

Choral Arts New England (C.A.N.E.) presented Lifetime Achievement Award to Prof. Joshua R. Jacobson

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0N87JCqh_NgV19rZXB1SENKd0k?usp=sharing

The 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award from Choral Arts New England was presented to **Dr. Joshua R. Jacobson**, acclaimed conductor, composer, author, educator, and visionary Founder and Director Zamir Chorale, at the **32nd annual Choral Arts New England Awards Ceremony on Sunday, October 30, 2016, at Newton Cultural Center at Newton City Hall, 1000 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton, Massachusetts.**

The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented annually by Choral Arts New England to individuals who have made exceptional contributions to choral singing and its culture within New England. Previous recipients include conductors Dr. Ann Howard Jones and John Oliver, and composers Alice Parker, Daniel Pinkham and more.

Joshua R. Jacobson is Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Northeastern University, where he served nine years as Music Department Chairman and six years as the Bernard Stotsky Professor of Jewish Cultural Studies. He is the founder and director of the Zamir Chorale of Boston, a world-renowned ensemble specializing in Jewish music. He is Visiting Professor and Senior Consultant in the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College.

Dr. Jacobson holds a Bachelors degree in Music from Harvard College, a Masters in Choral Conducting from the New England Conservatory, a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Cincinnati, and a Doctor of Humane Letters *honoris causa* from Hebrew College. He is past President of the Massachusetts chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. He has conducted workshops on choral music for various groups, including the American Choral Directors Association, and has guest conducted a number of ensembles, including the Boston Pops Orchestra, the Bulgarian National Symphony and Chorus, the New England Conservatory Orchestra and the Boston Lyric Opera Company. He has also written articles on various aspects of choral music, and over one hundred published compositions and arrangements

In his remarks, Dr. Jacobson spoke movingly about some of the inspirations throughout his career:

- “I owe a great debt to the thousands of singers who have sung under my direction, in Zamir, at Northeastern University and in the various festivals I’ve been privileged to guest conduct. I have learned more from you than from any textbook. You are my teachers.”

- He talked about the inspiration he has drawn from the 17th century composer Salmone Rossi, the subject of his book [Salmone Rossi: Renaissance Man of Jewish Music](#), to be published next year by Hentrich & Hentrich. “For most conductors, Jewish music was some dreidel song that you were forced to include on your December Christmas concert. And then I discovered Salamone Rossi. He became my role model...” Like his Mantua contemporary Claudio Monteverdi, he “composed several books of madrigals, trio sonatas and dances. But he also composed the first ever collection of Hebrew motets for the synagogue, published in Venice in 1622. He not only lived in both worlds, but created beautiful choral music for Jewish worship.”
- He also acknowledged the special relationship between a conductor and chorus accompanist: “And a special shout-out to my co-conspirator for 44 years, the incomparable accompanist, Edwin Swanborn.”

Full details of the awards and further information about Choral Arts New England may be obtained online at <http://www.choralarts-newengland.org/> or by calling 781-721-7464.

The following photos of are available here:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B0N87JCqh_NgV19rZXB1SENKd0k?usp=sharing

- **Jacobson received CANE award.jpg:** Dr. Joshua Jacobson accepting the 2016 Choral Arts New England Lifetime Achievement Award from Majie Zeller, President, Choral Arts New England. Photo Credit: Larry Sandberg
- **Jacobson leads audience in song.JPG:** Dr. Joshua Jacobson leading the attendees of the 32nd annual Choral Arts New England Awards Ceremony in singing “Samachti B’omrim Li” by Charles Osborne. Photo Credit: Larry Sandberg

Also at the ceremony, the following organizations were awarded 2016 Alfred Nash Patterson Grants:

- **Berkshire Lyric Theater, Inc.** of Pittsfield, Mass., for a new setting of “Ubi Caritas” for chamber chorus by Berkshire resident Steve Murray.
- **Cantata Singers** of Boston, Mass., to expand the Classroom Cantatas residency program into two second grade inclusion classrooms during the 2016-2017 school year.
- **Cantemus Chamber Chorus** of Ipswich, Mass., to support collaboration with Rumbarroco, a Latin-American fusion ensemble, for a multicultural choral/instrumental program to be performed in Rockport in 2017.
- **Choral Art Society** of Portland, Maine, for a performance of Donald McCullough’s *Holocaust Cantata* and James Whitbourn’s *Luminosity* on October 16, 2016 in Portland.
- **Concord Women’s Chorus** of Concord, Mass., to commission Boston composer Beth Denisch to set three poems by Kathleen Jamie, one of Scotland’s most lauded living poets, for performance in Concord, on May 13, 2017.

- **Genesis Chamber Singers** of Quincy, Mass., to commission an original choral work in Mandarin by Jerry (Chiwei) Hui, to be to be premiered as a part of the ensemble's second annual "China in Song" concert series in March 2017.
- **Massachusetts Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association**, for registration and transportation costs of music teachers working in underserved urban school districts in Holyoke and Springfield, Mass., to attend the 2017 Massachusetts ACDA Summer Conference.
- **New England Choral Institute at the New Hampshire Music Festival** of Plymouth, N.H., to support a new collaboration between Plymouth State University and the New Hampshire Music Festival to create a weeklong residency at Plymouth State University for experienced undergraduate, graduate, and community musicians focused around the preparation of Johannes Brahms' *Ein Deutsches Requiem*.
- **Providence Singers** of Providence, R.I., for the recording and distribution of Dan Forrest's *Requiem for the Living* (2013) and *Te Deum* (2015).
- **The Vermont Choral Union** of Essex Junction, Vt., to commission a suite for a cappella chorus and flute by Christina Whitten Thomas on texts by Vermont poets, including Abigail Carroll, Jay Parini, and Jean Killary.

About Choral Arts New England

Choral Arts New England was formed in 1980 as a memorial to Alfred Nash "Bud" Patterson, the founder of Boston's Chorus pro Musica and the Master Singers of Worcester, and a mentor and cultural leader who articulated ambitious goals for choral music performance, chorus development, and choral music composition. Today, Choral Arts New England provides Alfred Nash Patterson Grants that support innovative programming, commissions, and improved management for choral organizations. In 1994, Choral Arts New England initiated a Lifetime Achievement Award to honor significant contributions to choral singing and its culture. Through its website, www.choralarts-newengland.org, the foundation provides a newsletter, concert calendar, and chorus directory of over 400 choruses throughout the 6 New England states.

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