

Sacred Sounds Reborn Workshop for ECA. 12/5/24 4 Kislev 5785

What is Sacred Sounds Reborn? It is a nusach based project in collaboration with Beth Styles, a producer, composer and gifted musician.

Jewish music has been a lifelong passion of mine. Throughout the years in my role as Cantor, I have enjoyed seeking out new melodies that move me and elevate the intention of our prayers. I am recently retired, but beginning a more part time position in Delaware, and excited to share this music with them, and with congregations anywhere! I am thrilled to share it with the European Cantors Association here in Budapest.

Due to the time constraints, I am giving this to you for more information, so I can get right to the music!

It is very emotional being here a second time- in 2022, I got covid towards the end of the ECA conference and ended up with a rare complication of a frozen/paralyzed vocal cord- it took almost two years, but it is moving and mostly healed. I am very lucky and thrilled to return to this wonderful conference of exceptional cantors from all over the world!

My grandfather interned at the Taback Temple/ Doheny Synagogue @1920-1921. He studied with the Chief Cantor of Budapest, Cantor Lazarus at the time. According to stories heard, my grandfather was offered the position of Chief Cantor (also perhaps earlier? his best friend Cantor Zavel Kwartin who also interned- story is not very clear...). I learned from my last trip here that in 1921, antisemitism was growing in Budapest and restrictions were put on Jews. My grandfather decided to leave and bring his family (wife and two daughters- my father was born in NYC 1927) to America. It is this decision that saved our family, and tragically he felt guilty leaving behind his two brothers also cantors, and three sisters – all with families. Over 70 members of our Katchko family perished during the Holocaust. It was this decision in Budapest, while studying and singing in the Doheny Synagogue that saved his life, and that of his immediate family.

My grandfather, Cantor Adolph Katchko (Aron Kaczka from Kalisz, Poland) was a pioneer in the world of nusach based synagogue music. His Thesaurus of Cantorial Liturgy was hailed as the first complete book of nusach for the modern cantor by Hebrew Union College in 1951. He reworked the elaborate motifs from his European background and composed every single phrase a cantor needed using the authentic prayer motifs- “nusach” that is still taught today in cantorial schools.

I wanted to use his music, fragments of it to keep the sounds in our ears, hearts and souls. The authentic nusach for Shabbat will be lost if we don't use it in our newer music as well. Many cantors use nusach for the occasional hatimah in America, for the ending or seal of the prayer. Why not use those beautiful motifs for an actual piece that uses English as well to help bring the meaning of the prayer into our lives? The lyrics can be translated into any language of course!

For years I dreamed of doing this project. I decided to try composing music while my voice was healing from covid. Creating these liturgical pieces based on the classic nusach of my grandfather is a dream come true! With the major help of my friend Beth Styles, we are creating new music for the synagogue that uses nusach authentically with interpretation of the prayer and singable refrains.

I have more to say about every prayer used in Sacred Sounds Reborn, but I'll save that for a future program, podcast, or interview! Each prayer has a story, a reason and a journey I hope to share with you at another time.

We just wrote a new Hallel Blessing and we are working on a V'neemar piece. I'm so excited to bring these nusach gems to life in a new musical and meaningful way. There are more in the works!

It is my hope and prayer that these new nusach based prayerful songs find their way into the cantorial world and creative musical worship settings.

Thank you for inviting me to present this new music in such a glorious and historical setting- coming back to Budapest as a descendent of Adolph Katchko who had to leave here as his career was flourishing, is very moving and emotional for me. Had he not left, I most likely would not be here at all.

Am Yisrael Chai!

Shalom,

Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray

SABBATH MAARIV SERVICE

for Low Voice

Cantor Adolph Katchko

①

L'CHU N'RA'NO

L' - chu n' - ra - n' - no La - do - noy no -
ri - oh L' - tzur yish - e - nu.

②

Maestoso

Or zo - ru - a la - tza - dik ul - yish - re lev sim -

cho. Sim - chu tza - di - kim tza - do - noy v' - ho - du

t' - ze - - - - cher kod' - sho.

* *OSVA*

Kim ba - do - noy v' - ho - du t' - ze - - - - cher kod' - sho.

③

ro - mi - mu a - do - noy e - lo - he - nu v' - hich - ta - cha - vu l' -

har kod - sho ki ko - dosh a - do - noy e - lo - he - nu miz -

mor t' - do' - vid.

4 **ADONAY MOLOCH** *♩* *C*
 A - do - noy mo - loch - ge - us lo - vesh lo -
 vesh a - do - noy öz his - a - zor af ti - kon te - vel bal - ti -
 mot no - chon his - a - cho me - oz me - o - lom — o - fo

5 **UMAAVIR YOM**
 U - ma - a - vir yom u - me - vi lay - lo - u - mav - dil
 ben yom u - ven lay - lo. a - do - noy ti - vo - os shi - mo el chay

v' - ka - yom — to - mid yim - loch o - le - nu i' - o - lom vo
 ed — bo - ruch a - to a - do - noy ka - ma - a - riv a - ro - vim.

dim

סדר הלה

134 (orig. Religioso *Gm*) **ברוך**
 Bo - ruch a - to A - do - noy e - lo -
 he - nu me - lech ko - o - lom a - sher ki - d' -
 sho - nu b' - mitz - vq - sov v' - tzi - vo - - - -
 nu — lik - ro es ha - ha - lel.

