Cantor Evan Cohen, in back - Pekka Sinervo, President, CCRJ



Once in a lifetime, we are blessed to have in our midst a person such as Cantor Beny Maissner. Beny is a larger than life talent who chose to share his Matnat Elokim, this gift from G-d with the world. Beny, Cantor at Holy Blossom Temple, made it a lifetime passion of sharing with so many the art, preservation, and encouragement of cantorial music with so many. At least ten cantors serving in Toronto at this time have studied with Cantor Maissner, not to mention so many others around the world. Beny is not only a Cantor and teacher, but an excellent musician, composer, choral conductor, but also a Talmid Chacham, a learned man. He has made studying a never ending process and from him we learn that we are all students all the days of our life. As a caring clergy in Toronto for decades, we can all think of the times that Beny celebrated with us and dancing at weddings, B'nei/B'noto Mitzvot and we can also think of all the times that he comforted us in our times of sorrow. We all feel our personal connection to Beny and I am proud as everyone is to feel that he is our friend. Beny has served the Toronto Council of Hazzanim on more than one occasion leading us in great concerts, elevating the experience for everyone, both participants and those attending.

Beny, I hope that you will never retire from leading us spiritually, musically, and that you will continue to teach so much more with the charisma that you have shown us. Thank you so much to Holy Blossom for sharing Cantor Beny Maissner with us, we are all blessed. Beny may you be blessed ad meya v' esrim k'mo esrim. We love you.

Cantor Marshall Loomer  
President, Toronto Council of Hazzanim  
Cantorial Clergy of Ontario



**היברו יוניון קולג' - מכון למדעי היהדות**  
**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE - JEWISH INSTITUTE OF RELIGION**

My Dear Beny,

I am happy to be with you at this important point in your life, your retirement after 41 years as Cantor of the Holy Blossom Temple. Well, after such a long period of four decades and a bustling career, servicing the community and proliferating cantorial music, one is indeed permitted to retire.

You have had one of the richest careers in the cantorate. Few cantors could boast of a similar long and varied career. You have led innumerable services in the synagogue, and you have given many concerts in your temple and in many other places through various countries. You have recorded a great variety of music, ranging from traditional Hazzanut to Yiddish and Hebrew folk songs and art music. The list of your collected recordings alone would have sufficed to fill the bios of four other Hazzanim and no wonder that you have been working so hard to collect the recordings and present them in digitized form. You have conducted several choirs, including your favorite Lachan group. You have taught God-knows how many Bar and Bat Mitzvah students and officiated in unnumbered life-cycle events.

During your wide-span cantorial career, synagogue music underwent enormous changes, even revolutions, from the traditional Eastern-European coloratura Hazzanut that you studied with the great master Leib Glantz through the special cantorial style of your illustrious uncle Israel Alter to modern synagogue music by composers such as Max Janowski, Max Helfman, Ben Steinberg and others to the new postmodern fashions of Carlebach, Danny Masseng and others. You were able to adopt the new styles and adapt them to your congregational needs. Indeed, through time you were able to reshape your own orientation from a virtuoso star to a true leader of the congregation without losing your ability to go back to the former styles when needed and when they served the prayer best.

Judging from your pep and enthusiasm, it seems that you are retiring in mid-career. You certainly could have gone on for a number of years. But as the wisest of all men said in his Proverbs, there is a time for everything, and retirement time has come.

From my own experience, being myself a veteran retiree, I know the hesitations and indeed the anxiety that precedes retirement. Yet, again as a long-time retired person now, I would like to assure you that there is life after retirement.

My dear Benny, your title Cantor will always be with you and so will your vast knowledge of cantorial music and your cantorial immense expertise. These you will be able to impart to future cantors. Please do not expect that all the young cantors will flock to partake in what you are able to feed them. Times have changed and synagogues now opt for the simplest tunes. Still, I am sure that you will be able to teach and help promote part of our rich cantorial tradition to the younger generation

../2.

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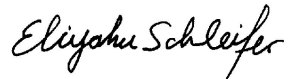


-2-

May God - הבורח בשירי זמרה - grant you good health and happiness and many good years together with Faith, your children and grandchildren. May your voice continue to ring, and may your zest always drive you to new activities.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish your and my former student, Cantor David Rosen, the best, as he replaces you as the Cantor of Holy Blossom Temple. May God be with him as he takes over the great tradition that you have established and grant him success.

B'Ahavah Rabbah, Yours,  
Eli



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an der Universität  
Potsdam

Dearest Beny,

Mazal tov!

I am happy to congratulate you on your retirement by having built a great career as a Cantor and Jewish leader.

Last February I had the privilege to be in Toronto and see myself the immense love of the Holy Blossom community has to you. I could witness generations of Jews that are connected to you from all this years, you have been devoting yourself with all your heart. - I could see in their eyes, how thankful they are to have you in their lives and how important for them to show their support going with you in the next step, which is the retirement. But this retirement implies also that you are being entitled honorific Cantor Emeritus, title you deserve for all your merits.

Now it's time!

It's time for new adventures, time to enjoy, time for new projects. A fantastic opportunity to keep sharing your wisdom and experience as Cantor, teacher and mentor. At the Abraham Geiger College in Berlin we are very lucky to further count with you for training the next generation of cantorial professionals in Germany and Europe. Your heritage counts among others with the tradition of your beloved uncle the great Israel Alter, having experienced the unique Leib Glantz, Moshe Ganchoff, giving you the tools to create your own musical language, combining the traditional and the modern, making a bridge for different generations and needs.

You have developed in Holy Blossom a large musical concert activity which includes new commissions and recordings. You have set the bar high for the Jewish music of Toronto.

Now it is time to witness what you have reached and enjoy.

Another reason to be proud is that your successor, Cantor David Rosen, whom I am wishing Hatzloche und Broche was also your student. As the Prophet Ezekiel wrote  
"The trees of the field shall yield their fruit"

אָנֵתן עֵץ הַשָּׂדֶה אֶת-פְּרִי

Dear Beny, I wish you all the best with the new challenges and lots of naches.

Your dear friend,

Abraham Geiger Kolleg gGmbH

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Rabbiner Prof. Dr. Walter Homolka

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Amtsgericht Potsdam

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We train Rabbis for Europe



7 May 2020

**Israel and Golda  
Koschitzky Centre  
for Jewish Studies**

**Carl S. Ehrlich**  
Director

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On behalf of the Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies at York University, I would like to congratulate Cantor Beny Maissner on his retirement from Holy Blossom Temple (HBT). For over forty years, Cantor Maissner has helped guide the HBT community through the desert we call life. Thanks to his inspiring musicality and erudition, his influence has been felt well beyond HBT's walls in the greater Toronto community and throughout the world.

On a personal note, as a music lover and fellow *yekke*, I am most grateful to Cantor Maissner for keeping the incomparable cantorial tradition of Lewandowski, Sulzer, Naumbourg, and others alive to be appreciated by new generations of both Jews and gentiles.

While Cantor Maissner may be leaving his post at HBT, there is no doubt that he will continue to teach and inspire us all for many more years to come. בהצלחה ולהתראות!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl S. Ehrlich".

Director, Israel and Golda Koschitzky Centre for Jewish Studies  
Professor of History and Humanities  
York University  
Toronto, Canada



# Memory in Music



CLICK PLAY

## SHIRAT AHAVAH

Music: Benjamin Maissner

Arr. H. Gamble

$\text{♩} = 92$

Cantor

Soprano

Alto

Tenor

Bass

Organ

*rit.*

Vod ha-pa-am

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Org.



# *Becoming a Singing Congregation:* Cantor Benjamin Maissner's Holy Blossom Temple Legacy

## *A Career in Brief*

In the spring of 1979, a 35-year-old Israeli Cantor from Germantown Jewish Centre in Philadelphia successfully interviewed and auditioned to succeed Sheldon Merel as Cantor and Musical Director of Holy Blossom Temple. Three months later, Cantor Benjamin Maissner, Hope, and their children—Shira, Tal and Rivka—crossed the border to Canada, as landed immigrants, and settled in mid-town Toronto. With the High Holy Days quickly approaching, Beny immediately immersed himself in the role and responsibilities of *Shliach Tzibbur*. Shortly thereafter, he began the career-long process of expanding Holy Blossom's musical repertoire and programming.

Over 41 years, Cantor Maissner led our congregation on a journey in music that inspired our prayers, elevated our celebrations, challenged our musical literacy, and shaped the heart and soul of Holy Blossom Temple. In the process, both Holy Blossom and Beny earned international reputations for Jewish music, Holy Blossom for its eclectic musical expressions and Beny for his extensive knowledge and repertoire. Here are the highlights of this collective journey, in no particular order, with a few pre-Holy Blossom activities and accomplishments for completeness.

# At Holy Blossom

"When I walk into performing a wedding and the bride comes over to me and says, 'you did my bat mitzvah' and the mother comes over and she says, 'you did my wedding', that is the price and the reward that we achieve after 41 years. I now do bar mitzvahs of children whose parents I did bar mitzvahs for. But I always tell the children, 'I was much harder on your father or your mother.'"

