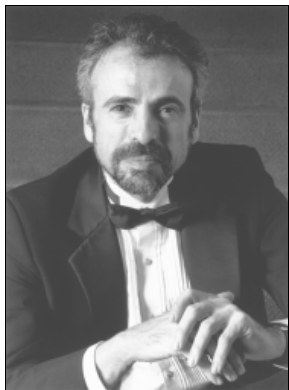




The Songs Live On



*Joshua Jacobson
Artistic Director*

I thought we'd be singing for ghosts. Last June I took Zamir on a journey in search of our roots. Not genealogical roots, but cultural roots. The first Jewish community chorus had begun one hundred years ago, in 1899 in Lodz, Poland. Turn-of-the-century Lodz was no shtetl; it was a large city, cosmopolitan, culturally alive, and forty percent Jewish! Many of Lodz's Jews were looking for new ways to express their identity. Could they reconcile their ancient Middle Eastern heritage with a modern European society? Could they do so without sacrificing a positive sense of Jewishness?

These were our cultural ancestors: the men and women who created a choir that was known as one of the very best musical ensembles in all of Lodz. They performed Yiddish folksongs, Zionist anthems, synagogue motets. And they performed Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, Haydn's oratorio *The Creation*, and Verdi's opera *La Traviata* (in Yiddish, no less).

We found traces of our ancestors in the city archives, in the enormous Jewish cemetery, in the building where they rehearsed, and in the ghetto theatre where they sang their last performance in

March, 1941. We brought Jewish music back to a city where now only a few hundred Jews make their homes (not counting the ghosts). We scattered a few seeds which may bear some interesting fruit. After hearing our performance, the conductor of the Moniuszki choir, one of Lodz's finest groups today, asked us for copies of our music. And the Mayor of Lodz asked us to return and help him organize an annual festival of Jewish Music.

Yes, we sang for ghosts who were listening and singing along in the cemetery and in the ghetto. But we also brought joy to the handful of Jews who are trying to re-establish a community in Poland. And we brought a new image of the Jew to the Polish men and women who flocked to our concerts, who applauded longer and louder than any audience we've ever performed for.

Those of you who can attend a Zamir concert this year will be able to bask in the glow of that experience: we're still radiating. Come hear music from our European tour. Come hear a lovely new choral setting of Psalm 23 which we commissioned from composer Gerald Cohen. Come hear our new collection of Sabbath table songs (*zemirots*) which we will be recording in June. Come hear the Zamir Chorale, Orchestra and soloists perform George Frederic Handel's dramatic oratorio *Israel in Egypt*. And if you can't make it in person, you can share the excitement through our new CD and documentary film, *The Songs Live On*, recorded live in Lodz, Krakow, Prague and Vienna.

One way or another, join us as we celebrate this one-hundred-year-old tradition of musical excellence and cultural pride.

—Joshua R. Jacobson

1999-2000 Schedule

Sun, Oct 24, 1999, 12:30 pm: Hebrew College groundbreaking, Newton, MA

Sun, Oct 31, 1999, 2:30 pm: Old Vilna Shul, Boston, MA

Sun, Nov 14, 1999, 4:00 pm: Temple Beth Abraham, Nashua, NH

Sun, Dec 5, 1999, 3:00 pm: Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA

Sat, Dec 11, 1999, 7:30 pm: Temple Beth Am, Framingham, MA

Sun, Dec 12, 1999, 3:00 pm: Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley, MA

Sun, Jan 16, 2000, 2:00 pm: Annual Children's Concert at Hebrew College, Brookline, MA

Sat, Feb 5, 2000, 8:00 pm: Temple Beth David, Westwood, MA

Tue, Feb 29, 2000, 7:30 pm: Congregation Beth Israel, Glendale, WI

Wed, Mar 1, 2000, 7:30 pm: American Choral Directors Association convention opening concert, Masonic Temple Auditorium, Madison, WI

Thu, Mar 2, 2000, 2:50 pm and 3:35 pm: Workshops at American Choral Directors Association convention, Madison, WI

Sun, Mar 12, 2000, 3:00 pm: Jewish Community Center, New Haven, CT

Sun, Apr 2, 2000, 2:00 pm - 8:00 pm: New England Jewish Choral Festival, Congregation Kehillath Israel, Brookline, MA

