

Sample Intensives (2-hour blocks)

Full Bodied Prayer

What would it feel like to pray with your body? Real magic happens when we can get out of our heads and drop into our feet and hands to express our devotion. We will spend the first hour of this workshop in motion and fully embodied. Hour two will be spent in process and exploring ways to become more connected with our bodies during prayer and finding creative ways to bring more intentional movement back to your home communities.

Religious School Music Teacher 101

RS Music Teacher 101 will be a deep dive into a broad review of seasonal, cultural, and prayerful music for elementary school age children. From the contemporary to *chasidic*, biblical classics to secular inspirations, these are the musical stories of our people. Taking a look at essential Jewish themes as well as our children's diverse learning modes and ever changing environmental contexts, we'll build a music curriculum to meet them where they are developmentally, socially, and spiritually. *A combo of practical theory and repertoire.*

Composition Masterclass - Beginner/Intermediate

A workshop for both beginner and intermediate level composers! (Re)discover the writer within you (or, improve the one that's already there). We'll explore what makes a song memorable and singable, and will examine the composing process from both Judaic and secular perspectives. Together, we will apply the principles we study, and each leave the session with the beginnings of a new work! Also - it's cookie time.

What About G!D? Wrestling with the Divine in Communal Prayer

The way we do (and don't) talk about G!D can have a profound impact on the lives of our community members. While singing can lift our spirits, the words of the siddur are still there-how do we start the conversation? Together, we'll explore melodies, *kavanot*, and Jewish texts that can be used within t'fillot for all ages to expand our understandings of the Divine. We are Bnei Yisrael, after all- the children of G!D wrestlers. It's time to step in to the ring.

Songleading Master Class

Whether it's on the bima or at camp... in a preschool or a religious school... the one thing we all need is a stellar set of songleading skills that can enable us to create transformative moments with music. We've all been moved deeply by those who know how to do it masterfully – and we want to move others just as deeply. Together, we will create a “songleading laboratory” in which we will invite a few participants to teach or lead a song, after which we will deconstruct what we experience and explore avenues for creating the deeper magic that defines truly exceptional songleading. Limit: 20 participants.

Five Brown Challahs In A WHAT????

You have a repertoire of songs that work well with the little ones. But hold on, wait just a minute! Fabulous songs are only the first step in being a successful early childhood music teacher. In this intensive, Ellen will teach you a whole slew of new songs (cause everyone always loves learning new songs, right!?) AND equally as important, she'll help you discover exactly why it's so important for you to make sure that the songs you teach are developmentally appropriate.

Bim Bom Boom! Tot Shabbat That Rocks The House

Tot Shabbat (or whatever you like to call it) can rock the house. It should be a blast for everyone. What does it take? Join Ellen as she shares the Tot Shabbat techniques that she has used for the last 24 years to create rockin' Tot Shabbat experiences.

Songleading Within Worship: Teaching, Engaging, Agitating for Worship that Works!

The purpose of music in worship is to enhance prayer. Adding new musical settings to your worship can add energy and provide new ways to experience the liturgy. How one selects music, teaches music, and uses music within worship, directly affects the strength and style of the sacred community one seeks to create. Yet it is a challenge to teach “within” the worship. How can we craft meaningful moments, not just “songs” in our worship? Through demo and discussion we will explore ways to contextualize the “teach” and the “share” so that it does just that! Best for those working as sh’lichei tzibur who would like to go deeper. *A balance of technique, repertoire, and conversation encompassing all of the above.*

Music Theory for Songleaders

This intensive is meant to explain and demystify basic music theory. The goal is to provide you with fundamental understanding of how and why music works the way it does so that you can be more empowered and confident when approaching a piece of new music. You’ll leave feeling energized and excited to continue your musicianship journey and even ready to start engaging with the songwriting process! This course is designed for learners at all levels of experience and musicianship.

Contemplative Prayer and the Jewish Mantra

Here we will explore a series of sacred music practices including chant, call and response, *niggun*, toning, silence and space. Building upon this Jewish liturgical vocabulary, we will take a look through the prayer book to understand how we can integrate these practices into your sanctuary service. A mix of inspired contemporary and ancient repertoire will guide the way. We will practice and play with musical tools like the sruti box, bells, singing bowls, tuning forks and drums to learn about toning, sound healing, and the medium of the musical soul. A combo of repertoire and exploratory practice.