- ♫ Officiated at thousands of worship services and ceremonies ([2010](#)).
- ♫ Officiated at life cycle events for [multiple generations](#) of congregants.
- ♫ Participated in Purim shpiels ([2014](#), [2019](#)) and fun promotional videos for High Holy Days ([2013](#), [2014](#), [2017](#)), Hanukkah ([2014](#), [2016](#)) and Purim ([2012](#), [2013](#), [2016](#), [2019](#)).
- ♫ Delivered hundreds of lectures, talks, seminars, workshops, tutorials, and lessons, often in song, related to Jewish liturgical and secular music ([2011](#), [2012](#), [2012](#), [2012](#), [2012](#), [2013](#), [2016](#), [2018](#)).
- ♫ Visited with and comforted hundreds of congregants who were ill or incapacitated.
- ♫ Co-created special programming for Shabbat Shira ([1989](#), [2012](#), [2020](#)), [Yom Yerushalayim](#), Yom Ha'Atzmaut ([2015](#), [2019](#), [2020](#)), and Passover ([2019](#)).
- ♫ Developed and conducted two Holy Blossom choirs, the professional choir and the award-winning Temple Singers, which help to lead worship services throughout the year and join with Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir for special concerts ([2011](#), [2012](#), [2013](#), [2015](#), [2016](#), [2019](#)).
- ♫ Commissioned compositions for Holy Blossom Temple, including "[Pirchei Kodesh](#)" by Stephen Glass and Benjamin Maissner, for the dedication of the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium ([2018](#)); "[Simchat Shabbat](#)" by Cantor Sol Zim; "[Hallel, Psalms 113-118](#)" by Cantor Ralph Schlossberg; "The Recreation of the World" by Michael Isaacson; "Mi Sheberah" by Cantor Meir Finkelstein; "Kol Koch El Boker" by Yafim Adler; "[Eshet Chayil](#)" by Milton Barnes, commissioned with David Sandler in memory of Bunny Sandler; "[Mi Yitneini](#)" for Yom Kippur afternoon, "Kedusah" for three festivals, "Un'Taneh Tokef" for High Holy Days, and "L'Dor Vador" for Shabbat, all by Cantor Jerome Kopmar; among other commissions by Ben Steinberg, Yaffim Adler, Sid Rabinowitz, Milton Barnes, Srul Irving Glick, and Harvey Paterson.
- ♫ Organized and performed in countless [concerts](#) ([2011](#), [2011](#), [2011](#), [2011](#), [2011](#), [2011](#), [2011](#), [2011](#), [2011](#), [2012](#), [2012](#), [2012](#), [2012](#), [2013](#), [2013](#), [2014](#), [2015](#), [2016](#), [2017](#), [2017](#), [2017](#)), including "[Baroque and Beyond](#)", Leonard Bernstein's "Chichester Psalms", "From Shtetl to Broadway" ([video](#), [video](#), [CD1](#), [CD2](#)), Ernest Bloch's "[Sacred Service](#)", Abraham Kaplan's "[Glorious](#)", and Felix Mendelssohn's "Elijah" with the Dresdner Philharmonie and world-renowned Dresdner Kreuzchor. Many of these concerts were part of the Musical Heritage Concert Series and featured Lachan, Temple Singers and Holy Blossom's professional choir.
- ♫ Guided the vision for and creation of "[Siddur Pirchei Kodesh](#)", with Rabbis Moscowitz and Splansky.
- ♫ Led congregational trips to [Israel](#), [Germany](#), [Poland](#), and [Spain](#).
- ♫ Formed and conducted the [N'ginah band](#), to enhance Kabbalat Shabbat services.
- ♫ Formed and conducted a children's choir.
- ♫ Entertained participants of the [Mondays @ the Temple for Seniors Program](#).
- ♫ Played guitar and sang with the youngest members of our congregation on many occasions.
- ♫ Coached hundreds of b'nei mitzvah to become bimah ready.
- ♫ Coached dozens of lay Shlichei Tzibbur.
- ♫ Added musical moments to countless programs and presentations.







# Beyond Holy Blossom

**"I was very very blessed with the opportunities to wave the flag of Holy Blossom outside in the world."**

- ♫ [Performed at](#) Carnegie Hall in New York, Jerusalem Theatre in Jerusalem, Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv, Louise M. Davies Symphony Hall in San Francisco, and The Washington Center for the Performing Arts in Washington State; as well as Roy Thomson Hall, The Ford Centre for the Performing Arts, Air Canada Centre, Koerner Hall, and Leah Posluns Theatre in Toronto.
- ♫ Was featured with the Toronto, San Francisco, Winnipeg, Hamilton, York University, Bulgarian Sofia, and Ra'anana Symphony Orchestras.
- ♫ Consulted and sang on documentary films for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, including "To Mend the World" and "The Man Who Hid Anne Frank", both produced by Harry Rasky.
- ♫ Performed in the 2008 Songs of Life festival, for the [Bulgarian Premier](#) of Ernest Bloch's "Sacred Service".
- ♫ Performed twice at the North American Jewish Choral Festival with Lachan, in New York State, mid 1980s and mid 1990s.
- ♫ Lectured, conducted workshops and performed at Cantorial conferences around the world ([2006](#), [2010](#), [2016](#), [2016](#), [2018](#) [2020](#)).
- ♫ Edited the "Cantor's Lifecycle Manual" for the American Conference of Cantors.
- ♫ Held leadership positions with the Toronto Council of Hazzanim, American Conference of Cantors, and Cantors' Assembly of America. Was Chair of the American Conference of Cantors certification program.
- ♫ [Taught](#) at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Philadelphia, Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Geiger College at the University of Potsdam in Germany ([2019](#), [2019](#)), and Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem, New York and Cincinnati.
- ♫ Served as Cantor-in-residence for Hebrew Union College.
- ♫ Taught and mentored numerous [cantorial students](#), many of whom serve some of the most important synagogues in North America. This includes [David Rosen](#), our incoming Senior Cantor.
- ♫ Formed, conducted and toured with Toronto's [Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir](#) ([article](#), [article](#), [2014](#)), including trips to Detroit, Ottawa, Nuremberg, Hanover, China, and [Bulgaria](#) ([2018](#), [2018](#)), the latter of which also included members of the Temple Singers and Holy Blossom's professional choir.
- ♫ Recorded dozens of [CDs](#) of liturgical, holiday and concert music, many with Lachan.
- ♫ Arranged interfaith concerts ([2014](#), [2015](#)), including The Sufi Whirling Dervishes, The Japanese [Shinonome Chorus](#), and many Christian choirs performing with Lachan.
- ♫ Participated in several social advocacy events ([2018](#), [2019](#)).







## *An Evolving Congregation*

The scope of these activities and accomplishments is undoubtedly impressive, if not overwhelming. Yet, Cantor Maissner's impact on Holy Blossom Temple has been far more profound than they signify. If you ask the Cantor, and we did, what he is most proud of in his 41 years, it is that we became a singing congregation. **"Nowadays, it's a thrill that the moment I open my mouth everybody sings. Even if I make up a niggun and I sing the first phrase twice, the congregation joins with me."**

That was not the case when Beny arrived at Holy Blossom, as several of us will remember. Worship services were formal, with highly sophisticated liturgical music arranged for organ and a professional choir. The organ and choir were situated on the balcony, at the back of the sanctuary under the rose window. The choir faced the bimah. Douglas Bodle, the organist and conductor, had his back to it and watched the Cantor through a small mirror. Beny was grateful for these resources, which many of his colleagues did not have. But he recognized that the situation encouraged congregants to be passive during services and created a disconnect between himself and the congregation. In addition, the physical distance from balcony to bimah caused an acoustic delay. This limited music in the sanctuary to slower, more romantic styles, preventing Beny from using any of the rhythmic and upbeat melodies he brought with him from Philadelphia.

Things began to change in the early 1990s, when the organ fortuitously overheated during services. Not feasible to repair, it was replaced by a sophisticated and portable keyboard. The choir and accompanist were relocated beside the bimah, to the Cantor's right and within sight of the congregation. This afforded the Cantor more musical flexibility and provided space for the Temple Singers to join the professionals. Beny's vision for worship was not fully realized, however, until the 2005 High Holy Days season, 26 years into his tenure. The lower bimah was established that summer, moving the Rabbis and Cantor closer to each other and to the congregation and choir. Despite the sanctuary's enormous size, Beny felt a new intimacy with the congregation



that was reminiscent of the [Israeli shteibl of his youth](#), where the seeds of chazzanut began to grow. In this familiar milieu, he not only conducted the choir, but also the congregation, encouraging us with gestures, direct eye contact and repeated phrases to sing along and even clap, the latter of which would never have taken place in the sanctuary of old. **"I believe that even if I do something new, if there's a phrase in the middle of the music that I think the congregation could catch onto, I will stop, and I will ask the people to repeat the phrase with me."** With improved communication between the Cantor, congregation, choirs, and Rabbis, the collaborative exploration of a broad range of songs, melodies and musical styles was now possible.

#### [in Beny's words](#)

Long before these physical modifications and despite the barriers and challenges that existed, Cantor Maisner was already introducing simple, contemporary compositions and having the more complex compositions rearranged for our use. This was necessitated, in part, by the "Gates of Repentance" prayer book for Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, which had been introduced shortly before the Cantor's arrival at Holy Blossom but not fully set to music for the congregation. Excited to show off his repertoire of musical traditions and styles, Beny asked Rabbi Harvey Fields<sup>z1</sup>, **"Do you want it traditional, romantic, classical, baroque? Anything you want"**. Not everyone was happy with so many [musical changes in the early years](#), however. Beny recalls one congregant complaining to Rabbi Fields. Another charged Beny with being "too Jewish" for Holy Blossom. Both became ardent supporters and close personal friends.

The Cantor's efforts to expand Holy Blossom's musical repertoire continued. With Rabbi Dow Marmur, Beny revised the music for Yizkor and the Martyrology service and introduced modern pieces on Yom Kippur morning. With Rabbi John Moscovitz, he reformed the music for the Shalosh Regalim and increased participation of the Temple Singers to two Shabbat services per month. And with Rabbi Yael Splansky, as editor, Beny participated in the creation of ["Siddur Pirchei Kodesh"](#), which embodies a vision for worship that he and Rabbi Moscovitz shared. As Rabbi Splansky notes, "Beny's fingerprints are on every page of that prayer book". Throughout, the Temple Singers,



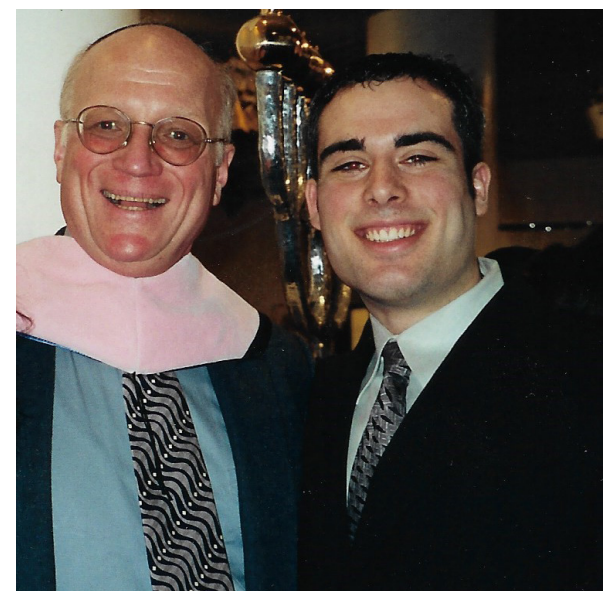
professional choir, and Nadia Adler, accompanist and collaborator for 30 years, worked hard to keep pace. Their unwavering dedication to acquiring such a diverse and challenging repertoire of music is most worthy of our praise and gratitude. Beny recalls the surprise of a colleague, who declared, "I've never heard it before!", when witnessing our congregation and choirs sing, in four-part harmony, a sophisticated composition written for the Cantor and a professional choir.

#### [in Beny's words](#)

With a broad musical range at his disposal and the long-time partnership of Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers, Beny seamlessly (sometimes even surreptitiously) integrates tunes that are simple and complex, old and new, and familiar and unfamiliar. **"I will choose something that is familiar, so the congregation can participate. But within that regularity, I manage to do one or two out of the box."** Medieval to contemporary, Hassidic to Reform, Sephardic, Ashkenazic, Oriental, Iraqi, Moroccan, American, Israeli, [Yiddish](#), Hebrew, and English, the Cantor has done it all, and with relevant accents, flourishes and trills, and baritone, guttural and nasal qualities. He marvels, **"I cannot believe the kind of music that we did, not only in concerts but in services, and the repertoire that the choir and the congregation have"**.

