

# Shani Cohen

www.shanicohen.net

## EDUCATION

Cantorial Ordination and Master of Sacred Music— Projected May 2021

Star Fellow and JDC Weitzman Fellow in Global Jewish Leadership

Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion

Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, New York, NY

Master of Music in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy— May 2015

University of Houston, Houston, TX

Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance— May 2013

Graduated Magnum Cum Laude with honors

University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA

## STUDENT CANTOR/CANTORIAL SOLOIST EXPERIENCE

**Student Cantor, Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, NY 08/19 to Present**

- Co-lead services with clergy team on Friday night, Shabbat morning, and holidays
- Lead virtual services, accompanying myself on guitar and screen-sharing Visual T'fillah slides
- Create outdoor, socially distant events including a communal Rosh Hashanah Hakafah parade, a Kabbalat Shabbat service on the sanctuary steps for the 4th-6th grade retreat, and a community-wide Simchat Torah celebration across Brooklyn
- Collaborate with rabbis and youth musicians to lead creative Family High Holy Day services
- Lead virtual and in-person Gan Shabbat (K-2nd grade) services on Saturday mornings
- Teach weekly religious school t'fillah for 3rd-6th grade students, both in large groups and virtual small-group electives
- Facilitate adult education and Basic Judaism classes
- Lead and supported both in-person and virtual life cycle events for community members
- Organize and mentor teens for teen Torah chanter program
- Support students through B'nei Mitzvah process

**Tisch Intern, Central Synagogue, New York, NY 06/19 to 07/19**

- Collaborated with clergy team and musicians to lead Shabbat services
- Led Friday morning Tot Shabbat program
- Taught adult Torah study
- Wrote prayer supplements to be included in High Holiday prayerbooks
- Co-led life cycle events with clergy team

**Student Cantor, Hevreh of Southern Berkshire, Great Barrington, MA 09/17 to 06/19**

- Worked with rabbinic team to lead services on Friday night, Shabbat morning, and holidays
- Planned and led High Holy Day services working with rabbis, choir, and accompanist
- Led Tot Shabbat services on Saturday mornings
- Taught prayers and lead special all-school song sessions at religious school for grades K-7
- Mentored and led services with B'nei Mitzvah students

**Cantorial Soloist, Congregation Shma Koleinu, Houston, TX 01/15 to 06/16**

- Led High Holy Day, Shabbat, and B'nei Mitzvah services
- Worked with rabbi and accompanists to plan and organize prayer services

**JEWISH EDUCATION EXPERIENCE**

**B'nei Mitzvah Tutor and Religious School T'fillah Leader, Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, NY 09/17 to 06/19**

- Prepared students to lead B'nei Mitzvah services
- Taught weekly religious school t'fillah for 4th-6th grade students

**B'nei Mitzvah Liaison and Hebrew Coordinator, Congregation Shma Koleinu, Houston, TX 01/15 to 06/16**

- Coordinated communications between B'nei Mitzvah families and synagogue
- Prepared students for leading B'nei Mitzvah services
- Taught Hebrew to 3rd-7th grade students
- Facilitated holiday activities and special events at Journey Hebrew school program

**WRITING/PUBLISHING EXPERIENCE**

**Social Media Contributor, Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) Press, New York, NY 08/20 to present**

- Write the "Shabbat," "Shavua Tov," and holiday social media posts for the CCAR

**Cantorial Intern, CCAR Press, New York, NY 05/20 to 08/20**

- Created a spiritual resource for the month of Elul
- Worked on a study guide for *Mishkan Ga'avah: Where Pride Dwells*
- Wrote the "Shabbat," "Shavua Tov," and holiday social media posts for the CCAR
- Worked with editors on new and ongoing publication projects

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

**Voice and Piano Teacher, In Home Music Teachers, Houston, TX 08/14 to 06/16**

- Taught privately at student homes
- Scheduled and coordinated student recitals

**Graduate Assistantship, Moores School of Music, University of Houston, Houston, TX 08/13 to 05/15**

- Assisted the Admissions and Scholarship Coordinator, Graduate Academic Advisor, and Undergraduate Academic Advisor
- Processed scholarship requests and new student applications
- Helped organize new student auditions and audition mailings

**Psychology Internship, New Phoebe House Association Tacoma, WA 01/13 to 05/13**

- Developed one-on-one relationships with both staff and residents at transitional home for mothers recovering from drug addiction

- Facilitated and organized music and health-related programming for residents and children
- Conducted intake interviews, shadowed case management sessions, logged resident medications, and conducted room checks.

**Writing Advisor and Psychology Statistics Tutor, Center for Writing, Learning, and Teaching, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA 08/11 to 05/13**

- Conducted one-on-one conferences with students on academic writing
- Presented at the National Conference for Peer Tutors in Writing in Chicago (fall 2012)
- Led student writing workshops and worked with first-year course professors as a student liaison
- Tutored students and led test review sessions for psychology statistics courses

**Founder, President, Curtain Call, University of Puget Sound's Musical Theatre Club, Tacoma, WA 01/10 to 05/13**

- Implemented much-needed changes to the club to increase production quality and appeal to more of the school's talented students
- Recruited fellow students and organized meetings with faculty and students to coordinate club meetings, auditions, and productions
- Headed the campus-wide advertising campaign for the club

**Perspectives Leader, University of Puget Sound's New Student Orientation, Tacoma, WA 08/10, 08/11, 08/12**

- Supervised two groups of first-year students over the course of a week-long, fall orientation program and directed the annual Campus Life Skit
- Facilitated orientation activities such as Urban Plunge, a day of community service off-campus, group outings into the Tacoma area, and Playfair, an icebreaker program for all new students

**HONORS AND ACTIVITIES**

- Awarded Star Fellowship at Hebrew Union College (2018-2021)
- Awarded Weitzman JDC Fellowship in Global Jewish Leadership at HUC (2016-2018)
- President of Student Association at HUC-JIR NY campus (2019-2020)
- Participated in professional development programs including Hadar's Singing Communities Intensive (2018) and Hava Nashira (2017)
- HUC-JIR academic awards: The Cantor Norman and Carole Summers Award for Excellence in Studies (2019-2020), The Palm Beach Liturgical Cultural Foundation Prize (2019-2020), Reuben Peretz Abelson Prize for dedication to Yiddish Song (2018-2019), and Snyder Prize for academic achievement (2016-2017)
- Awarded Robert F. Lietzow Presidential Endowed Fellowship at the University of Houston
- Awarded the Lillis Scholarship, the University of Puget Sound's highest merit-based full scholarship for academic achievement
- Won first place in my category in the 2012 and 2011 National Association for Teachers of Singing Adjudications