Thu, May 4, 2000, 7:30 pm: Concert/Lecture on *Zemiroth* (Shabbat table songs) at Hebrew College, Brookline, MA

Sun, June 4, 2000, 7:30 pm: Handel's *Israel in Egypt* with orchestra at Temple Emanuel, Newton, MA

Sun, July 23, 2000, 9:00 pm: North American Jewish Choral Festival, Nevele Hotel, Ellenville NY

A poster from a Zamir concert in the Lodz Ghetto, October 30, 1940:

Saal an der SCHNEIDERSTR. 3

DIE GESELLSCHAFT

„HAZOMIR“

veranstaltet am Mittwoch

d. 30 Oktober pünktlich

6 Uhr abends, das

I. SYMPHONIE-KONZERT

Mitwirkende:

Knaben und gemischter Chor
und Orchester der Gesellschaft
„HAZOMIR“.

Dirigenten: M. Dargużanski und T. Ryder

PROGRAMM:

1. Dargużanski: Symeon
2. Weber: Ouverture zu „Oberon“
3. Mozart: Symphonie D-dur
4. Grieg: Peer-Gynt (Suiten I u. II)
5. Haydn: Fragment aus den „Vier Jahreszeiten“
6. Liszt: Samara.

Elektrikanten sind an der Kasse von
11-1 Uhr und von 5-7 Uhr zu haben
Um 5 Uhr öffentliche Be-
sonderprobe - Eintritt Pl. 50

Sala przy ul. KRAWIECKIEJ 3

TOWARZYSTWO

„HAZOMIR“

W środę 30 października

1940r. odbędzie się punkt.

o godzinie 6-ej wieczór

II. KONCERT SYMFONICZNY

(inauguracyjny)

Wykonawcy:

Chór chłopców, Chór mieszany
oraz orkiestra T-wa „Hazomir“

Dirigenci: M. Dargużanski i T. Ryder

PROGRAM:

1. Dargużanski: Symeon
2. Weber: Ouverture do opery „Oberon“
3. Mozart: Symfonia D-dur
4. Grieg: Peer-Gynt (Sądy 1 i 2)
5. Haydn: Fragment z oratorium „Chór Fary Baka“
6. Liszt: Samara.

Bilety na koncert do nabycia w
kiosku Soli od 11 do 1 i od 5 do 7
O godz. 5-godzinnej generalna
dla publiczności - Wstęp Pl. 50

זאל אייף קראוויצעקא נר' 3.

אגודת - געזעלשאפט

„הַזוֹמִיר“

מיטוואך, ד. 30 אקטאבער

פינקטל 6 אונט קומט פאר

1. סימפאנישער קאנצערט

טעלעפאן אנטווי:

קנאכן-אן געמישט כאר ווי איד

ארכעסטער פון געזעלש. „הַזוֹמִיר“

דיריגענטן:

מ. דארגאזאנסקי און ט. רידער

פראגראם:

1. דארגאזאנסקי: סימון
2. וועבער: אונטערטאג צו „אָבערן“
3. מאצארט: סימפאניע D-דור
4. גרייג: פער-גיינט (סוויטן I און II)
5. היידן: פראגמענט פון ד. „פאר-פארישען“
6. ליסט: סאמרא

בילעטן צו דעם קאנצערט זענען
פון 11 ביז 1 און פון 5 ביז 7
צו נאמען - 50 געלט
און צו נאמען - 50 געלט

Zamir Honors Jeff Levine

It was a moment to celebrate and a time to reflect. On June 13 the Zamir Chorale of Boston completed its 1998–1999 concert season and simultaneously marked the official beginning of its 30th anniversary Eastern European tour with an exceptional performance at Regis College. The mood in the auditorium was particularly exuberant, as conductor Jacobson welcomed over twenty alumni singers to the stage to join the Chorale as they sang the *Hazamir* anthem and *Hatikvah*.

This concert also provided Zamir an opportunity to thank its immediate past chair Jeffrey Levine for the six years he served as Chairman of the Board of the Chorale. Zamir's first chair, Peter Finn, briefly recounted the history of the chorus, noting the milestones that occurred during the thirty years since Joshua Jacobson first started the Chorale. Under Jeff's chairmanship, Zamir truly established its reputation as a world-class chorus. The Chorale now has a full-time executive director. With the production of four new CDs, the music of the Zamir Chorale of Boston enjoys an audience that reaches far beyond its concert audiences. Current board chair

Joyce Bohnen praised Jeff for his leadership, his quiet, deliberate manner, and thanked him for his good counsel and for always being available. Many of Jeff and Shawna's friends were in the audience and joined chorus and board members at a reception in Jeff's honor at the end of the concert.