The physical changes to the sanctuary, the expansion of our musical repertoire, and the integration of Temple Singers contributed greatly to our participation in services. But even together, they do not tell the complete story. Whether we pray with Beny in the sanctuary, Herman chapel, youth chapel, or Mishkan, his personal warmth, sense of humour, intelligence, charisma, passion for Judaism, God and music, and the sincerity with which he himself prays and teaches [engage us, envelop us, elevate us](#), and imbue our minds, hearts and voices with the enduring power of song. A congregant of many years observed that Cantor Maissner raised the musical IQ of our congregation. Indeed, he has. But he has also raised our musical EQ, or emotional quotient. Beny identifies this as [participating with emotion](#), meaning, the willingness and ability **"to surrender to the sound and the interpretation of the piece of music"**. And herein lies the core insight. Beny nurtured our singing congregation by raising our musical IQ **and** EQ.







## From Strength to Strength

In his interview for the job at Holy Blossom Temple, Cantor Maissner articulated a desire to teach the values of Judaism through music. In doing so, he has helped us to understand, experience and internalize the musical traditions of our people, through time and place; to connect in prayer and celebration with fellow Jews, at home and abroad; and to explore the depths of our personal and collective Jewish identity. This has inspired many congregants, with encouragement and support from Beny and Lindi, to become Shlichei Tzibbur. **"I'm very proud of our congregation. It's a sense of joy to listen to lay people get up and read the Torah and lead the services. Or go to shiva homes and lead services."** It is with tremendous musical capacity, therefore, that Holy Blossom Temple moves into the next chapter of our history.

As for Beny, all of these accomplishments might have earned him the right to coast along this past year, his last as Holy Blossom's Senior Cantor and Musical Director. But that is not in his nature. **"I always try to do something new, to interest myself."** As a result, he and Mari Lynn Rusak, his administrative assistant for many years, have been very busy. And to that we say, Beny sure knows how to make an exit! Retirement is likely not to slow him down, either. Along with Cantor Emeritus responsibilities at Holy Blossom, Beny hopes to do more teaching and mentoring, and, as he says, **"to share my experience and my knowledge and to bring the life of Holy Blossom out in the world and demonstrate, proudly, what we did here in 41 years"**.



# Hope, The Other Side of Beny

Behind every successful person is a super-capable partner. We are all familiar with at least one version of this sentiment. For Cantor Maissner, that partner is his wife of 52 years, Hope. Hope has been the enabler, supporting Beny's endeavours while maintaining a career in nursing, a small business, and their full and fulfilling home life. Over the years, Hope has also made her own contributions to the Jewish community and to Holy Blossom Temple, for which we are very grateful.

Relocating to Toronto with three young children, Hope initially had her hands full. Participation in Temple life was limited to attending worship services and special events. ***"In the early years, the challenge for me was sitting with three children in the congregation. I tried everything. I tried sitting on the main floor. I tried sitting on the balcony. The balcony worked best because it was close to Beny's office. I could escape out the door if we needed to."*** Eventually, Hope began to selectively volunteer. With Beit Halochem, which provides aid to Israel's disabled military veterans, Hope rose to become the national Vice President. Holy Blossom's association with Beit Halochem is a result of her 20-year involvement. As a member of Holy Blossom's Soviet Jewry Committee, Hope gathered materials for congregant missions to the Soviet Union and provided support for those pairing with refusenik families, in celebration of becoming b'nei mitzvah. In 1990, she accompanied Beny on a mission to visit with and give concerts for refuseniks.

But Hope is most widely recognized for co-leading congregational trips abroad and for managing Holy Blossom's Judaica Shop. She organized two trips to Israel and one each to Germany, Poland and Spain. Notwithstanding the assistance of a travel agent, Hope was responsible for logistics and dealing with complications on-the-fly. ***"Beny was the Commander-in-Chief and I was the liaison between Beny and the group."*** Hope's connection to our beautiful Judaica Shop began with a home-based business called Tikvah Tableware, through which she imported Judaica, mostly from Israel, and supplied several synagogue shops with inventory on consignment, including Holy Blossom's. Twenty years ago, Hope assumed responsibility for the management





of our shop and facilitated its transition to the Schwartz/Reisman Atrium. She is presently training over 30 volunteers and members of Sisterhood, in preparation for her own retirement, although she may, from time to time, continue to volunteer in the shop.

Despite her involvement and regular presence at Holy Blossom, Hope likes to be behind the scenes. Shy by nature, she leaves the spotlight for Beny. But make no mistake, Hope has been integral to the Cantor's accomplishments and has contributed her own talents, intelligence, knowledge, and good judgment to our thriving congregation. She was [honoured by Sisterhood](#) on May 24, 2020, at the Rosh Chodesh Sivan Shacharit service. We also honour her here, acknowledging, as Beny himself often does, that without Hope he would not have been able to achieve his vision for Holy Blossom Temple.

[Article by Denise Gordon](#)

[Article by Rabbi Yael Splanky](#)

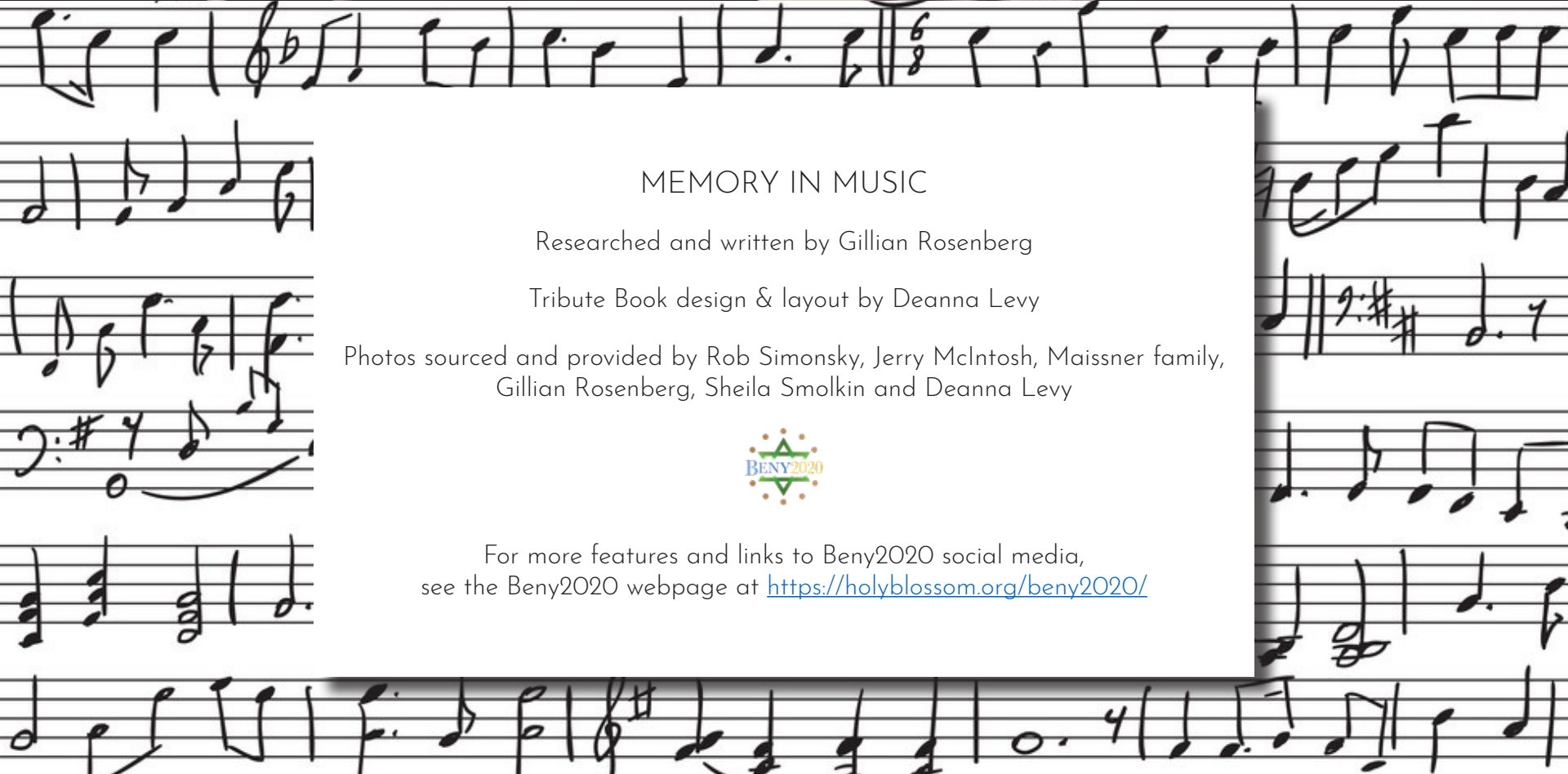


# Fun Facts

- ♪ Beny likes to be called Beny.
- ♪ At one time, Beny wanted to be an [opera singer](#).
- ♪ Beny [composed](#) some of the songs we routinely sing.
- ♪ Beny rides a motorcycle.
- ♪ Beny [sang with the Grateful Dead](#), but did not know who they were.
- ♪ Beny [rubbed shoulders with](#) Placido Domingo, Danny Kaye, Richard Tucker, and Jan Pearce.
- ♪ Beny was awarded the [Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany](#), Germany's highest civilian honour ([AGM 1:40 mark interview](#)).
- ♪ Beny holds a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and an honorary doctorate. His master's degree is in voice and conducting.
- ♪ Beny can cook, ski, play tennis, and ride a horse.
- ♪ Beny starred in a movie called "A Coat of Many Colours" that was made for the Museum of Civilization in Ottawa.
- ♪ Beny has the energy of a teenager.
- ♪ Every Saturday after services, Beny visits with those who are ill or incapacitated. **"My Shabbat is not a Shabbat if I don't go to Baycrest to visit."**
- ♪ Beny has a great [sense of humour](#).
- ♪ Beny can [conduct a symphony orchestra](#).
- ♪ Beny has been [playing the violin](#) since he was 8 years old. Retirement goals include learning to also play the viola.
- ♪ Beny can play the [piano](#) and [guitar](#). And if you dig around the internet, you may just find a video of him playing the trombone.







## MEMORY IN MUSIC

Researched and written by Gillian Rosenberg

Tribute Book design & layout by Deanna Levy

Photos sourced and provided by Rob Simonsky, Jerry McIntosh, Maissner family,  
Gillian Rosenberg, Sheila Smolkin and Deanna Levy



For more features and links to Beny2020 social media,  
see the Beny2020 webpage at <https://holyblossom.org/beny2020/>



Dear Holy Blossom Family,

It was a privilege to grow up in a synagogue as prestigious as Holy Blossom. Watching our father over the years has been an honour and awe-inspiring. In an age where nothing seems to last, staying somewhere for 41 years is a significant accomplishment. We were fortunate and blessed to be part of this extraordinary journey. His leadership taught us many important things about life; significance of tradition, dedication of oneself, along with commitment to community and family.

