

Cantor Matthew L. Austerklein

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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate (ABD), Jewish Studies	Halle-Wittenberg University (Halle, Germany)
M.S.M. / Cantorial Ordination	Jewish Theological Seminary of America, 2011
B.A. Music	College of William & Mary in Virginia, 2006

FELLOWSHIPS & HONORS

2020 - 2024	Research Fellow, Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk
2022	Samuel Rosenbaum Award for Scholarship & Creativity, Cantors Assembly
2021	Great Jewish Books Seminar Fellow, Yiddish Book Center
2020	Polonsky Fellow, Advanced Seminar in Jewish Studies, Oxford University
2020	Hadar Wisdom Fellow, Hadar Institute

PUBLICATIONS

Edited Volumes

Cantors Assembly 75th Anniversary Journal (Akron, OH: Cantors Assembly, 2022).

Ilu Finu: A Cappella for Jewish Prayer (Akron, OH: Cantors Assembly, 2019).

Tefillat Shmuel: Selected Writings of Cantor Samuel Rosenbaum (1919-1997). (Akron, OH: Cantors Assembly, 2018).

Articles & Book Chapters

Beyond the Music: A new commentary on Jewish musicology, arts, and culture. Substack, published weekly since June 2023. mattausterklein.substack.com

“*Who are these Miserable Jews?* Text and Translation of a Cantorial Polemic in Eighteenth-Century London,” *Min-Ad: Israel Studies in Musicology Online*, Spring 2025 [upcoming].

“Review: *Music in Jewish Thought* by Dov Schwartz,” *Journal of Synagogue Music* (Akron: Cantors Assembly), Fall 2025 [upcoming].

“[Review: Golden Ages: Hasidic Singers and Cantorial Revival in the Digital Era](#),” *Musica Judaica Online Reviews*, 29 May 2024.

[“Rossi in Moravia: The Rise of Cantorial Professionalism in Bohemian Lands and Poland-Lithuania in the Seventeenth Century,”](#) *Journal of Synagogue Music*, September 2023 (5784) 48/1: 26-53.

[“God Save the Cantor’: Book Review of Michael Jolles’ Encyclopaedia of British Jewish Cantors, Chazanim, Ministers, and Synagogue Musicians,”](#) *Journal of Synagogue Music*, September 2022 (5783) 47/1: 105-108.

[“Foreword: The Torah of the Choir”](#) in Joshua Ehrlich, *The Choral Torah: Five Books in Four Parts* (Akron, OH: Cantors Assembly, 2021): ii-iv.

[“The Sovereign Musical Self: Musical Leadership in the Conservative Movement,”](#) *Journal of Synagogue Music*, September 2021 (5782) 46/1: 19-22.

[“The Torahs of Music,”](#) Book Review of “The Torah of Music” by Joey Weisenberg. Boston Hebrew College Blog, 10 Nov 2019.

[Foreword to *Shira Chadasha: Music of the Independent Minyan*,](#) xiii-xvii. Ed. Jeff Shiovitz. Akron, OH: Cantors Assembly, 2017.

[“Choose Life: The Cantorial Profession in a Time of Change.”](#) Hebrew College Blog. 16 November 2016.

ACADEMIC TEACHING

École Rabbinique de Paris, Cantorial School

- Graduate Course: “Music as Community, Music as Theology” (Fall 2023).

European Academy of Jewish Liturgy

- Private Tutor in Prayer Leadership (2022 -)
- Professional Development Course: Introduction to Lamentations: Text & Cantillation (Summer 2022).

ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal - Cantorial School

- Half-Semester Course: Development of the Cantorial Profession (2021).
- Mini-Course: Weekday Prayer Chant (2016).

Jewish Theological Seminary of America

- Annual lectures and coaching to cantorial student body on cantorial vocation and history (2012-2016, 2019-2020).
- Developed year-long pulpit internship program, mentored students (2013-2017).
- Fall orientation learning for rabbinical and cantorial students (2016).
- Senior tutor for weekday prayer modes, liturgy, Jewish law, and cantillation (2010-2011).

College of William & Mary in Virginia

- Annual lecture on Conservative Judaism in REL201: Introduction to Judaism (2012-2019).