Sacred Sounds Reborn

Lyrics: Deborah Katchko-Gray and Beth Styles

Come Let Us Sing to G-d

L'chu n'ran'na... Katchko nusach

Come let us sing to G-d, let us sing to G-d
Sing with joy and sing out loud L'chu n'ran'na
Come and give thanks to G-d, we thank you G-d
Let our voices ring out loud! L'chu n'ran'na
Oh, **l'chu...n'ra...n'na**

L'chu n'ran'na L'Ado-mai let us sing to G-d
Sing with joy and sing out loud! L'chu n'ran'na
L'chu n'ran'na L'Adomai We thank you G-d
Let our voices ring out loud! L'chu n'ran'na
Oh, **l'chu...n'ra...n'na**

Shine Your Light

Or Zarua... Katchko nusach

There's a light in every soul, every spirit young and old
Turn it on, and watch it grow, love around the world.

First a spark and then a blaze, help somebody you'll be amazed
It's contagious, it lasts for days, love around the world
So, won't you

Chorus- Shine your light on everything with an open heart

Or zarua latzadik ul'yish-rei lev simcha

Come together and we will sing! As we share that light within
Send it out and let it- love around the world. So won't you...

We Give Thanks
Romemu.... Katchko nusach

Every morning when we rise, from the moment that we open our eyes
We give thanks to You, as we sing Romemu!

Chorus- Romemu,, romemu Adomai
Romemu, romemu day and night
Romemu, romemu be our light Adomai
As we climb upon that hill, O Jerusalem my heart be still
Draw us closer to You, as we sing romemu..**chorus**

Yai dai dai...
Chorus

My Strength, My Rock
Adomai Malach.... Katchko nusach

I can feel your strength oh G-d, it comforts me
When I hear the ocean roar, I know You're with me
Holy, holy, kadosh, kadosh, hear our prayer, my strength, my rock
Hear our prayer, Adomai malach

I feel Your presence, deep within
Forever and ever, l'orech yamim
Holy holy, kadosh, kadosh, hear our prayer, my strength my rock
Hear our prayer Adomai malach

Na na na na ...
Holy holy, kadosh kadosh, hear our prayer, my strength my rock
Hear our prayer Admai malach

Adomai...Am Yisrael chai!
Adomai... Am Yisrael chai
Admai... hear our prayer, my strength my rock
Hear our prayer Admai malach....

Who is the One?

Umaavir Yom.... Katchko nusach

Who is the maker of all that we see?

Beautiful nature the land and the sea

And who makes the sky and the air that we breathe?

Who is the One?

Who makes the light move to darkness and darkness to light?

Who is the artist, the poet, who brings all things to life?

Chorus:

All of the heavens praise Your name, and all of the earth, says, "Amen"

And all the angels know, Adomai tz'vaot sh'mo!

Yes! All the angels know, Adomai tz'vaot sh'mo!

Who makes the seasons, the passing of time?

Sunrise and sunset, exquisite design,

And how do we know that the stars will shine?

Who is the One?

Who makes the light move to darkness and darkness to light?

Who is the artist the poet, who brings all things to life!

chorus

nusach ending- El chai...

Hallel Blessing

Baruch... Katchko nusach

Niggun: yai, nai, nai

From the rising sun, through the seasons, Your holy name is praised.

From East to West, may we be blessed, as Your holy name is praised.

Yai, nai, nai....

Halleluyah, halleluyah, hallelu avdei Adomai

Halleluyah, halleluyah, hallelu et shem Adomai

Yai nai nai.....

🎵 Reviews 🎵

Dear Debbie,

I just listened to two songs from your new musical project: "Sacred Sounds Reborn," and I am very impressed. The idea of starting each Kabbalat Shabbat psalm in the Katchko nusach, and then going forth in a more modern approach based on the nusach is brilliant! Your renditions of the Katchko nusach have the flair of an experienced Hazzan expertly singing in the idiom. Most impressive is the beauty and sweetness of your voice.

Kol Hakavod,

Jackie

(Cantor Jack Mendelson)

nice article, and I concur completely

it sounds like you are a warrior still out there. kol hakavod

Hazzan Jack Kessler

My G-d! The Times of Israel...Heartfelt congratulations...what a great article, and what a great contribution you are making. Can't wait to order same with a personal signature!! Hope this text brings you "fame and fortune"...what a magnificent tribute to your father and grandfather.

Rabbi Jon Haddon

Wonderful – and timely – article. Standing on the mighty shoulders of our great chazzonim, whose improvisations on nusach reflect the musical styles of their times, you are setting the tradition forth using the styles of our own times. Huge kudos – kol hakavod to Debbie and Beth for this shining example!

Love and blessings,

Hazzan Leah Frey-Rabine

The soul of Cantor Deborah Katchko-Gray is infused with the traditional *nusach* – musical prayer mode – of our People. Now, she takes the Cantorial legacy of her grandfather, father, and cousin and weaves it with contemporary music to give us new songs to sing unto God. Cantor Debbie, along with brilliant composer Beth Styles, are truly the holy Voices of our Jewish yearnings and gladness, our messengers of hope and promise.

Rabbi Wayne Dosick, Ph.D.

author, *Living Judaism* and *The Real Name of Go*

Best of luck with this exciting effort to blend traditional Jewish music with new musical styles. Rabbi Abraham I. Kook called upon us to "renew the old and sanctify the new." That seems to be the goal of this project. May you proceed, as the Psalmist put it, "from strength to strength."

Jonathan D. Sarna, Brandeis University

L'chu N'ranena L'dor Vador

The songs are there
coiled within the holiness helix
of all that is
 waiting
 waiting
 waiting
for the soul's time to shine.

And so she sang the song of generations
 with the voices of our inheritance
 with the treasures of our tradition
 with the sparkle of soul-shine

And so she sang the song of generations
 of then
 of now
 of tomorrow...

L'chu Neranena l'dor vador.

12 Sivan 5784/June 18, 2024

For Deborah Katchko-Gray and Beth Styles

Suzanne Schermerhorn

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