These lessons manifested through his actions and we came to understand the deeper meaning of how Aba actualized these things for himself and for us. Aba showed us that our traditions are a link to the past and to the future. Traditions connect us to family, community and the world at large. In his dedication to community and family, he taught us to just be present. We saw this commitment through his ongoing involvement in Temple life, B'nai Mitzvah lessons, choir practice, weekly visits to hospitals, visits with congregants and shiva calls, or simply dropping by our homes and playing with his beloved grandchildren.

Our mother's unwavering support allowed our father's many visions to come to fruition. She is the glue that holds it all together. From their beginnings to present, she continues to ensure life runs smoothly on all fronts so he can be there for others. Her commitment to tradition and community parallels his and together they modeled the

most important life lessons for us. We have all taken these lessons and made them our own.

Collectively we (the congregation included) have memories of us as little children sitting in the main sanctuary on shabbat morning and the High Holidays with our mother. This was a rare sight in the early years at Holy Blossom but now it is a regular occurrence. You watched us become Bar and Bat Mitzvah, blow shofar, get married and have children- all with warmth and a general interest in who we are. Now there are new memories of the Maissner grandchildren as part of the Holy Blossom Family singing and joining Saba on the Bimah.

When starting his career our father wrote in his entrance application to the Hebrew Union College that his vision was to blend the old traditions with the new. This melding to old world traditions with new sounds and customs has been his gift to the world of Jewish Liturgical Music and beyond. One of the best illustrations of this is in the melodies that Aba brought to this congregation. This can really be seen during the High Holidays when he sings the Nigun for Al Chet or the Tefillah for Israeli Soldiers and the State of Israel, Aveinu Sheba Shamayim.

Aba's energy and zest for life is ever present whether, at Temple, performing at Carnegie Hall, in Hannover, receiving an Honoree Doctorate, traveling the world with congregants or just playing with the grandchildren. Observing him fulfill his dream of combining traditionalism and modernism in Jewish music and renewal has been amazing. This culminated in witnessing him receive the German Cross, the highest award bestowed on a non- German citizen. He was presented with this award for bringing Jewish Music and Culture back to Germany. This acknowledgement by the German government was truly the culmination and closing of a circle of a family legacy left by his Great Uncle Cantor Israel Alter Z"L. Our father continues to build this legacy, not only for the congregation and the Jewish music world but for our family as well, leaving this gift for future generations.

One often hears about the nachat/pride that a person receives from their children but we have been blessed to have had that experience in watching our father over all these years. Wherever we go people pay warm tribute to him and his contributions. But nothing quite compares to the nachat we felt when we recently heard a congregant refer to Holy Blossom as the "Singing Shul". This is perhaps the greatest of our father's legacies!

Whenever we return with our own families for High Holiday services we are always moved by the full sound in the sanctuary. The Kehilla lifting each other's spirit with participation from all ages, singing along to the well known sacred tunes. No matter where we go in the world, there



is nothing like the services at Holy Blossom. In mixing the worlds of tradition and modernity, Aba successfully created the unique sounds that he envisioned as a young Cantor.

For 41 years we have all been guided by a very pure sweet angelic voice echoing our prayers through this holy space. We have cherished this experience together. As his family, we felt the congregation's appreciation and love for this comforting familiar sound.

There is a bright new sound on the horizon and we know with full faith that our Aba has taught this congregation to open hearts and voices to new sounds in prayer. Wherever these sounds may come from, we know you will welcome and learn them so they can blossom here too!

Mazel Tov Aba and the entire congregation!

With love and deep gratitude,

Shira & Ernest Marx

Tal, Kaia & Judah Maissner

Rivka, Udi, Mia, Liel, Nadav & Eden Keinan







CLICK PLAY

# Tributes

CLOSING MELODIES,

CONFIRMATION  
1974

LA LA LA - - - - LA

LA OD TIR-EH OD TIR-EH KA-MA TOV YI-HI-YE LA-CHEN RAK SHI-RU

*FASTER GIRLS*

SHIR L'SHALOM BIT-SE-A KA G'AO-LA - AL NA TO-MAR HI-NE DAR-KI HA-ACHRO

NA, ET OR HA-YOM HIS-TI-RU SHMEI HA-A-NA-NA A-NI MAV-TI-ACH LACH YAL-

*[GIRLS ONLY]*

DA SHE-LI KTA-NA WE TRUST IN GOD FOR E-VER MO-RE,

*[EVERYONE]*

TE-AT-REM V'HAN-CHI-LEM ELO-HEI-NU YE-SHU-A

VA-TE-RET MI-TSA-CHON LU LU YE-HI A-NA LU YE-HI HOL SH'NE-VA-

KESH LU YE-HI LU YE-HI LU YE-HI A-NA LU YE-HI A-NI MAV-TI-ACH

*[GIRLS ONLY]*

LACH YAL-DA SHE-LI A-NI MA-A-MIN A-NI MA-A-MIN MAY THE

*Boys + GIRLS*

WORD OF MY MOUTH AND THE ME-SI-TATION OF MY HEART BE ACCEPTABLE

O - LORD OD TIR-EH OD TIR-EH KA-MA TOV YI-HI-YE BA-SHA-NA BASHNA HA-BA

*(MOVE) 3 Times*

AH LA LA LA LA LA LA LA LA OD TIR-EH

*(LA LA- is repeated twice)*





# Cantor's Circle Donors

## **MAESTRO**

Wendy & Elliott Eisen  
Carole & Bernard Zucker

## **CONCERT MASTER**

Helena & David Fine  
Joan Garson  
& David Baskin  
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Sheila Smolkin  
Esther & Marvin Tile



*Beny, dear treasured friend.*

You have deepened our love of Judaism by bringing us on an enchanting Jewish musical journey. Music fills the heart to overflowing. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination and life to everything.

Beny, thank you for the music! 🎵

With affection,  
Wendy and Elliott Eisen



*Dear Beny, thank you for your music*

For the many hours we have listened to your magical voice inspiring us to feel that God is close to us and is listening also.

We will miss you dearly, Beny - and when your beautiful voice resonates in our memories, we will remember that you have brought us as close to God as we could get.

As you enter a new chapter in your life, Holy Blossom will always be your synagogue. You will always be in our hearts and we know that Holy Blossom will be forever in your heart.

Bernie joins me in wishing you L'Chaim. May you pursue your new life in good health and happiness.

With Great Affection,  
Carole Herman Zucker

*L'Chaim to Cantor Beny Maissner*  
*Our Dear Friend*

Since joining Holy Blossom almost 40 years ago, Beny you have been part of every family celebration. From the birth of our two children Ben and Ariella through their bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and more recently the joyful arrival of our grandchildren you have always been there and enriched every celebration. We will continue to cherish our friendship and wish you many years of health and happiness as you enter a new era in your life.

All the best,  
Love  
Helena and David Fine and Family

*Congratulations on your  
magnificent career.*

May you continue to go  
from strength to strength.

With admiration and much  
appreciation,

David Baskin and Joan Garson



CLICK PLAY

*Benzy,*

Your music is an inspiration.

We are grateful for your kindness  
and support.

The Rotman Family

*From Jack and Judy Winberg and family*

Over the last 41 years Holy Blossom Temple has experienced tremendous change. And throughout all the years and all the changes there has been one constant...  
our beloved cantor.

The depth of Cantor Maissner's knowledge and understanding of Jewish practice is evident at every Shabbat, high holiday and festival service. We can never fully thank him for the musical legacy he has established and for sharing his love of music. He inspires us all.

We are grateful to Cantor Beny for his personal warmth shared at joyous baby namings, b'nei mitzvot, wedding celebrations and for his sincere support at times of illness and sorrows.

Beny, you have been our constant. As Cantor Emeritus and in all future roles we know that your legacy will endure. Our most sincere thanks for the last 41 years.





*Cantor Beniz,*

we have loved listening to your magical voice at HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE for the last four plus decades.

You are very special and have really made a tremendous difference.

Best wishes for continued health and happiness with your family.

With respect and in friendship,

“The Cohon Clan”

Susan and George  
Mark, Suzanne and Parker  
Craig, Jonas and Amber

*Dear Beny,*

For 41 years we have been blessed with the beauty of your voice, the wisdom of your teachings and the warmth of your spirit. Through your singular talents you have brought joy to so many, and we are all forever grateful.

You will be missed....

With Much Love, Sam & Judy Sapera  
and family

*Mazel Tov Beny!*

Linda Frum and  
Howard Sokolowski

*Benny,*

From my parents' inviting you and Hope for supper upon your arrival, to my singing with the Temple Singers for many years and to the choir trip to Israel in 1988, I have felt a strong and positive personal connection to you.

Your beautiful voice, the caring person that you are, your level of spirituality and traditional connection to Judaism and Jewish music... all of these things make you a beautiful person, and for me, someone who represents the best of Holy Blossom.

Wishing you, Hope and your entire family health and happiness in your years of retirement.

With love and respect,

Rebecca Egier



*Dear Benny,*

It has been my great privilege to be your friend. I was very glad to be on the music committee all these years. Not only have I been the beneficiary of your beautiful music, but our trips to Israel and Spain with you and Hope have been unforgettable. I wish you a long, healthy and happy life and years of singing. We will all miss you very much.

With Love,  
Mary Seldon



## Dear Benzy,

We are so grateful to have been part of your journey at Holy Blossom Temple. You have brought your wonderful neshama to so many lives. You have enhanced services, concerts and the Toronto Jewish community. Your participation at our life cycle events from 1979 until today has been memorable and we are so appreciative. Your voice and presence have brought joy and comfort to our family. We wish you much health and happiness as you begin your next stage.

With all our love,

Karen, Yoel, Alana, Ady, Ethan, Emily, Zoey,  
Dara, Jordan, Ryan, Kyle, Lyla, Billy and Samara  
- the Abells family



CLICK PLAY

We are proud to contribute to the legacy of the musical heritage you have bestowed upon us all.

*Thank you, Benny!*

Always, Barry and Susan Borden

*We applaud Cantor Beny Maissner*

on his outstanding career, the legacy of his contribution to Jewish music and his service to the Holy Blossom Congregation.

To quote from Leonard Bernstein in his 1976 lecture 'Six Talks at Harvard': "Music can name the unnameable and communicate the unknowable". Beny's music certainly does that.

We congratulate Beny on his transition to Cantor Emeritus and wish him many more years in good health and well-being.