Ki Mitzion Teitzei Shira! - New Liturgical Music from Israel

There is an explosion of vibrant and exciting liturgical music arising from a number of creative praying communities within Israel. Some of this repertoire has been captured beautifully in the new Transcontinental Music Publication, Libi B’Mizrach. Come learn some of these accessible new melodies, and others, too!

Positive, Powerful Prayer for K-8

Let’s dive deep into why we pray with kids, and how to make those experiences both moment-meaningful and future-forward. Starting with the big picture, we’ll explore pedagogy, program structure, repertoire, and technique for elementary and middle school-age learners. Whether you are building a program from scratch or want to enhance what you already do, whether you work at a synagogue, day school, or camp, come pray (and play) with us!

Sample Electives (1-hour – 75 minute blocks)

High Holiday Family Services: Music, Methods, and More!

Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur offer beautiful opportunities for families to share sacred time together. Through repertoire, techniques, and asking the big “why,” we’ll explore how to craft services for all ages of children and their grown-ups that look backwards, forwards, and inwards.

Sally Go Round The Sun, Sally Go Round The Moon: Using the Orff Schulwerk Approach to Cultivate Musical Play in the Early Childhood Classroom (Ellen Allard)

Orff Schulwerk is a developmental approach to music education that builds musicianship through the integration of music, movement, speech and drama. Discover how the Orff method gives children the opportunity to participate in musical experiences that support discovery, teamwork, creativity, and communication. Empower young students to become co-creators and performers as you support their natural instinct to participate in musical play. This will be geared towards early childhood and lower elementary.

Hallel Repertoire

The Hallel service is a treasure trove of musical gems with countless songs of devotion and praise. Let’s sing through the songs of Hallel, both familiar and new, learning from each other and from our rich canon. Bring your recorders as we’ll be singing through a lot of material and there will be no sheet music handed out.

Drum Circles for Squares

Discover the use of rhythm as a community building exercise. Learn new rhythms, and explore ways to use percussion as an energy builder and a teaching tool. Gain a better understanding of the effective use of percussion instruments in a music environment, and learn the best methods for coordinating and implementing the drum circle model.

Music of the March: Social Justice Music to Gather

Social Justice is one of the pillars of Jewish life and informs how we engage in the world. Come find your power, your voice and your passion. Using tools gathered from within and outside the Jewish world, Rosalie will share repertoire (call and response, repetitive chant, songs that build on new themes, songs you don’t need songsheets for) and techniques (how to bring diverse or conflicting communities together, what and how to sing when you rally, or march, or town hall, or protest, or pray) to deepen your comfort with and passion for singing for our lives!

New Niggunim

In advance of Transcontinental Music’s Nigun Anthology Volume III, Jeff will offer a sneak peek at a bunch of these new tunes, many being published for the first time ever. Some are haunting and expressive; others will make you want to get up and dance!

Boi l’Gani - Welcome to the Garden

Welcome to the Garden where all things Grow. Here we cultivate music and practice to capture the hearts of both the very young and the young at heart. Addressing essential questions such as “Is play the bridge between mind and spirit?” this workshop explores early childhood spirituality and offers repertoire and technique to nurture its bloom. *A combo of repertoire and technique.*

Guitar Stylings

The goal of this elective is to empower each participant with usable tools to add to your arsenal. Noah will share his unique approach to finding and choosing chords and rhythmic options so that you leave feeling able to bring a sense of ownership to every song you encounter.

S'u Sh'arim! Opening the Gates to a More Celebratory Torah Service

From repertoire to reading, from healing to hagba, let's learn together about ways to re-energize *Seder K'riat Ha-Torah* for congregants of all ages and communities of all sizes. We'll concentrate on new melodies for Torah and Mi Shebeirach moments, and talk tools of translation and transformation.

Breathing Life into the High Holidays

Did you ever wonder if there was a reason that those "twice a year members" only come twice a year? Is there a way to rethink your High Holiday services, to more closely mirror the warmth and creativity of your Shabbat services? How can we create intimacy during the High Holidays? Is there a way for "newcomers" to feel truly welcome? How can the majesty of the High Holidays involve the congregational voice? Is there a way to make these prayer services feel more relevant to the lives of those who come? We will discuss and share what has been working for each of us, as we explore some techniques and repertoire that might speak to these questions!

10 Top Tips For A Successful Early Childhood Music Class

Yes, the songs are important. No doubt about it. But there's so much more that goes into knowing how to teach music to young children. During this elective, Ellen shares her time-tested tools for consistently creating successful music classes that your students will love.