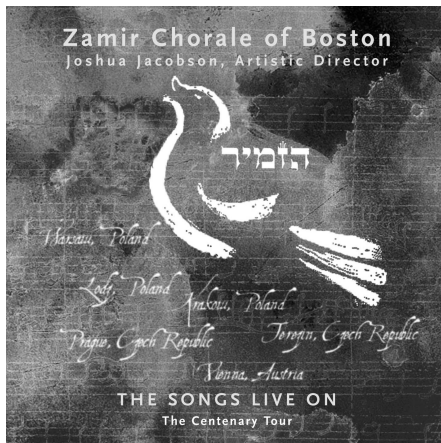


Left: Zamir's new chairman, Joyce Bohnen, thanks outgoing chairman Jeff Levine during our June 13 concert at Regis College.

Right: At the reception honoring Jeff, from left to right: Artistic Director Joshua Jacobson, Jeff Levine, Shawna Levine, Joyce Bohnen, and Peter Finn.



Zamir's new CD released



Zamir is very proud to present this unique recording comprising selections from our recent European tour. Recorded during live performances in Lodz, Vienna, Prague, Krakow, and Terezin, these songs celebrate the return of Zamir to the land of its birth. Ranging from liturgical settings to popular songs, spanning four centuries, and representing composers from seven countries, our tour repertoire demonstrated the breadth and quality of Jewish music for Jewish and non-Jewish audiences alike.

The Songs Live On captures the energy of these live performances and the enthusiasm of both Zamir and our audiences. If you couldn't join us in Europe, this is your chance to share in the music.

The Songs Live On is now available. To order, call us at 617-731-0025 or 1-800-711-3627, visit our website at www.zamir.org, or send in the order form on the back cover of this newsletter.

Zamir Chorale: European Tour Highlights

This summer, the Zamir Chorale of Boston celebrated its thirtieth anniversary as well as the centenary of the Zamir movement with a concert tour of Eastern Europe. Performances were given in synagogues and churches, concert halls and museums, restaurants and courtyards, cemeteries and concentration camps. In Warsaw, Lodz, Auschwitz, Krakow, Prague, Terezin and Vienna we gave honor to the dead and hope to the living.

Our memorable and meaningful journey was captured in many different media and forms. A compact disc of selections from our live concert recordings is now available. A documentary film, currently in post-production, is scheduled for release in April 2000. We are also producing a full-color souvenir book, which will document the history of the pre-war European Jewish choral movement as well as our return. Here are a few glimpses of our journey.



1. Upon our arrival in Warsaw, we visited the monuments and memorials of the Ghetto.



2. The women of Zamir rehearse "Yomeh, Yomeh" before our Warsaw concert, June 29. The Warsaw concert was sponsored by Harvey and Jayne Beker in memory of the Beker and Pietruch family members who were killed in the Holocaust.



3. Following our Warsaw concert, the United States Embassy hosted a reception in our honor. From left to right: The Hon. Daniel Fein, U. S. Ambassador to Poland; the Minister of Culture for Warsaw; Alina Peretti, our guide/translator from ACFEA; and Zamir's Artistic Director, Joshua Jacobson.



4. On June 30, Zamir was greeted by the mayor of Lodz. After the formal ceremony, the mayor (right) and Joshua Jacobson posed at the reception.



5. In this theatre, the Zamir Chorale of Lodz gave their last concert in March, 1941. On June 30, 1999, the Zamir Chorale of Boston returned to Lodz and once again this room resounded with the strains of our common anthem, *HaZamir*. In the foreground of this photograph you can see members of the film crew that accompanied us on this trip, recording our experiences for the documentary *The Songs Live On*.



6. Zamir's official centennial concert in the Lodz House of Culture.



7. On July 1, the fast of the 17th of Tammuz, Zamir visited Auschwitz. At the "Wall of Death" we sang Salamone Rossi's setting of *Al Naharot Bavel* (By the Waters of Babylon) and Louis Lewandowski's *Enosh*, a portion of the Yizkor service.