Murray, Ellen and Jeremy Blankstein





## *Excellence with humility.*

Confidence along with warmth. Caring along with empowerment. Creativity along with passion. Those are some of the words which reflect our sense of who Cantor Maissner is, and why we hold him in such high regard. Whether in the foreground with his deep melodious voice, or in his conducting of the choir, or in the background as teacher, mentor, facilitator, and all ground great guy, Beny is special, unusual, and original. It's not just his melodious clear but deep voice, but his passion, and his love of all music, especially Jewish music, that draws you into his world.

We at Holy Blossom have been so fortunate to be able to experience this great man of the Jewish world and the world of music. We are forever grateful.

The Diamonds: Michael, Janette, Jesse, Cole and Shelby  
and Ari and Carly

*Kol Hakevod!*

Lois and George Fine

*Beny,*

You have touched our family in so many ways. Your voice and melodies have brought so much joy to us. Your knowledge and appreciation of Jewish music has inspired us. Your thoughtfulness and care have touched us. Your participation in all of our life cycle events are memories that will last our family a lifetime, most recently Sarah and Alex's wedding. Your niggun and presence at services has made us smile and laugh. We agree on all of this and what you have shared with us musically and spiritually. But not on our favourite Cantor Beny Maissner tune. There are just too many, but only one of you. Mazel tov on your retirement. We look forward to sharing many years with you as our Cantor Emeritus.

Mark Goodman, Avra Rosen, Sarah Rosen,  
Alex Kolodkin and Hannah Goodman

*Yishar Koach*

Diana and Marvin Goodman

*Thank you.*

Cantor Maissner you have nourished  
our souls and enlivened our  
spirituality for over four decades with  
the majesty of your voice and the  
dedication of your heart.

You will be forever remembered and  
deeply missed.

Enjoy your well-deserved retirement  
Howard Liss and Susan Sack Liss  
and Family

*Mazel Tov on 41 years!*

Lorraine and Donald Loeb

# L'Chaim Beny Maissner,

It is hard to believe that 41 years have gone by since we first met in 1979. Your leadership in the music field was and is outstanding. You always set a high standard for music at the Temple. It was always a pleasure to hear you sing at services, especially the High Holidays. You are a composer, teacher, mentor, choir master and inspiration to countless members, their children and grandchildren.

You were always supported by your wife Hope who was and is active in Temple life too. She is a great support to you.

You have been involved in the life cycle events of my family almost from your arrival. Our daughter Carol had her Bat Mitzvah in 1980. She is now a Grandmother.

As you journey into the next chapter of your life with Hope and your family, Jean and I hope you enjoy good health, peace and happiness knowing that you were an extremely successful, admired and loved cantor for 41 years at Holy Blossom Temple.

Jean and Richard Lorie

*Bravo, Benny!*

Audrey and David Mirvish





CLICK PLAY

*Dearest Beny,*

Thank you for opening my life to Jewish music and for being my colleague and friend for more than 30 years. Harley and I wish you only good things in the years ahead.

With love and affection,  
Judy Nyman and Harley Mintz

*Kol Hakarod Benny*

Lesley Binstock Offman



CLICK PLAY

*Dear Benzy,*

We wish you many more decades of  
good health, good spirit and joy.

Our family will miss you!

Michael and Jackie Shulman,  
and family

*Dear Beny,*

How can I ever thank you enough for all the ways you have lifted my spirits over the years. Not only do I feel fortunate to have had you as my cantor but also to have had you as a friend. We have worked together on any number of Temple activities and been together on trips to UAHC/URJ conventions including one where the Blue Jays won the World Series!

I wish you and Hope all the best as you transition to the position of Holy Blossom's Cantor Emeritus and know you will continue to find many ways to contribute to Jewish life both in the congregation and around the world.

Lots of love and best wishes,

Sheila Smolkin



# Dear Beny,

Since your arrival at our beloved Holy Blossom Temple 41 years ago, our Esther and Marvin Tile family has grown with the arrival of our 10 Grandchildren and 4 Great granddaughters. During this period, we are so grateful to you for enhancing most of our family events, the Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, the weddings, the anniversaries and the sad events as well.

Beny, we love you and wish you many more productive years as Cantor Emeritus, in Good Health, with Hope and your family by your side, in a World at Peace.

Esther and Marvin Tile

Cantor Maissner has been an absolutely outstanding contributor to our community and our services for as long as we can remember. His beautiful voice has always perfectly captured the very essence of our people and enhanced each and every one of our services and events.

He will always be remembered with great affection not only for his musical abilities but for his warm and welcoming demeanor, compassionate nature and wonderful smile.

Thank you, Cantor Maissner for all that you have brought to our congregation.

Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg

Thank you Beny for filling our sanctuary  
and our lives with your magnificent  
voice, music and spirit.

We will miss you dearly!

We wish you many more years of  
good health and involvement in our  
community!

Love The Krieger and Daviau Family  
(Karine, Dan, Max, Laura, Sam, Madi,  
Nate, Abi and Ahuva z"l)

Dear Beny, on behalf of myself and my children Sam, Danny and Julia we would like to thank you for inspiring us, supporting us and leading us for the past 41 years.

Our strong connection to Holy Blossom Temple is a direct result of you inspiring me to become a lay leader. To follow my Mother's legacy as a musical leader at the Temple has been a pure joy.

We wish you well in the next chapter of life.

Yasher Koach,

Michael, Ora, Sam, Danny, and Julia Leese



We are so honoured to have Beny in our lives and be a part of this special tribute to him. How can we possibly thank you for the many decades of establishing such deep roots in our music heritage and making music a core part of Holy Blossom's spirit, culture and core identity. To be married by you, our own friend in the sacred and inspiring space at Holy Blossom was an exceptionally meaningful experience for us. We wish you much continued health and happiness in your next exciting chapter ahead.

Cary and Lisa Solomon

Thank you, Beny, for all you have done to elevate and consecrate our time at Holy Blossom Temple. You and your family greeted us with open arms when we arrived, and you have been a teacher, leader, and friend to us all.

We wish you many joyous and active years to come, with music and family surrounding you always.

From strength to strength,

מחיל אל חיל

Rabbi Yael Splansky, Adam Sol,  
Avishai, Eli, and Jesse

Dear Beny, Temple Singers and the Lachan Jewish Chamber Choir join in a heartfelt Yasher Koach for over four decades as Holy Blossom's Shliach Tzibur, representative of our sacred community at prayer and internationally renowned musical master.

We celebrate you above all for your vast musical knowledge, profound understanding of Torah and extraordinary grasp of Jewish history and custom.

You have gifted us with a superb musical education replete with invaluable insights, which we will always treasure.

When we have joined our congregation in raising our voices in music and in prayer led by you we have been uplifted.

With profound gratitude,  
Toda Rabah Beny!

We wish to extend our very best wishes to Cantor Maissner on this auspicious occasion. You have raised our spirits in song for so many decades and we cannot thank you enough for the joy and inspiration you have brought to our lives.

Wishing you much health and happiness in your new endeavours.

Bill and Carol Kassel

Lloyd and Gladys Fogler are proud to honour Cantor Maissner.

Dear Cantor Maissner, Thank you for so many years of providing us with nourishment for the soul and for the heart.

30 years ago, when I joined Holy Blossom, I rediscovered the synagogue experience. Thanks to the majesty of your voice and the affection and passion of your delivery - always infused with a smile - what had previously been an obligation became an inspiration.

Kol Hakavod, may you soar from strength to strength,

Robert Lantos

Dear Beny, you have been at the centre of our life cycle events and the soul of our experiences at HBT for over 4 decades.

We thank you - and wish you long, happy, healthy years in retirement.

The Posen Spiegel Cohen Families

Dear Beny and Hope, since 1979, you have been part of so many important family events: 5 b'nei mitzvah, 1 wedding, 1 baby naming, 4 funerals, 3 consecrations, 3 confirmations, and many Shabbat dinners, to name a few.

We celebrated and mourned together. We laughed and cried together. We prayed and socialized together. We travelled and learned together. But mostly, we sang together.

Congratulations on 41 years. Looking forward to sharing another 41.

With Love from the Rosenberg-Gardner family

Zita, David, Gillian, Madeleine, Charlie, Benjamin, Joel, Susan, Jason, Sarah, Jonathan, Claudia, Liam, Jocelyn, and Noah

Thank you for your wonderful contribution to Jewish music and Jewish life, and for sharing it with all of us. We treasure our friendship and the opportunities we've had to celebrate simchas together with you and Hope.

Mazel Tov.

Julia and Michael Sax and Family

“Let all those who occupy themselves with the business of the community do so only for the sake of heaven, for the merit of their ancestors will sustain them, and their devotion, too, will endure forever.” Pirke Avot 2:2

Beny; you, Hope and your family have enriched our HBT family with your passion, dedication and commitment, for which we will always be grateful.

We are thankful for your tireless efforts and unbounding love for our community, as well as to Mari Lynn Rusak and Nadia Adler.

May you continue to be blessed in all your endeavours.

With warm affection,

Carole and Jay Sterling and family

In celebration and with profound thanks for your lifetime of song at Holy Blossom Temple!

Alison and Alan Schwartz, Debra and Barry Campbell

Dear Beny, we have been blessed to have you at HBT for so many years.  
The transformation of our prayers, services and learning has been so  
inspirational.

Singing for several years in the choir was memorable and exciting. Who can  
forget the concerts. We have such wonderful memories with you and Hope.

You have been a loving and kind friend to us and our family.  
We wish you years of good health, wonderful travels, new musical  
adventures, and loving time with your families and grandchildren.

With love,

Francie and Martin Storm

## HOLY BLOSSOM TEMPLE BROTHERHOOD

Thanks Cantor Beny Maissner

for his years of musical leadership both on Holy Blossom Temple's bimah as well as the  
global bimah, for his Yiddishkeit and his passion for the Jewish people in Israel and the  
Disapora, for his love of Torah and his desire to teach it to students of all ages, and for  
his love of this sacred community which he has supported throughout all of our life cycles.

We also thank Beny for commissioning Meir Finkelstein to compose original music for  
the "Mi Shebeirach" which Beny has chanted so movingly for many years.

Yasher Koach!

Brotherhood wishes Beny and Hope many years of health and happiness in retirement!



We wish you good health and happiness in your retirement. Mazel Tov and thank you from the Angel Family— Michael, Sara, Charles, Jack and Bella

Thank you for enriching the life events of our family over two generations, bringing joy to our celebrations (Bnai mitzvot for our children and grandchildren) and comfort for our losses.

The Bakers: Barbara, Michael, Jeff, Debra, Mara, and Leah

We thank you for sharing your love of music and creating joy among all of us who have had the pleasure of being with you over the years. You have been inspirational. We wish you every success and continuing enjoyment in all you pursue.

Ilsa and Jeff Blidner

Mazel Tov, dear Beny, on reaching this milestone. You enriched our souls every Shabbat, Shabbat Shira and High Holiday service with your thoughtful introduction of varied composers and melodies of Jewish music. Here's to a healthy and vibrant future!

