# If you love Jewish music..

NORTH AMERICAN
JEWISH CHORAL FESTIVAL

17TH ANNUAL

CHORAL FOUNDATION

Zamir Choral Found

July 16-20, 2006
Hudson Valley Resort & Spa
Kerhonkson, New York

Sponsored by the Zamir Choral Foundation in association with the Union for Reform Judaism and Gratz College 17<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL
NORTH AMERICAN
JEWISH CHORAL FESTIVAL

Matthew Lazar Founder and Director

# Matthew Lazar, Founder & Director



Matthew Lazar is the catalyst and leading force of the Jewish choral movement in North America today. He is the Founder and Director of the Zamir Choral Foundation and has created the North American Jewish Choral Festival; HaZamir: The International Jewish Chorale; The Mational Jewish Chorale; the SELAH Vocal Ensemble; The Mantua Singers; and Shirah, the largest independent Jewish choral society in the United States. He has directed the Zamir Chorale in the United States.

Mr. Lazar has recently been acknowledged by The New York Times for his vision and leadership in presenting the music of Salamone Rossi in the first festival and conference of this great master's music. Mr. Lazar has been praised by The New York Times, along with his "expert ensemble" for performances of the music of Salamone Rossi, and by The Chicago Tribune as an "expert director" for a program he conducted for the Chicago Symphony's World Music Series. He has prepared choruses for Maestros Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, Carlo Maria Giulini, Daniel Barenboim and has appeared as guest conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra, El Paso Symphony Orchestra, the Milwaukee Chamber Symphony, the Ra'anana Symphony and the Ravinia Music Festival. Mr. Lazar recently conducted the New York premieres of two works for chorus, soloists and orchestra by Charles Osborne at Lincoln Center: Souls on Fire with Leonard Nimoy narrating; and Kings and Fishermen, featuring narration Leonard Nimoy narrating; and Kings and Fishermen, featuring narration by Theodore Bikel.

Mr. Lazar regularly appears with the great cantors of our generation. He has been presenting programs at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and other major concert halls in the United States and Israel for more than three decades.

Mr. Lazar has served on the faculties of Columbia University and the Jewish Theological Seminary, and is a frequent lecturer and scholar-in-residence in communities and universities across the United States. His recordings include Chants Mystique, Birthday of the World I and II and A Taste of Eternity with the Western Wind Vocal Ensemble, and Songs for Jerusalem, featuring a special narration by Nobel Laureate, Elie Wiesel. His most recent recording is A Taste of Eternity II.

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This summer hundreds of Jewish music lovers will revel in the joys of Jewish choral music as the 17th annual North American Jewish Choral Festival provides participants with the opportunity to hear and be a part of Jewish choral music at its best. As our renowned teaching staff enlightens, inspires and entertains, you will be treated to a full spectrum of Jewish music experiences, including:

- Daily Community Sings conducted by some of the greatest talents on the Jewish musical scene
- "Instant Ensembles" for all singing participants led by acclaimed conductors: four days of rehearsals culminating in a grand performance
- Evening Concerts featuring outstanding vocal ensembles, choruses and soloists
- A wide range of workshops offering everything from performance practice and new choral repertoire to Jewish musical traditions and classes in musicianship, sight singing and vocal technique

This summer's Festival will return to the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa in the Catskill Mountains of Kerhonkson, NY. By taking over the entire hotel, the Festival will build an intimate community with multiple opportunities for wonderful music-making, stimulating Jewish learning and inspiring performances. Together with in-house Glatt Kosher catering, the combination of the Festival and the Hudson Valley Resort offers an ideal vacation setting for the entire family.

# The 17th Annual NAJCF has something

for everyone: amateur singers,

professional soloists, cantors,

conductors and lovers of Jewish music.

### Hallel V'Zimrah Award Presented to Yehezkel Braun

The third annual Hallel V'Zimrah Award will be presented this year to renowned Israeli composer Yehezkel Braun in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the world of Jewish music

### Music Programming for Children

**Children of Festival participants** are invited to join in the music with daily singing activities for pre-schoolers aged 2-5 and children aged 6-11

## **Daily Program**

8:00 Breakfast

9:00 Community Sing

**10:45** "Instant Ensemble" Rehearsals and Listeners' Workshops

Lunch and free time 12:30

Workshops or "Developing Choir" performances

**4:15** "Instant Ensemble" rehearsals or Workshops

7:00 Dinner

**8:30** Evening Concert

### **Hotel and Pricing Information**

The Festival is delighted to return to the Hudson Valley Resort and Spa. Fully equipped and carefully maintained, the hotel provides a wonderul setting for the Choral Festival, with a wide range of sports and recreational facilities to entertain and relax the entire family. Space is limited, though, and singers interested in attending the Festival are encouraged to register early.

