

The ShabbaTones Chorus

Jewish Choral Music Through the Ages

Westminster Presbyterian Church
Gainesville, FL

November 14, 2021, 4pm



About Us

The ShabbaTones Chorus was formed in 2019 out of a desire by the founding members to bring Jewish choral music to life in North Central Florida. The chorus is a community choir and is open to everyone interested in singing Jewish choral music. Our mission is to study a wide spectrum of Jewish choral styles, eras, voicings, nationalities, languages, and levels, both secular and liturgical. Our vision is to preserve Jewish choral music, present it to the public, and touch people's hearts. We value the creation of its beauty, under the baton of our esteemed music director.

If you are interested in singing with us, please email info@ShabbaTones.org. We will be welcoming new singers in January. We rehearse Wednesday evenings at UF Hillel.

Our Board of Directors

Richard Sadove, President
Jesse Lipnick, Past President
Ellen Marraffino, Vice President
Elaine Jacobson, Treasurer
Adriane Isenberg, Corresponding Secretary
Margaret James, Recording Secretary
Shifra Armon, Member
Franklin Termine, Member

Choir Members

Sopranos

Cynthia Hendelman
Adriane Isenberg
Elaine Jacobson
Mary Kladde

Tenors

Rick Buncher
Jesse Lipnick
Derek Nirenberg
Franklin Termine

Altos

Karen Cohen
Margaret James
Corrine Lipnick
Hannah Schenkel
Gayle Shlafer

Basses

Lafe Arens
Richard Sadove
Kenrick Watkins
Adam Weizman

Front Graphic

Zann Jacobbrown is a Jewish artist and rabbinic teacher for Pardess Jewish community. The watercolor shows Miriam playing the tambourine. You can contact Zann at www.pardesscommunity.org for prints or a Jewish calendar.

Concert Program

Akhar Nogenim (on a transcription c. 1723)..... arr. Benedetto Marcello (1686-1739)

Soloists: Elaine Jacobson & Derek Nirenberg, Recorder: Peter Bushnell

Cello: Mattia Imponenti

Shir Hama'alot.....Salamone de Rossi Ebreo (1565-1628)

Recorder: Peter Bushnell, Violin: Sam Cohen, Cello: Mattia Imponenti

Ale Brider..... arr. Joshua Jacobson

Soloist: Adam Weizman, Cello: Mattia Imponenti

Sim ShalomJennaya Robison

Chorus of Hebrew Slaves.....Giuseppe Verdi

Soloist: Franklin Termine

Mayim, Mayim.....Emanuel Amiran/arr. Joshua Jacobson

Clarinet: Abby Mistretta, Flute: Peter Bushnell

Adijo, Kerida..... arr. Joshua Jacobson

Yih'yu L'ratzon Ernst Bloch (1880-1959)

Az Ikh Vel Zogin Lekho Doydi..... arr. Joshua Jacobson

Soloist: Richard Sadove

Ani Ma'amin..... Azriel David Fastag/arr. Paul Caldwell

Violin: Sam Cohen

Dona, Dona..... arr. Joshua Jacobson

Ochilah La'Eil and Psalm for the New Month Paul Richards

Soloist: Anthony Offerle, Piano: Paul Richards

Nign and Fugue Paul Richards

Clarinet quintet from University of Florida's Clarinet Studio: Julia Lanni- Eb

Clarinet, Abigail Mistretta- Bb Clarinet, Anne Glerum- A Clarinet 1, Lindsay

Gassman- A Clarinet 2. Dalton Ringey- Bass Clarinet

Simon Tov! arr. Russell Robinson

Guest Conductor: Dr. Russell Robinson, Violin: Sam Cohen

Amen Shem Nora..... arr. Matthew Lazar

Soloists: Will Kesling & Adriane Isenberg

Hallelujah (from *Judas Maccabaeus*).....G. F. Handel (1685-1759)

The concert percussionist is Garrett Hecker

Program Highlights

Geographic, linguistic and ethnic diversity characterize this 2021 ShabbaTones debut concert. Familiar Hebrew melodies—“**Mayim Mayim**”, and “**Simon Tov**”, for example, receive a fresh twist thanks to contemporary choral arrangements by Joshua Jacobson and Russell Robinson.

The Ukrainian-American composer Sholom Secunda originally wrote “Dana Dana” for the 1940-41 Yiddish theater production of *Esterke*. This haunting lament contrasts the fates of a cow bound for slaughter and a bird flying free. Thanks to an English rendition recorded in 1960 by Joan Baez, “**Dona Dona**” has now touched folk music aficionados around the world.

Another Yiddish favorite, the Workmen’s Circle anthem, “**Ale Brider**,” grafts the socialist ideal of solidarity onto a “leibedik” or foot-stomping Chasidic melody. Its “oy oy oy” chorus can best be described as “a groan delivered with a smile.”

“**Adijo Kerida**” will sound familiar to Verdi fans for it borrows musically from Violetta’s farewell aria, “Addio del passato” in act three of *La Traviata*. In similar fashion, the bitter lyrics of the Sephardic “Adijo Kerida” rebuke an untrue love, but also raise a deeper question. Is the cruel mistress in this case an individual, or perhaps Spain herself, which sent her entire Jewish population into exile in 1492.