Sara and Rick Charney

All the best on your forthcoming "retirement". We have no doubt that you will be just as busy, engaged and passionate in the years ahead. Hope to see you often at HBT in your new role!

Lots of love, Tom, Jacque,  
Michael, David and Elliott  
Friedland

David  
and Marilyn Gluskin

Beny, your voice has given our family great pleasure, comfort and happiness over the 40+ years that you have been at holy blossom. Wishing you and Hope good health, happiness and peace in your retirement.

Brian and Cynthia Hands

It has been a privilege to hear you and to learn from you. We wish you many more years of vitality and good health, filled with time for family, personal pleasures and the lifelong joy that making music can bring.

Much love, Jane and Rob  
Herman

Thank you for being our cantor and our friend. You have inspired us with your passion and commitment to Jewish music. We are blessed by the caring support you have extended to our family.

With much appreciation & love,  
Jill Kamin and Murray Hart



Thanks for the memories, for your dedication and friendship, Shabbat, Yom Tovim, choirs, concerts, Israel, Bat Mitzvah and Bar Mitzvah.

Alan and Carol Lavine  
and family

Music gives a soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and life to everything (Plato). A tribute to the man and the music and for Beny's extraordinary contribution to our musical heritage.

David and Ellen Sue Mesbur

Thank you for 41 years of devoted service. The depth of your musical knowledge, your warmth and enthusiasm and your magnificent voice have left an indelible mark on Holy Blossom Temple. We wish you the very best in your 'retirement'.

Lesley and Ron Miller

Beny, you were my very  
FIRST (cantor) and taught  
me the breath and power  
of Jewish music to touch the  
soul and enliven our worship.

Thank you! Wendy joins  
in sending love and best  
wishes to you and Hope on  
your retirement.

Rabbi Jim Prosnit

Dear Beny, you have  
supported and inspired our  
family in times of great  
sadness and times of joyous  
celebration. Thank you for  
your music, your warmth  
and your friendship.

Much love, Arlene Perly Rae  
and Bob Rae  
(Judith, Lisa + Eleanor)

We wish you great success,  
fun and wonderful music as  
you enter this next stage.

Loved our Purim Shpiels.

Lorie Shekter-Wolfson and  
Lorne Wolfson and Family

Dear Beny, Temple  
Sisterhood extends our  
heartfelt thanks for all you've  
done for us during your four  
decades as Holy Blossom's  
Cantor and we look forward  
to many more years with you  
as our Cantor Emeritus.

With love and admiration,  
Toda Rabah Beny!

Judy and Gerald Slan  
and Neri and Peter  
Slan and Hannah and  
Jonathan Graff

Thank you for always adding so much  
light and warmth to our community.

Love,

Pam and Michael Albert and Family

Wishing you and Hope happiness, fun,  
excitement and good health. We look  
forward to many more years of you  
being with us at Temple.

Brenda Spiegler and Mark S. Anshan

Maddie Axelrod  
and David Kogan

Beny, you are prayerful, incomparably  
knowledgeable, inspirational,  
compassionate and you have a heart of  
gold. Thank you for being our cantor.

We will miss you.

Janice and Larry Babins

To Cantor Maissner, we raise a glass to  
you. To your voice, wisdom and spirit!

L'Chaim and Mazel tov!

Warmest regards,

Oliver, Georgia and Warren Blatt

David and Cheryl Blinick

Thank you for 41 years of joyous music and friendship that has helped shape Holy Blossom into the kind of synagogue that is so welcoming to so many.

Claudia Blumberger and Sidney Troister

Thank you Cantor Maissner for all your contributions to HBT, your knowledge and guidance, and your wonderful music. We wish you many years of continued good health and enjoyment.

Mazel Tov.

Allan and Judy Borodin

Our father believes that the Voice is the vehicle of human spirit. Yours Beny brought us deep connection to community, each other, and Judaism. With gratitude and sincere best wishes.

Irving Brott and family

Dear Beny, thank you for all you have done to make us at HBT sing with you as one. We will miss you and that beautiful gift. With much affection,

Tammy Brown, Jodi Bager, Robin Sims,  
Jennifer Godfrey

Our family shared some of the most joyous moments of our lives with Cantor Maissner. His magnificent voice and cultural leadership made those moments even more special.

Enjoy your next act!

The Burger-Hershman Family

Marilynne and Joe Cass

Cantor Maissner, we wish you all the  
very best with love and gratitude.

You are an inspiration.

Richard and Joanne Cummings

Thank you Cantor Maissner for your  
beautiful voice. You are the Cantor of  
Cantors! We appreciate you honouring  
all musical traditions - Sephardic and  
Ashkenazi.

We will miss you!

Renee and Naim Dallal

Beny, thanks for the music, friendship  
and support. I wish you all the best. I  
know you'll continue to be creative and  
an active member of  
Holy Blossom and society at large.

Fondly,

Susanne Egier

David and Elissa Fingold

Dr. and Mrs. William Ford

Garry and Joanne Foster



# Nancy Gold

Beny, you have enriched our lives with your music, warmth and great energy. You have enriched the lives of Holy Blossom congregants and preserved the beauty of religious music.

Fran and Bernie Goldman

Dear Beny, thank you for the decades of teaching us and lifting us God-ward with wonderful music and sacred words.

Much love and a huge Yasher Koach,

Jill Hertzman, Laura and Brian,  
Jacob z"l, Ben and Danna

Thank you for the many years of joy you have brought to HBT and my family through your gift of song and music. Wishing you good health and happiness in the years ahead.

With gratitude,

Diana Hronsky

Mazel Tov Cantor Maissner and Family.  
"Where words fail, Music Speaks"... We have enjoyed many years of hearing you speak with passion!

All our Love,  
the Rotholc-King Family

Dear Beny, You have touched our lives in so many ways - Temple, with our families, and Cantor's missions. Your music has kept us connected to those around us.

We send you much love,

Gay and Gerry Lokash

Dear Beny and Hope, Yasher Koach!

Love and best wishes,

Eleanor and the late Lou London  
and Family

Dearest Beny, "Thanks for the  
memories" ... and here's to many more!

L'Chaim with love,

Karen and David Mock and family

You are the most inspiring cantor!  
Hearing your outstanding voice, singing  
along with you and learning new  
melodies! We will miss you at EVERY  
Shabbat and HH!

Best Wishes,

Debbi and Bobby Moses 😊

I joined the choir for the music, but  
thanks to you got so much more.  
Memories of singing in Israel and the  
Catskills, shared joys and sorrows. Over  
the years, you became family.

Keep well.

Nancy Pollack

Your lasting legacy will be forever  
remembered by all of us.

Mazel Tov on a storied career.

The Pulver Family, Ian, Corinne, Joeley,  
Sierra, Dusty

Mazel Tov on 41 years of devotion and  
excellence, dear Beny. I am forever  
grateful to have shared your bima.  
B'hatzlacha and enjoy your new adventures.

With love,

Lindi Rivers

Dearest Beny, it's been outstanding to know you as our Cantor, choral leader, teacher and most of all, as our friend, here and in our travels together!

With much love,

Razelle Roebuck and David MacCoy

Beny, we have learned from you, sung with you, worked with you on the MHC to bring your musical vision to HBT.

Thank You for 41 years!

Your musical legacy is a treasure and will be with us forever!

Joanne and Kevin Roher

Dear Beny, wishing you a huge Mazal Tov on 41 years of your heartfelt song and soul to this glorious congregation.

With love and admiration,  
Cantor David Rosen, Rabbi Ilyse Glickman and Joel

William and  
Kay Rosenfeld

Mazal tov and toda rabba for all that you have done for Holy Blossom.

Les and Beverley Rothschild

Thank you Cantor Maissner. We treasure the awe-inspiring talent and liturgical music you shared with us for 41 years. We will miss you.

L'Chaim

Adele Sager, Jane & Russell Rendely,  
Mark Sager & Families

Fred and  
Brenda Saunders

Brian and  
Annalee Schnurr

We hope to see you often.  
Future good luck.  
Bonnie and Mel Shear

Edward  
and Helen Sheffman

Phyllis Spivak

Marlene  
and Stanley Stein

Thank you for sharing your wonderful gift of music. Your voice has shaped our spiritual experience, and has added so much meaning to our prayers.

Best wishes,

Susan and Roger Stronell and family

A thank you to Beny. How does one put into words the impact that a person has had on a synagogue, a community, a city, a country, and world-wide?

Fondly,

Debbie Vigoda

Thanks for the many years of memories and enjoyment as you lifted up the roof and our spirits for holidays and simchas.

The Walters family

Thank you, Cantor Maissner, for your warmth, passion and commitment to our community. You have led and inspired us. You have taught and strengthened us.

We are ever grateful.

The Yakobson family

Mazel tov! Your presence and your beautiful voice have enriched our lives.

Thank you!

The Zemans

Thank you for sharing your passion for the richness and beauty of Jewish music through our Musical Heritage Concert programs.

Holy Blossom Temple  
Musical Heritage Committee

Beit Halochem Canada expresses heartfelt wishes to Cantor Beny Maissner on his retirement. We are grateful for Beny and Hope's ongoing commitment and dedication to Israel's Disabled Veterans.

# Mazel Tov Beny

**Elaine and Joel Abrams:** We wish you all the best on your retirement.

**Sandy Atlin:** With best wishes and gratitude for all your contributions to our community.

**Carla and Alain Baudot:** Wishing you the best in retirement. You have been such an important and wonderful part of HBT and the choir.

**Rabbi Larry and Cheryl Englander:** With our love and admiration, mazal Tov Beny – onward and upward from here!

**The Gelfands:** With our sincerest appreciation to a great Cantor. Best always.

**Rabbi Elyse Goldstein and Baruch Sienna:** From 1983 to now, friendship and love.

**Mindy and Howard Goodman:** Wishing that life continues to bring you as much joy as you have given to so many!

**Ruth Ellen and Sheldon Greenwood and family:** Yasher Koach! Love and best wishes for many more years of beautiful music and wonderful friendship.

**Nada Simon-Hara:** Dear Cantor. My best wishes for your happy and healthy retirement. Continue to sing and enjoy life. L'Chaim.

**Frances and Paul Hellen:** In appreciation for enhancing our Jewish musical experiences: prayer, worship and entertainment, with subtlety and variety.

**Rick, Ellen and The Howard Family:** Mazal tov and thank you! Warmest wishes.

**Etienne and Aubrey Kaplan:** With deep gratitude and thanks for many years of inspirational singing and enhancing our temple experience.

**Martin and Zulema Leibovici and family:** Mazal Tov and congratulations for so many years of unforgettable songs and music!

**Eleanor and Peter Loebel and family:** Dearest Cantor Beny. We sincerely cherish how you have enriched our Jewish lives.