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

“The Secular Sulzer: Art Songs & Musical Politics of the First Modern Cantor,” Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music, HUC-JIR (New York, NY), 11/6/24 [upcoming].

“Rossi in Moravia: Ashkenazi Afterlives of *HaShirim Asher Lishlomo*” Early Music America Summit 2024 (Cleveland, OH), 10/18/24 [upcoming].

“The Secular Sulzer: Art Songs & Musical Politics of the First Modern Cantor,” Cleveland Institute of Music First Year Seminar, 9/20/24 [upcoming].

“Rossi in Moravia: Cantors in Czech Lands, 1500-1750,” Society for the History of Czechoslovak Jews (New York, NY), 4/4/24.

“Towards a Jewish National Art Music: Piano Music from the St. Petersburg School” Haberman Institute for Jewish Studies, Online, 3/7/24.

"Gallery Talk: Jewish Highlights of the Ringling," Ringling Art Museum (Sarasota, FL), 9/19/23, 2/22/24.

"Prague & Poland: the Birth of Cantorial Artistry," American Conference of Cantors, 9/6/23.

"High Holiday Advice from a 300-Year Old Cantor," Klau Library, Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion (Cincinnati, OH), 8/29/23.

"The Secular Sulzer: Art Songs & Popular Music of the First Modern Cantor," The Temple-Tifereth Israel (Beachwood, OH), 2/27/22.

"Music Rising: The Story of the Early Modern Cantor," Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg (Heidelberg, Germany), Online, 2/10/22.

"Music Theology: The Many Torahs of Jewish Music," Agudas Achim Congregation, Alexandria, VA, 1/13/22.

“The Secular Sulzer: Art Songs & Musical Politics of the First Modern Cantor,” Jewish Theological Seminary, H.L. Miller Cantorial School, Online, 10/20/21.

Book Launch (Invited Speaker), *Encyclopaedia of British Hazanim & Synagogue Musicians*, European Cantors Association, Online, 10/6/21.

[“Cantors, Controversy, & Compassion: Searching for God in Musical Complexity,”](#) Jewish Theological Seminary of America, Online, 4/19/21.

“Music Theologies: Religious Sentiment & Leadership Models in Jewish Musical Practice,” École Rabbinique de Paris, Online, 3/7/21.

“Musical Priesthood: Music Theology & the Shaliach Tzibbur,” Hebrew College, Online, 2/18/21.

“Music Rising: The Story of the Early Modern Cantor,” Jewish Theological Seminary, H.L. Miller Cantorial School, Online, 2/3/21.

“Music Rising: The Story of the Early Modern Cantor,” Academy for Jewish Religion New York, Online, 1/27/21.

“Music Rising: The Story of the Early Modern Cantor,” Academy for Jewish Religion California, Online, 10/18/20.

“Rabbis Enraged: Cantorial Transgression in the 17th-18th Century Synagogue,” The Promiscuous World of Jewish Music (Lecture Series), Online, 9/27/21.

“Music of Jewish Renewal & the Independent Minyanim,” Scholar-in-Residence keynote at NJ/Delaware Valley Convention of the Cantors Assembly, Atlantic City, NJ, August 2016.

“The Modern Cantorate,” Advanced Seminar on Jewish Culture, George Washington University, March 2016.

Public Classes & Programs

Lead Scholar and Trip Designer, [Sacred Music History & Jewish Cultural Tour of Great Britain](#), Jewish Collaborative of Orange County, 6/18/24-6/30/24.

“The Judaism of Leonard Bernstein,” University Day, Park Synagogue (Cleveland, OH), 5/8/2024

“Behind the Music: The Heart of the Jewish Experience,” Melton International Online. 5/6/24-5/20/24.

Invited Faculty, [North American Jewish Choral Festival](#), Summers 2022 & 2023.

“Script & Scripture: Torah & Shakespeare’s Comedy of Errors,” Melton International Online, 11/27/23-12/18/23 (4 sessions).

"The Bard & the Bible - Comparing Shakespeare to Torah," Melton International Online, 6/8/23.

