

Matthew Austerklein

Prayer Leader
Scholar
Musician

Hazzan Matthew Austerklein

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Strengths

Warm spiritual leader and passionate educator connecting to the depth and breadth of Jewish Tradition. Making music, theology, and history relevant and interesting to laypeople, Jewish professionals, and academics alike. Mentoring of cantorial students and young adults drawn to Jewish music. Able to tell a story and express vividly through song.

Congregational Leadership

Beth El Congregation / Hazzan and Co-Clergy

July 2017 - July 2021, Akron, Ohio

Engaged in all aspects of clergy work including pastoral care, lifecycle events, prayer leadership, grant writing and fundraising, sermons, adult education, choral conducting, and community collaboration. Reinstated and guided the synagogue Caring Team. Served as sole clergy person for four months during the rabbi's maternity leave.

Revitalized and co-created synagogue traditions and programs including Jewish Shakespeare Week, Sukkot Deli Sermon, annual Purim Spiel, Interfaith Thanksgiving, Jewish A Cappella Shabbat, and collaborative concerts with local organizations.

Congregation Beth El of Montgomery County / Hazzan

July 2011 - June 2017, Bethesda, Maryland

Served as sole Hazzan and clergy partner at an 1100+ family synagogue through prayer and songleading, music directing, preaching, adult education, religious school teaching, and pastoral care.

Led the synagogue through ritual development & change via innovative prayer classes, new worship styles, contemporary musicians-in-residence, a Worship Shabbaton in NYC, and creating a monthly "renewal" service featuring chant, meditation, & Torah study.

Coordinated, directed, and starred in highlight musical events such as annual "Megillah Theater" Purim spiels, Interfaith Thanksgiving services, and a church-synagogue co-production of "Joseph & The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat."

Engaged bar/bat mitzvah and teens as Torah readers and prayer leaders, training them as teen tutors, and conducting teen Torah/siddur study sessions after Shabbat services. Administered and coordinated a bar/bat mitzvah program of 60-70 students annually.

Pioneered a synagogue Cantorial Internship Program for JTS & Hebrew College cantorial students to expand congregational music and to mentor young clergy.

**Inspiring
Future
Cantors**

Temple Judea / High Holy Day Hazzan

September 2021, Fort Myers, Florida

Led hybrid services in various styles and in collaboration with the rabbi.

Hebrew College / Cantorial Faculty & Thesis Advisor

2020 - present, Online

Guide students in the art of the Hazzan and understanding prayer.

The Jewish Theological Seminary / Presenter and Mentor

2011 - present, Online and in NYC

Ongoing presenter to student body about the cantorial profession, musical repertoire, and history. Organizer & mentor for region-wide concerts co-sponsored by JTS cantorial school, 2015-2018.

ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal / Cantorial Program Faculty

2016, 2021. Online

Created courses on the development of the Cantorial Profession and Weekday Nusach.

**Musical
Creativity
& Scholarship**

Jewish Music - Online Lecturer

Frequent ZOOM presenter on subjects including cantorial history, healing, music, spirituality, and contemporary song. Recent highlights:

Jewish Collaborative of Orange County

15 November - 6 December, 2021, Online

"Disruptive Innovations in Jewish Music" (4-part series)

Jewish Fed. of Pittsburgh 10/27 Commemorative Torah Study

27 October, 2021, Online

["Shir LaMaalot: Musical Paths to Healing After Tragedy"](#)

Jewish Theological Seminary Library

19 April 2021, Online

["Cantors, Controversy, & Compassion: Searching for God in Musical Complexity"](#)

École Rabbinique de Paris (liberal French rabbinical school)

7 March 2021, Online

"Music Theologies: Religious Sentiment & Leadership Models in Jewish Musical Practice"

Other 2021 Lectures:

Academy for Jewish Religion, Beth El Temple of West Hartford, Cantors Assembly, Ernst Ludwig Studienwerk, European Cantors Association, Hebrew College Rabbinical & Cantorial Schools, H.L. Miller Cantorial School (JTS), Milken Archive of Jewish Music

Ilu Finu Jewish National Collegiate A Cappella Initiative / Co-Founder, Team Leader, and Editor
2017 - present

The Wizards of Ashkenaz / Founding Member of four cantor ensemble performing close-harmony Jewish music in classic, ethnic, pop styles
2007 - present, traveling. www.wizardsofashkenaz.com

Collaborative Concert Producer & Performer / recent highlights:

2021 - "Concert for Healing" with Sharsheret & Jews Without Borders

2019 - "Beyond Fiddler: Jews & Judaism in Song" with JTS Cantorial School

2018 - "Akron Jewish Music Festival" with the University of Akron Choirs

2017 - "Sephardic Journeys" with W&M Middle Eastern Music ensemble

The Swinging Kleztones & Machaya / Klezmer band lead vocalist
2015-2017, Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC.

Instrumentalist / guitar & cello

Fellowships & Leadership

Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk / Research Fellow

March 2021 - present, Online

Hadar Institute / Jewish Wisdom Fellow

Summer 2020, Online

Oxford Centre for Hebrew & Jewish Studies / Polonsky Fellow

January - March 2020, Oxford University, United Kingdom

Cantors Assembly / Executive Council Member 2014-2017

Committee on Jewish Law and Standards of the Conservative

Movement / Cantors Assembly Representative 2013-2015

Cantors Assembly Mission & Bylaws / Editor 2013

Education

PhD Candidate, Jewish Studies 2020 - present

Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, Halle, Germany

Masters of Sacred Music, Cantorial Ordination. May 2011

The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York, NY

B.A. Music, *summa cum laude*. May 2006

The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA

References available upon request.

For audio, video, and written publications, please visit my website:

www.mattausterklein.com