8. Later that afternoon, Zamir davened *minchah*, the afternoon prayer service, at Auschwitz-Birkenau. We read the Torah within sight of the crematoria.



9. July 2, rehearsing in Krakow's Izaak Synagogue.



10. The concert in the Izaak Synagogue. Not only was the interior of the synagogue packed with a standing-room-only crowd, but people were standing outside the doors and windows to listen to our performance.



11. On July 6, we visited Terezin (Theresienstadt), where the Jewish prisoners formed choruses and orchestras. We performed works written in Terezin by Viktor Ullmann, Gideon Klein and Pavel Haas.



12. July 7, our concert in the Spanish Synagogue of Prague.



13. Our final tour concert, in Vienna's Universitätskirche on July 9.



14. The Chorale poses following the concert.

Pictures 6, 10 and 12 are taken from the upcoming documentary of our trip. (Photo credit: The Zamir Film Project)

Alumni News

Susan Carp-Nesson
Alumni/ae Chair

Mazal tov to alumni:

- Ruth (Birnbaum) and Rabbi Dan Pernick on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Sarah, in May.
- Herbert and Connie Birnbaum on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Ilanna, in June.
- Rabbi David Cashman and Sharona Wachs on the bar mitzvah of their son, Avraham, in June
- Shira Lewin on her marriage to Zvi Solomons in July. Shira is currently on the faculty of Economics and Politics at Cambridge University in England.
- Michael Rutner on his graduation from Boston College Law School.
- Cheska and Jan Komissar on the birth of their son, Josef Samuel, in November.

We welcome Rick Boyar back to the Boston area in his new position as Ritual Director at Temple Emeth in Chestnut Hill.

Mazal tov to chorus members:

- Sheri Beker on her recent graduation from Brandeis University.
- Peter Bronk and Susan Axe-Bronk on the bat mitzvah of their daughter, Johanna, in October.
- Shannon Downing-Baum and Geoffrey Baum on the bar mitzvah of their son, Matthew, in October.
- Francine (Ferraro) and David Rothkopf on the birth of their son, Samuel Louis, in June.
- Joel and Gaye Gluck on the arrival of their son, Anthony, in August.
- Susan London and Brian Cutler on their marriage in July. Susan and Brian met through Zamir and we're thrilled to add them to the ranks of "Zamir couples".

Our condolences to Joshua Jacobson on the death of his mother Peni this past July. Peni was our biggest fan and, until illness made it impossible, she came to every concert. We miss her boundless energy and her unwavering love and endless compliments after each concert, but we especially miss the pride that showed on her face as she watched her son conduct. May her memory be a blessing.

Meet Zamir's New Executive Director



We are pleased to welcome Dan Rostan, who joins Zamir this fall as our new Executive Director. Dan's background in the field of community arts education is a good match for Zamir, whose mission goes beyond excellence in performance to include educating people about the riches of Jewish music. For the past fifteen years, Dan has been involved in the leadership of performing arts schools located in Washington DC, Brooklyn, and most recently in Brookline.

"This is a new challenge for me in several ways," Dan comments. "I'm used to working with environments with a clear distinction between who is doing the teaching and who the learning—at least, officially. In managing a choir, the 'faculty' in one sense, are our conductors. But although the singers are in some ways our students (constantly perfecting their performances), they are also ambassadors to the enormously wide range of audiences for whom we sing all over the world, and so in my mind, they are also our teachers."

Dan's plans are to make this year one of advancement for Zamir: "We have some great opportunities to seize upon," he said. "Optimizing publicity from our Eastern European tour, releasing the video-film documentary on the tour, going out on a densely-packed but rewarding series of performances in 1999–2000, taking advantage of already good CD sales, getting our recordings distributed to an even broader market, and working with the Board and Zamir community to revisit and refine our mission, vision, and long-range plans."

New Documentary Film On Zamir

Zamir was most fortunate in having a talented film making crew along on its Eastern European tour last summer. More than thirty hours of film are now being edited by Rob and Pam Cooper and by Eric Stange of Spy Pond Productions into a one-hour broadcast documentary, titled "Zamir: The Songs Live On." The film concerns the vibrant cultural tradition of Jewish choruses that began in Poland one hundred years ago and flourished until nearly being extinguished by the Holocaust, and how the Zamir Chorale of Boston's history-making concert tour in the summer of 1999 marked the revivification of that tradition.

