

Shabbat Shira 2019 Faculty



Cantor Rosalie Boxt, Shabbat Shira Program Director

Cantor Rosalie Boxt is the Director of Worship and Music for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ). She also mentors clergy and consults congregations on issues of worship and music, synagogue transition and change. She directs the worship for the URJ Biennial, is a past Vice-President for Member Relations of the American Conference of Cantors (ACC) and is frequently asked to write about and present workshops on worship trends, to teach songleading to teens and adults, and perform a variety of styles in concert in a dynamic and warmly engaging style.

Merri Lovinger Arian Merri Lovinger Arian serves on the full-time faculty of the HUC-JIR Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. A faculty member of Hava Nashira since 1997, Merri has coordinated Shabbat Shira since its inception in 2010. A teacher at the North American Jewish Choral Festival, Shirei Chagigah and Synagogue 2000, Merri has twice conducted the URJ Biennial Choir. Merri is often invited as an artist-in-residence in synagogues across the country, and as a consultant, helping clergy teams explore ways to enhance worship in their congregations. Her newest book, *Leveling the Praying Field*, was just released.



Time.com recently listed **Michelle Citrin** in their Top Ten list of Jewish rock stars and the Jerusalem Post calls Michelle “The Jewish IT girl”. She is an award-winning Brooklyn based singer/songwriter and producer best known as a pioneer of celebrating Jewish culture on YouTube with viral videos including, “20 Things to do with Matzah”, “Rosh Hashanah Girl” and “Hanukkah Lovin”. In total, these videos have

received millions of hits from around the world and have led to the press referring to Michelle as, “A YouTube Sensation.” Michelle sets out to find connection points to our tradition’s wisdom and culture in an easily accessible way. She delivers insightful lyrics with her soulful voice and brings an angelic quality to worship services while offering a unique opportunity to engage with liturgical texts in a thoughtful and holistic manner. Michelle’s music is celebrated in synagogues, camps and is featured in TV, film, and radio. She has appeared with Matisyahu, Michelle Branch, Achinoam Nini, David Broza, Rami Kleinstein, and Idan Raichel.

Rabbi Noam Katz, MAJE, got hooked onto Jewish music during his many wonderful summers at URJ Eisner and Kutz Camps. He is a lifelong Jewish educator, songleader and storyteller, who has brought his unique passion for Jewish text, social justice and world music to hundreds of Jewish and interfaith communities in North America and abroad. Noam has released four CDs of original Jewish music: *Rakia* (2001); *Mirembe, Salaam v'Shalom* (2005); *A Drum In Hand* (2009), and *After The Flood: Songs of Resilience and Remembrance*. Noam serves as the Dean of Jewish Living for The Leo Baeck Day School in Toronto. He has served on the faculty of Hava Nashira, Shabbat Shira, Shirei Chagigah (UK) and the FJC Cornerstone seminar. He looks for every opportunity to train and inspire the next generation of songleaders and Jewish educators.



Josh Nelson

One of the most popular performers and composers in modern Jewish music, Josh Nelson brings his extraordinary message of hope, unity and spirituality to concert stages and worship services across the globe. Josh is a gifted multi-instrumentalist and songwriter whose work is celebrated and integrated into the repertoire of congregations, camps and communities around the world. Josh has served as the Music Director for the Union for Reform Judaism (URJ) Biennial Convention, Faculty for the Hava Nashira Music Institute, and a Musical Artist in Residence for the JCC Maccabi Artsfest.