**Arthur z"l and Freda Ariella Muscovitch, Zak, Cathy, Noam, Neely, Aiden, Paige Tehila, Brooks, Ella and Chloe:** רודל רודם, הבהאב

**Dr. Frank Pulver and Dr. Annalee Cohen:** Beny, you are the "Best"!!!!

**Leslie and Darren Richmond and family:** Mazal Tov on this exciting new chapter in your life, following a remarkable career at Holy Blossom!

**Sima and Joe Rosen:** Wishing you, Hope and family good health and happiness. Keep sharing your gift of beautiful music with others. L'Chaim.

**Ronna Rubin, Philip Smith, Jill and Hailey Smith:** We thank you for all your kindness and support throughout the years.

**Robert and Marlene Ruderman:** Your tribute was well-deserved.

**Andy and Sandi Schafer:** With great affection.

**Janet and Norman Shiner and family:** Mazal Tov and best wishes always! Thank you for everything you have given to us.

**Janis and Gary Soren:** 41 delightful years! A major memory when you sang Happy Birthday to Janis in Petra, May 11/2008.

**Randy and Debbie Spiegel and family:** Mazal Tov Beny! An honour to sing with you.

**The Stossel-Stairs family:** Mazal Tov Beny on your wonderful years at Holy Blossom. All our best wishes for the future.

**Cheryl Sylvester, Robert, Aaron and Nathan Schenk:** Sing Hallelujah! With fond B'nei Mitzvah and Holy Day memories, long may your soul sing!

**Arieh and Val Waldman:** Lichvod HeChazan HaKabir--Kol HaKavod Chaveri Beny.



**Linda Wolfe:** With great appreciation for all you have done.

**The Yack Marks Family:** We will miss you.

**Robert and Charna Yasny:** Our best wishes to you in the next chapter of your life.

## *Todah Rabah*

Robert & Dorothy Aaron

Ana Abady

Carol Abugov

Howard and Barbara Alter

Dan Aronchick and Cynthia Good

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bader

Lewis and Elaine Baker

Susan Baskin

David and Eileen Berger

Melvyn Bergman and Esther Szold Bergman

Syrelle Bernstein

Mrs. Sondra Bertoia

Neil Besner & Gail Johnson

Beth Sholom Synagogue

James and Susan Bookbinder

Harriette Borins

Dinah Borovoy

Eric and Judy Breuer

Helene Brodziak and Jack Kugelmass

Grace Brooker

Mr. Michael Burns and Dr. Henny Rappaport

Cantors Assembly

Amy Caplan and Elliot Salmons and family

Charles Cass

Mark Cassidy and Suzanne Hersh

Ron and Alice Charach

Beryl Chernin

Mark Childs

Jack Chomsky

Dennis Chow and Denise Gordon

Gordon and Toby Ciglen

Susan Cohen

Jean and Garson Conn

Stewart Cramer

Susan and Peter Dan and family

Michael Davis

Michael, Laurie, Hannah, Lee and Noah  
Davis

Jeff and Phyllis Denaburg and family

David Dewitt & Susan Davis

Jeff Dicker and Sandi Smith

Marvin and Miriam Dryer

Anne Dublin

Ruth and Bob Ehrlich

Alex Eisen

George & Leigh Eisenberg

Murray & Fran Ellis

Arnold and Ricky Englander

Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Farber

Joe & Helen Feldmann

Heather Finestone

Carol and Michael Firestone

Phyllis & Ab Flatt

Michael & Sandra Florence

Norman & Marilyn Freedman

Anne Freeman

Elly Freund-Bell

Arthur & Shelley Gans

Marvin Gans

Cantor Rebecca Garfein

Temma Gentles & Paul Kay

Judy and David Gershon

Adam Givertz & Jennifer Steel

Marvin & Elaine Givertz

Herschel Glickman & Shawnee Glickman Slan

Michaele-Sue Goldblatt

Mira Goldfarb Blum & Harry Blum

Bobby & Alissa Goodman

Cecile Goodman

Gary & Gail Goodman

Sandi Graham

Maurice & Kathy Green

John & Barbara Greenberg

Shelley Greene & Joel Kirsh

Michael & Anita Greenstein

Barbara Grossman

Pamela Halpern

Gregory Hamovitch & Pamela Cappe  
Hamovitch

Rabbi Jordan & Dr. Jemma Helfman

Dennis & Alyce Helfman

Charles Heller

Drs. Elaine Herer and Stephen Holzapfel

Esther Hersh and family

Florence Hertzman

Helen Hochberg

Robert Hodes & Barbara Thal-Hodes

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood

Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood

Sheldon & Bonnie Hoppe

Larry Hussman

Nicolas & Caroline Ingvaldsen

Elliott Jacobson and Judy Malkin

Stanley & Dale Joffe

Naomi Joel

Ellen Karabanow

Bambi Katz Freireich

Eric & Julie Kirsh

Stephanie & David Kleiman

Francie and Stuart Klein

Neil Kozloff & Susan Himel

Richard and Sydney Krelstein and family

Doreen Kronick

Harriette Laing

Jonathan & Dana Lampe

Rick Lash & Elizabeth Tarshis

John Laskin & Holly Goren Laskin

Jonathan Leo & Teri Appleby

Melissa & Michael Levin

David & Susan Linds

Tim Lipa & Rhonda Richer

David Lipp

Irving & Nancy Lipton

Marcia Lisser

Suzie Lyon, Jack Kosoff, Helen Lyon, Mira,  
Ari and ALL of our kids and grands

Gloria May

Moshe Meirovich

Keith and Suzette Meloff

Shelley Miller and Sharon Smith-Miller

Brian & Joan Mirsky and family

Lewis Molot & Linda Kamerman

Sandy and Steven Moranis and family

John & Kathy Morrissey

Naima Mukamal

Harvey & Sylvia Naftolin

Ahuva Neufeld

Mr. Brian Nichols & Ms. Alexis Singer

Melville & Elke Olsberg

Eva Ormut-Fleishman

Cantor Barbara Ostfeld, Todd Joseph

Shoshana Paice

Bernice Penciner

Isidore & Marcelle Philosophie

Harvin & Rachel Pitch

Gary & Alison Polan

Ann and Gary Posen

Marla Powers

Geraldine Prendergast

Teresa and Alberto Quiroz

Merle Rachlin

Val & Anita Rachlis

Donald & Fern Resnick

Joanne Rosenberg and Jerry McIntosh

Ted & Doris Rosenstock

Sima Rosen

Howard Rosenberg & Rhonda Rovan

Arlene Roth

The Rothschild Family

Michael Rotsztain and Fay Greenholtz, Elise, Ian and Simone Klesmer, Jonathan Rotsztain and Julia Mroczek, and Daniel Rotsztain family

Michael & Janet Ryval

Mrs. Cynthia & Dr. Peter Samu

Lorraine & Alan Sandler

Rivanne Sandler

Terri Sapera

Marsha Sattin

Samuel & Marcia Schaffran

Harvey Schipper & Karen Minden

The Schlossberg family

Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Schwartz

Dana Segen

Anna Shafran

Michael & Lili Shain

Susie Sheffman

Ann Shendroff

Dee-Dee and Gary Shiffman and family

Viviane and Saul Ship

Nada Simon-Hara

Pat and Pekka Sinervo

Lise Sklar and family

Robert & Sonya Slater

Carol Smith

Roberta and Rich Sol

Dr. Michael & Ms. Susan Sole

Mr. & Mrs. David Spiegel

Mr. & Mrs. Mel Springman

David Steinhouse & Jody Freedman

Carly Steinman

Floyd & Barbara Stern

Barry Strauss & Ruth Hussman

Rosalie Sussman

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Swartz

Renee Tarantino

Lisa, Christian, Ethan and Hayden Taylor

Seymour & Gloria Temkin

Ellie Teshner

Nancy Theimer

Hazzan Ben and Robyn Tisser and family

Franklin & Jane Tizel

Mitchell Toker

Pauline Toker

Rabbi Karen Thomashow and Dr. Yonatan Eyal

Marsha Metter & Ami Trauber

John and Rosie Uster

Paula Warren

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Wasserman

Mark & Janet Webber

Sheila Weinstock & Leonard Disenhouse

Barbara Weisfeld

Carole Winberg

Deborah Wolfe

Elizabeth Wolfe

William & Dorothy Wolfson

Harriet Wolman

Gloria Wunder

Andrew & Lynne Zalvin

Stephen Zalvin

Sheila Zane

Mr. Mannie Zeller & Ms. Susan Lieberman

Fran Zimmermann

Dr. Robert Zipursky & Dr. Debra Katzman

Ron and Gail Zuker

Thank you

With heartfelt gratitude we thank the following people, groups, and organizations who contributed their hard work, time, resources, talent, and expertise to the Beny2020 year of celebration.

This meaningful year of celebration would not have been possible without your contributions. Toda Rabah!

### *Celebrations Committee*

**Susan Cohen:** co-chair, producer of *Selichot* and *Music and Art-Living Memory*, production L'chaim for Cantor Maissner

**Helena Fine:** co-chair, producer of *Selichot* and *Music and Art-Living Memory*, production L'chaim for Cantor Maissner, virtual choir

**Mark S. Anshan:** greetings

**Joan Garson:** fundraising, major gifts

**Alan Gordon:** producer of L'chaim for Cantor Maissner

**Tal Maissner:** production

**Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers:** musical director A L'Chaim for Cantor Maissner, cantorial tribute, virtual choir

**Gillian Rosenberg:** Beny2020 social media, interviews with Beny

**Rob Simonsky:** research

### *Maissner Family*

**Beny and Hope Maissner**

**Shira and Ernest Marx**

**Tal Maissner, Kaia and Judah**

**Rivka and Udi Keinan, Mia, Liel, Nadav Yair, and Eden**

## Steering Committee

**Joan Garson:** chair

**Ellen Ostofsky:** professional staff lead for L'Chaim for Cantor Maissner, fundraising

**Pam Albert:** logistics

**Susan Cohen:** production

**Phyllis Denaburg:** logistics

**Helena Fine:** production

**Zita Gardner:** tribute book

**Carol Kassel:** major gifts subcommittee co-chair

**Deanna Levy:** professional staff communications, production, tribute book

**Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers:** production

**Gillian Rosenberg:** tribute book coordinator

**Les Rothschild:** sponsorships, tribute book greetings

**Sam Sapera:** major gifts committee co-chair

**Sheila Smolkin:** tribute book greetings

**Abigail Carpenter-Winch:** professional staff, volunteers

## Major Gifts Committee

**Carol Kassel:** co-chair

**Sam Sapera:** co-chair

**Susan Borden**

**Susan Davis**

**Wendy Eisen**

**Joan Garson**

**Lesley Offman**

**Cheryl Rosen**

**Michael Sax**

**Darren Sukonick**

**Judy Winberg**

## Holy Blossom Temple

**Rabbi Yael Splansky:** Senior Rabbi

**Ron Polster:** Executive Director

**Rabbi Jordan Helfman**

**Rabbi Zachary Goodman**

**Cantorial Soloist Lindi Rivers**

**Ellen Ostofsky**

**Deanna Levy**

**Abigail Carpenter-Winch**

**Nadia Adler**

**Jonathan Ain**

**Dalia Alalouf**

**Judy Amsterdam**

**Lisa Isen Baumal**

**JoAnne Bieman**

**Anna Gurevich**

**Wendy Steinberg Himmel**

**Sean McCavery**

**Heidi Miller**

**Lindsay Mockler**

**Neomi Offman**

**Mari Lynn Rusak**

**Debbie Spiegel**

**Dante Thorne**

**Ella Vatagsky**

**Jim Westcott**

**Cindy Zimmer**

**Archives Committee**

**Brotherhood**

**Sisterhood**

**Religious School, grades 4-7**

**Temple Choir**

**Temple Singers**



# *Congregants & Colleagues*

**Avra Rosen:** Holy Blossom Temple President

**Karen Abells:** Selichot, *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Hazzanit Tara Abrams:** virtual choir

**Paul Babiak:** virtual choir

**Larry Babins:** tribute book greetings

**Susan Baskin:** virtual choir subcommittee chair

**Constance Bergmann:** virtual choir

**Linda Block:** virtual choir

**Sophia Bogosh:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Renee Bouthot:** conductor *Music and Art-Living Memory*, virtual choir