It includes extraordinarily beautiful footage of Zamir's concerts in Lodz, Krakow, Prague and Vienna; as well as touching scenes of the Chorale singing in the old Jewish cemeteries and in the Auschwitz and Terezin concentration camps. The film is bound to become a classic documentary of Jewish culture as well as a thrilling concert video. It will be shown on public television and at film festivals, and used in school curricula. A website has been set up to keep people updated on the film's progress. Check it out at www.TheSongsLiveOn.com.

The Zamir Chorale is helping the producers raise the \$140,000 needed to complete work on the film by performing at fundraising soirees in private homes where guests also enjoy a preview screening of the film trailer introduced by the film makers. If you'd like to attend a soiree, or if you can host one, please contact Zamir's Assistant Conductor, Cantor Louise Treitman, at 781-674-1464, or send an e-mail to fundraising@TheSongsLiveOn.com.

The Center for Independent Documentary, a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization, is the fiscal agent for the film and is accepting tax-deductible contributions for the producers. Checks may be made payable to the "Center for Independent Documentary" with a memo "for Zamir Documentary," and mailed c/o The Zamir Chorale, P.O. Box 126, Newton Centre, MA, 02459

Zamir Commissions New Work

The Zamir Chorale's most recent commission is a new setting of *Adonai Ro'i Lo Echsar* (Psalm 23) by Cantor Gerald Cohen. This is a choral arrangement of his earlier setting for a solo voice. Zamir premiered Cantor Cohen's beautiful arrangement at the Vilna Center in Boston on October 31. Zamir is proud to sponsor the creation of new works in the Jewish choral repertoire.

Zamir Activities Susan Rubin Acting President

Several performances on this year's schedule exemplify Zamir's dual role as a member of the Jewish community of greater Boston and as ambassadors of Jewish music to the world at large.

On October 24, Zamir performed as part of the groundbreaking ceremonies for Hebrew College's new campus in Newton. As choir-in-residence at Hebrew College, the Chorale provides an opportunity for students and others to explore Jewish music from both academic and performance perspectives.

Zamir has been honored with an invitation to perform the opening concert for the convention of the Northwest division of the American Choral Directors Association. This concert on March 1, and two workshops the following day, are an exciting opportunity to expose thousands of choral directors to the quality and variety of Jewish music.

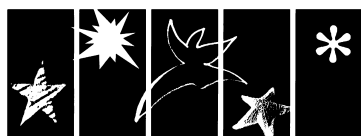
On a different note, the Zamir Chorale thanks our member Larry Sandberg for all his hard work while serving as Interim Executive Director for the past year. His superb organization and boundless energy are greatly appreciated. We are happy to return Larry to his wife, Jill, whose forbearance during this year we also gratefully acknowledge.

The Zamir Chorale mourns the passing of honorary board members:

Cantor Gregor Shelkan ל"ו
Hon. J. John Fox ל"ו

Zamir Chorale of Boston
P.O. Box 126
Newton Centre, MA 02459
www.zamir.org

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit No. 56361



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Massachusetts
Cultural Council*



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Philanthropies*

*Choir-in-
residence at
Hebrew College*

Zamir Recordings

The Songs Live On (CD)	_____ @ \$15 = \$_____
A Sho'o in Gan Eden (CD)	_____ @ \$15 = \$_____
A Sho'o in Gan Eden (Cass.)	_____ @ \$10 = \$_____
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Salamone Rossi Hebreo (Cass.)	_____ @ \$10 = \$_____
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Hear Our Voices (Cass.)	_____ @ \$10 = \$_____
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The Songs We Sang (Extended cass.)	_____ @ \$12 = \$_____
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A Coat of Many Colors (Cass.)	_____ @ \$10 = \$_____

Postage (per order) \$3.00

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Total \$_____

Please mail this form along with your check to the Zamir Chorale of Boston, P.O. Box 126, Newton Centre, MA 02459. Please include your shipping address. To read descriptions and playlists of all recordings and to hear sample sound clips, visit our website, www.zamir.org. You can also order Zamir merchandise with your credit card on our website or by phone at 617-731-0025 or 1-800-711-3627.

Your gift to Zamir

helps us foster a love for the Jewish heritage, promote awareness of Jewish culture, and keep alive a great musical tradition!

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