"Jewish Music & Migration, 1550-1650" Jewish Collaborative of Orange County, Online, 10/9/22-12/12/22 (4 sessions).

"A Jewish Guide to the Orchestra," Jewish Collaborative of Orange County, IVRIM Jews Without Borders, & Cantors Assembly, 2/7/22-2/28/22 (4 sessions).

"Disruptive Innovations in Jewish Music History," Jewish Collaborative of Orange County & Cantors Assembly. Online, 11/15/21 - 12/6/21 (4 sessions).

Conference Presentations

"Rossi in Moravia: Ashkenazi Afterlives of *HaShirim Asher Lishlomo*" Sounds of a Fragmented Memory: Jewish Musical Afterlives in Italy - International Conference (Venice, Italy). 2/16/24.

"The Secular Sulzer: Art Songs & Popular Music of the First Modern Cantor," 75th Cantors Assembly Convention (Los Angeles, CA), 11/15/22.

"Rabbis Enraged: Cantorial Transgression in the 18th Century Synagogue," 18th World Congress for Jewish Studies (Jerusalem, Israel), 8/9/22.

Jewish Studies Faculty, "Shakespeare & the Sacred Text: A Midsummer Retreat (5 lectures)," University of California-Irvine School of Humanities (Irvine, CA), 7/25/22-7/29/22 .

"The Secular Sulzer: Art Songs & Musical Politics of the First Modern Cantor," Woolf Institute, Cambridge University, 2/12/20.

"The American Synagogue & the Cantor (1980 to Present Day)" European Cantors Convention, Villa Seligmann, Hanover, Germany, 1/27/20.

"Ilu Finu: A Cappella for Jewish Prayer": Liturgical workshop on repertoire and use of contemporary pop a cappella choirs in traditional Jewish worship.

- Hillel International General Assembly, 12/11/19.
- United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism Convention, 12/9/19.
- Jewish Theological Seminary of America - Organized Half-Day Conference & Workshop, 11/10/19.

"*Aleinu*: A Musical & Davenological Journey." OHALAH Conference. Broomfield, CO, January 2018.

"*Hazon Hazzanim*: Theology of the Cantorate," OHALAH Conference. Broomfield, CO, January 2016.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Thesis Advisor:

- Gabrielle Pescador, Aleph (Rabbi/Cantor '24) - "The Music of Cantor Saul Nadvan"
- Kochava Munro, Hebrew College (MJEd '23) - "Niggunim: Tools for Spiritual Growth"

Executive Team, European Cantors Association Conference, 2023-2024.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Synagogue Music*, 2019-present.

Peer review of manuscripts: *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*, 2022.

Project Leader, [Cantorial & Synagogue Music Archive](#) (digital humanities project, with lead researcher, Jeremiah Lockwood), 2021 - present.

Curricular Consultant & Project Leader, "Stories of Music" Curriculum with UCLA and the Lowell Milken Center for Music of the American Jewish Experience (Los Angeles), 2019-2020.
<https://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/resources/lowellmilkenmaje/stories-of-music/>

LEADERSHIP

Cantors Assembly Volunteer of the Year Award - 2020, 2022.

Project Leader, Ilu Finu Jewish National Collegiate A Cappella initiative, 2017-2020.

Cantors Assembly Innovations Committee, 2016-2017.

Cantors Assembly Executive Council, 2014-2017.

Cantors Assembly Representative, Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative Movement, 2013-2015.

Editor, Cantors Assembly Mission & Bylaws, 2014.

CLERGY EMPLOYMENT

Temple Beth El, Rochester, NY (2024 -)

Temple Beth Sholom, Sarasota, FL (2022 - 2024)

Beth El Congregation, Akron, OH (2017-2021)

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County, Bethesda, MD (2011-2017)

LANGUAGES

Modern Hebrew, Fluent
Biblical Hebrew, Fluent
German, Reading / Basic Conversation
French, Reading / Basic Conversation
Yiddish, Reading

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Jewish Studies (2021 - present)
European Association for Jewish Studies (2021 - present)
OHALAH: Association of Rabbis & Cantors for Jewish Renewal (2014 - present)
Cantors Assembly (2011 - present)