### **Room Rates**

(per person, per day, including 3 meals daily; gratuities and New York State taxes will be added)

Double Occupancy \$99 - \$130 Children (sharing a room with two adults):

Single Occupancy \$136 - \$172 under age 5: FREE

Triple and Quad rates also available per child per night: aged 6-12: \$25.50; aged 13-17: \$50.

### **Festival Registration Policies**

Registration fees are refundable until June 9, 2006, and are subject to a \$35 administrative charge. All cancellations must be received in writing.

### For Program and Registration Information, contact:

Dr. Marsha Bryan Edelman Zamir Choral Foundation 120 Riverside Drive, Suite 1Y

Union for Reform Judaism

Cantor Alane Katzew

Department of Worship, Music and Religious Living

633 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017 New York, NY 10024

TEL: 212-362-3335 TEL: 212-650-4193 FAX: 212-362-4662 FAX: 212-650-4229 ZamirFdn@aol.com worship@urj.org

### The Zamir Choral Foundation, Inc.

The Zamir Choral Foundation, created by Matthew Lazar, promotes Jewish choral music as a vehicle to inspire Jewish life, culture and continuity. Building on the success of the Zamir Chorale, the first modern Hebrew-singing chorus in North America, Mr. Lazar sought an expansive vision that went beyond the activities of any single choir—one that fostered Jewish identity across generational and denominational lines. Today, through extensive programing, education, sponsorships and special events, the Zamir Choral Foundation is at the core of an ever-growing network of Jewish choirs, singers and music which has helped create the only Foundation of its kind devoted to Jewish choral music. The Zamir Choral Foundation is creating a new world of Jewish music, musicians and culture for today and the future.

### The Zamir Choral Foundation's mission is fulfilled by:

- Unifying and training the leaders and singers of the Jewish choral movement
- Fostering Jewish commitment through Jewish choral singing
- Strengthening Jewish identity in teens through a network of high school choral ensembles
- Commissioning and premiering new Jewish choral works
- Creating dynamic, cutting-edge Jewish music programming
- Over three decades of organizing Israel trips and missions
- Appearing in prime concert venues throughout the US and Israel

### In addition to the NAJCF, the projects of the Zamir **Choral Foundation are:**

HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir, founded in 1993 by Matthew Lazar, is a network of affiliated choirs across North America, Canada, England and Spain. Local HaZamir ensembles rehearse weekly and then join together for regional intervisitations. All HaZamir affiliates gather for the annual HaZamir Festival, which culminates in a gala concert in New York City.

The Zamir Chorale is the leading voice of the Jewish choral movement. Founded in 1960 by Stanley Sperber as the first modern Hebrew-singing chorus in North America, it has been conducted by Matthew Lazar since 1972. In its 45 years of creating Jewish harmony, the Zamir Chorale has thrilled tens of thousands in audiences across the United States and Israel, and has set the standard for Jewish choral music in North America. Zamir premieres works by contemporary composers, and has collaborated with Leonard Bernstein, Zubin Mehta, Daniel Barenboim, Carlo Maria Giulini and many others in choral/orchestral performances. The Zamir Chorale appears regularly in Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center.

The Jeanne R. Mandell Endowment commissions new works to be premiered by ensembles affiliated with the Zamir Choral Foundation. Established in 2002 through the generosity of Phyllis and Richard Rosen, the Endowment continues to expand the body of Jewish choral repertoire with works by internationally-renowned composers from North America and Israel.

Zamir Choral Foundation Mission to Israel: Since 1967, Zamir, a committed Zionist organization, has been sponsoring Israel programs, bringing singers from all over North America to Israel for performances and cultural exchanges. In the past several years, the Zamir Choral Foundation's summer missions to Israel have included outreach and comfort to victims of terror and support for our Israeli brothers and sisters. During the three years of Israel's Intifada, the Zamir Choral Foundation brought five missions to Israel.

Special Programs, Conferences and the National **Jewish Chorale:** The Foundation's dynamic programs open new doors for Jewish culture. In 2002, the first major international conference on the 17thcentury hero of Jewish choral music, Salamone Rossi, sponsored by the Zamir Choral Foundation, was featured in *The New York Times*. Zamir sponsors regional choral festivals. Zamir pioneered Jewish cultural programming on December 24th and sponsors an annual Open Sing on December 25th in New York City. The Foundation also convenes the National Jewish Chorale, a gathering of singers from the finest Jewish choruses in America, to celebrate significant events in the life of the Jewish people.



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Send me more information about earning academic credit from Gratz College.

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