**Josh Boutilier:** virtual choir

**Gordon Brown:** virtual choir

**Cantor Jeremy Burko:** virtual choir

**Cantor Mark Childs:** virtual choir

**Cantor Jack Chomsky:** virtual choir

**Dennis Chow:** Selichot, *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Jonathan Gordon-Chow:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Andrew Cohen:** Selichot catering

**Cantor Evan Cohen:** virtual choir

**Ellen Cole:** Selichot, *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Michael Cole:** Selichot

**Cantor Jonathan Comisar:** accompanist for cantorial tribute

**Rebecca Dennis:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Desert Fish Studios:** virtual choir

**Paola Di Santo:** virtual choir

**Ron Diehl:** virtual choir

**Anne Dublin:** virtual choir

**Charley Earle:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Wendy Eisen:** Musicians of Tomorrow liaison, major gifts

**Ariella Fine:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**David Fine:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*, virtual choir

**Harper Fine:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Levi Fine:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Miriam Fine:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Naomi Fine:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Zoe Fisher:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Eva Ormut-Fleishman:** gates of memory *Music and Art-Living Memory*, production *L'chaim for Cantor Maissner*, virtual choir

**Cantor Rebecca Garfein:** virtual choir

**Judy Adelman Gershon:** virtual choir

**Stephen Glass:** Selichot

**Cantor Mo Glazman:** cantorial tribute

**Judith Golden:** virtual choir

**Abby Goldenberg:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Cynthia Good:** tribute book

**Denise Gordon:** Selichot, *Music and Art-Living Memory*, virtual choir

**Michael Greenstein:** Selichot

**Pam Halpern:** Selichot, *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Ron Hart:** virtual choir

**Paul Hellen:** photography

**Charles Heller:** virtual choir

**Sherrill Hershberg:** virtual choir

**Carolyn Ingvaldsen:** Selichot, *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Jill Kamin:** Selichot, virtual choir

**Rabbi Noam Katz,** The Leo Baeck Day School:  
*Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Cantor Audrey Kaufman:** cantorial tribute

**Keepsake Video Inc:** videography and editing

**Janice Kerkkamp:** virtual choir

**Eric Kirsh:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Igor Kurtzman:** accompanist *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Cantor Ted Labow:** virtual choir

**Jim Leftwich:** virtual choir

**Aaron Levine:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Catherine Mayers:** Selichot, virtual choir

**Jennifer McCallum:** virtual choir

**Jerry McIntosh:** videography, video editing,  
photography, production *L'chaim for Cantor Maissner*

**Cantor Fredda Mendelson:** virtual choir

**Cantor Jackie Mendelson:** virtual choir

**Sabrina Merkur:** *L'chaim for Cantor Maissner*  
feature

**Susan Michaels:** virtual choir

**Shelley Miller:** music, *Music and Art-Living Memory*,  
production *L'chaim for Cantor Maissner*,  
virtual choir

**Sharon Smith-Miller:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*,  
virtual choir

**Lew Molot:** Selichot, virtual choir

**Giacomo Moncada,** Star Media Branded  
Entertainment: production *L'chaim for Cantor Maissner*,  
virtual choir

**Mike Morgulis:** Selichot

**Cantor Eric Moses:** cantorial tribute

**Cantor Penny Myers:** cantorial tribute

**Cantor Charles Osbourne:** virtual choir

**Dena Perlmutar:** virtual choir

**Mairead Pinchuk:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Geraldine Prendergast:** Selichot, *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Tere Quiroz:** Selichot

**Wendy Rhodes:** virtual choir

**Sophie Rivers:** virtual choir

**Graham Robinson:** virtual choir

**Beth Roher:** gates of memory for *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Joanne Roher:** virtual choir

**Cantor David Rosen:** cantorial tribute, virtual choir

**Benjamin Rosenberg:** Beny2020 logo

**Ellen Rosenberg:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Ronnie Rothschild:** Selichot

**Cantor Pavel Roytman:** virtual choir

**Shoshana Sage:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

**Mark Wood-Salomon:** virtual choir

**Sandi Schafer:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*,  
virtual choir

**William Schnaper:** virtual choir

**Dana Segen:** virtual choir

**Lili Shain:** virtual choir

**Marina Shemesh:** virtual choir

**Saul Ship:** virtual choir

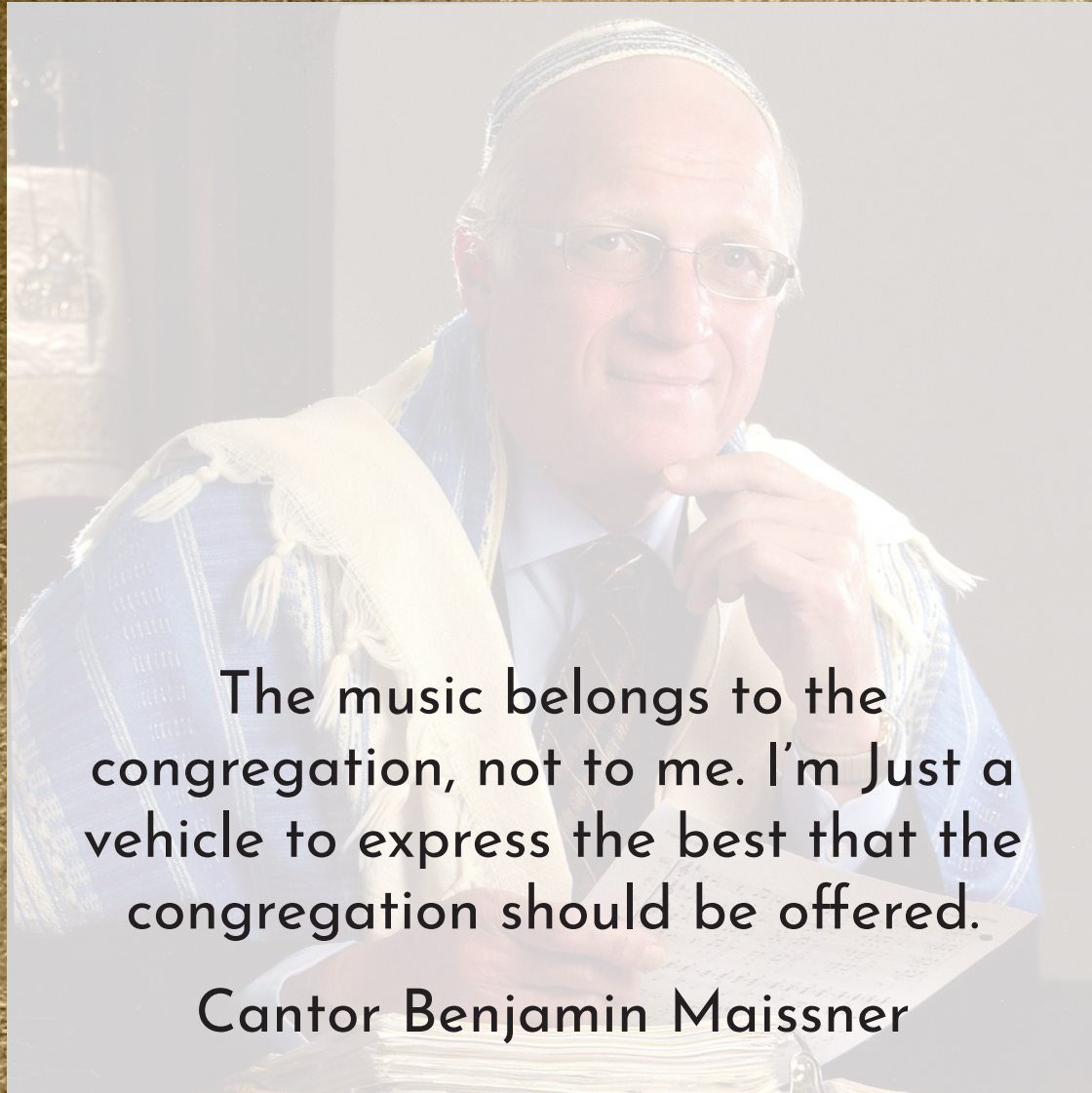
**Cantor Michael Shochet:** virtual choir  
**Bella Shupac:** virtual choir  
**Jan Simonsky:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Cantor Michael Smolash:** cantorial tribute  
**Jacqueline Snider:** virtual choir  
**Lynne Sorkin:** virtual choir  
**Melanie Spence:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Cantor Marty Steinhouse:** cantorial tribute  
**Joel Troster:** photography  
**Val Waldman:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Sheila Weinstock:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Arlene Weisberg:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Sam Wexler:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Judy Winberg:** Selichot, major gifts  
**David Yung:** virtual choir  
**Ryan Zuker:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*

## Sponsors

**David and Sandra Sandler:** Selichot  
**Mary Seldon and family:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Eileen and Paul Tichauer:** Selichot  
**Esther and Marvin Tile:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood:** Selichot, bulletin insert  
**Holy Blossom Temple Singers:** Selichot  
**Holy Blossom Temple Sisterhood:** Selichot

## Partners

**La Fondazione, Istituto di Letteratura Concentrazionaria:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Intergea Produzione:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Antonio Signoroni, iConcerti:** Classical Music Artist Management: *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**Istituto Italiano di Cultura Toronto:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*  
**The Leo Baeck Day School:** *Music and Art-Living Memory*



The music belongs to the congregation, not to me. I'm Just a vehicle to express the best that the congregation should be offered.

Cantor Benjamin Maissner