Giuseppe Verdi makes a more direct appearance in the “**Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves**” from his 1841 opera *Nabucco*. Historically, this work commemorates the destruction of the First Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BCE, and the Jewish people’s subsequent captivity and exile in Babylonia.

The ShabbaTones celebrate another signal event in Jewish history: the recovery of the Second Temple in Jerusalem from Greek Seleucid control by Judah Maccabee and his small band of guerilla fighters in 167-160 BCE. George Frideric Handel’s oratorio *Judas Maccabaeus* recounts this victory, culminating in the rousing “**Hallelujah Amen**” chorus.

Choir Director: Will Kesling

Dr. Will Kesling is Professor and Choral Program Director at UF. He has conducted hundreds of choral ensembles and 46 professional symphony orchestras throughout the world. His talents for weaving together text and music, chorus and orchestra have garnered him international respect. L'ARENA, Verona, Italy – *Kesling is baton perfect for Brahms. You rarely have the opportunity to perceive in a maestro a clear vision of the work that is evident by the gestures, at the same time expressive with great precision.* NY Daily News – *Definitively Dvořák ...Will Kesling's conducting was truly inspired and impeccably paced; the orchestra played superbly; the massed choruses from FL, TX, GA, ID, IN, NJ, and UT produced stirring sounds;* American Record Guide July/Aug 2020 – *Kesling conducts a lyrical, dramatic performance.... Antonin Dvořák REQUIEM MASS, Op. 89; Gold Medal–2021 Audio Visual Arts Digital International Competition – AVA Digital Awards is an international competition that recognizes excellence by creative professionals responsible for the planning, concept, direction, design, and production of digital communication... Sounds of the Season: Conquering COVID with a Carol produced and conducted by Dr. Will Kesling; The Beijing Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs of the Peoples Republic of China has certified Dr. Kesling to be a High Level Talent and selected him to join the Program for the Introduction of Renowned Overseas Professors by awarding him a 10-year High Talents R Visa.*

Accompanist: Lee Jeong Heung

Lee Hyun Jeong is known as a very sensitive musician. Since she was six years old, her life has been involved in music. She has been a church musician for most of her life; serving thirteen churches as a music director, soloist, pianist, and organist. She holds a bachelor's degree in voice and piano from a university in Seoul and a Master of Music in conducting from UF. Lee is a very active member in Gainesville Master Chorale and has been featured as a soloist on many occasions. She is the Music Director and Organist at a Presbyterian Church.

Special Musical Guest: Paul Richards

Dr. Paul Richards is Professor of Music and Head of Composition and Theory at UF. His works have been heard throughout the US and internationally on six continents. Awards include Special Distinction in the ASCAP Rudolph Nissim Prize, the Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra's Fresh Ink composition prize, the New Music for Sligo/IMRO composition prize, the Flute New Music Consortium composition prize, and many others. His catalog includes works in every genre. The son of a cantor, he has served as a music leader at Temple Shir Shalom in Gainesville since 2002.

Guest Conductor: Russell Robinson

Dr. Russell L. Robinson, Emeritus Professor of Music Education at UF, has made over 300 appearances as a conductor, speaker, consultant and presenter at festivals, workshops, honor choirs, all-state choirs and state, regional, national, and international conferences all over the world. His conducting venues include Carnegie Hall (5 times), Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, Boston's Symphony Hall, the White House, and Washington's National Cathedral. Dr. Robinson was the 2016 inductee into the Florida Music Educators Association Hall of Fame. His website is: www.RussellRobinson.com

Guest Percussionist: Garrett Hecker

Dr. Garrett Hecker is a percussionist, composer, educator, and Adjunct Professor at Santa Fe College. As a percussionist, he has performed with many ensembles including the Area Stage Theater Co., Alhambra Orchestra, Sunrise Pops, UF Percussion Ensemble. Since 2015, Dr. Hecker has been the Director of the Percussion Studio at Santa Fe College. As a composer, Dr. Hecker has composed music in many genres for a variety of ensembles. In 2018, he completed his Ph.D. in music composition at UF.

Guest Vocalist: Anthony Offerle

Dr. Tony Offerle is an Associate Professor at UF. He has sung over 30 leading roles including title roles in Don Giovanni and Don Pasquale, Papageno in Die Zauberflöte, and Bartolo in both Il Barbiere di Siviglia and Le Nozze di Figaro. He has performed the Major General in The Pirates of Penzance, Sir Despard Murgtroyd in Ruddigore, Riff in West Side Story, and Curly in Oklahoma. An active concert performer, he served as guest soloist in London's Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral as well as St. Giles Cathedral in Scotland. Currently, Dr. Offerle is teaching studio voice, directing the UF opera workshop program, and is the instrumental/vocal ensemble director for the fall musical. He is the Artistic Director for the prestigious summer training program, *Operafestival di Roma*.

We appreciate you coming to our concert and supporting our efforts to perform Jewish choral music. We also thank our donors, without whom we could not be able to present this concert. It would be much appreciated if you could support the ShabbaTones future efforts by making a donation via the enclosed envelope or online at www.shabbatones.org/support-us.

Special thanks to the Jewish Council of North Central Florida (JCNCF) for awarding the choir a grant, which we used to purchase choral music. And many thanks to UF Hillel for allowing us to rehearse in their beautiful space.