

TO



**ALEX KLEIN**

**CHAMPION OF CHAZZANUT  
AND OF MEMORABLE SYNAGOGUE  
SERVICES**

**Happy 70<sup>th</sup> birthday  
and beyond**

**From your friends in ECA and  
around the world**

**24 March 2021**

**Geraldine Auerbach** MBE, Founder Director of the Jewish Music Institute at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London – a colleague of yours in JMI Synagogue Music Section and Co-founder – with you – of ECA in 2012 writes:



Dear Alex

You have been the inspiration and practical help to all those who love the musical rendering of Jewish prayer.

Many young cantors greatly appreciate your encouragement and advice on training and in obtaining jobs. Older generations support you in carrying the flame.

Your passion and knowledge is legendary. There is nobody like you! We at ECA Salute you! Love from Geraldine



## Here is what your team at ECA has to say:

**Hirsh Cashdan**, ECA Convention Programme Director, Richmond, Surrey says:



Dear Alex

We have shared so much in the last 10 years and your enthusiasm has never waned. The picture (page 6) which I found of our team from the Leeds convention in 2015 is a rich memory - you and I, surrounded by such good friends and colleagues.

Yasher Koach and all the best – ad meah v'esrim!

Hirsh, Richmond, Surrey

**Russell Grossman** ECA Executive, programme presenter and webmaster (London)



Alex. Congratulations on becoming a septuagenarian. Grumpy is good every now and again. A 70th birthday is also one of the most important milestones in one's life. I hope I am as active and purposeful as you are, when I turn 70. You are an inspiration. Happy 70th Birthday!

Russell G

~~~~~

**Barbara Rosenberg**, ECA Convention hospitality officer (Maidenhead UK) writes:

Dear Alex

All my best wishes on your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I hope you will find a way of celebrating this special lockdown birthday, with messages from the many people who think highly of you.



Our association goes back to the first Cantors Conventions with the JMI in 2006. When this branch looked in danger of fading away, your dogged determination and love of chazzanut would not let go, and so many people have wonderful memories of Cantors Conventions, stretching from Manchester and Leeds to Budapest, Prague and Hannover (so far).

I have enjoyed a working relationship with you of mutual respect and look forward to many more.

Keep up the good work! With warmest best wishes

Barbara

~~~~~

## From Rachel Wetstein and Daniel Tunkel ECA

I don't remember the occasion where my husband (Daniel Tunkel) and I first met you Alex, but I do remember my first phone conversation with you. It was shortly after Daniel and I had taken over Geraldine Auerbach's business, Jewish Music Distribution, nearly - goodness! - thirty years ago. One day I got a call from some guy with a deep slow voice who began telling me what turned out to be a "megillah" about his involvement in the world of Jewish music in general and chazanut in particular, asking whether we could stay in touch with him and maybe work on projects together such as getting involved in concerts and promoting of performers and so forth. I really had no idea what to make of it. Later that day I told Daniel, 'I had a phone call from the strangest-sounding guy earlier today....' and told him about the mostly-one-sided conversation. We both agreed we'd have to keep our eyes open for this guy. Little did we know .....



I don't remember exactly how things proceeded after that, but it wasn't long before we found ourselves in your orbit Alex, and have enjoyed the ride ever since.

What fun it was over the years to be in frequent contact with you, to host you in our London home and to visit you and Yvonne in Manchester, to see you at Jewish music events in the UK and elsewhere, and to share ideas and shmooze endlessly about the personalities and events in the Jewish music world. This is someone who follows cantors and their synagogues

the way some people follow footballers and their teams!

They found a photo of Daniel and myself with you Alex, but I can't resist showing everyone a photo of something I'm quite proud of - a kippah that I've made for you with the name that so many people know you by - "Alex Mr. Music" It's a replacement, made at your request, for a similar one that I made you years ago which I hear has become too worn to be seen in shul or at concerts. I was always pleased to see you wear it at Jewish music events, and I'm delighted that you wore it so frequently that it has become worn out and needs to be replaced. Alex, I'll get it to you as soon as I can - hopefully in person, at yet another celebration of Jewish music.

Daniel joins me in expressing best wishes to you and Yvonne for this milestone birthday.

Rachel Wetstein, Netanya, Israel, Daniel Tunkel, London. ~~~~~

**Chazan Yehuda (Heaton Park, Manchester) and Melanie Marx**

To our wonderful and treasured friend Alex



Wishing you a hearty and sincere Mazal Tov on the occasion of your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Your contribution to the world of Chazonus is phenomenal.

You have enhanced the Manchester community by bringing world famous cantors to the concert platform. With your programmes on Zoom and your tireless work for the ECA, this is bringing you to the international arena.

The sincerity, love and passion that you display are admirable. We are both honoured to have you and Yvonne as our beloved friends.

Thank you for all the kindness you have shown us. May Hashem bless you in all your endeavours and give you and Yvonne good health and strength for many years to come. May you and Yvonne be blessed with lots of simchas and nachas from your dear family.

Love

Chazan Yehuda and Melanie Marx

~~~~~

Read what so many of your friends and admirers, round the world, are saying to you, on the occasion of your 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday, 24 March 2021 – starting with the most recent European Cantors Convention:

## European Cantors Convention Jan 2020, Hannover



The 2020 European Cantors Convention that you arranged, took place at this beautiful **Villa Seligmann** in January in Hannover. In the picture above, Alex you are in the front row of the delegates on the fine staircase of Villa, with from left, **Russell Grossman** (Programme Director) behind him **Asher Hainovitz** the lead teacher, **Jerry Glantz**, son of Leib Glantz and Director of the 'Night' oratorio, and **Elijah Sakakushev von Bismarck**, a fine cellist who is also the Director of the Villa Seligmann, the 'House of Jewish Music' behind are all the delegates.

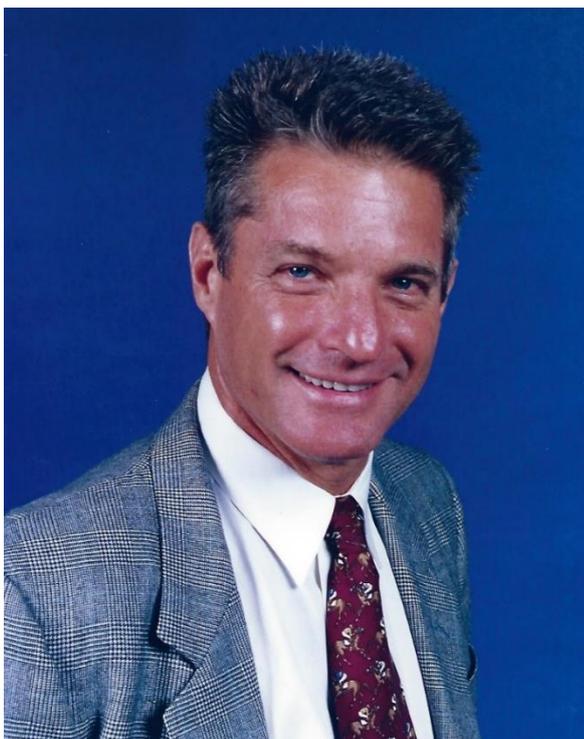
This 13<sup>th</sup> Cantors Convention was timed to coincide with the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. It was a memorable time, being in Germany for this occasion. The Jewish Community of Lower Saxony had extended a very warm welcome to you. We participated in some very important civic commemorative events including a visit the Parliament of Lower Saxony, where we were addressed by the President.

Here we see the delegates in the Parliament of Lower Saxony, with the President in the centre holding up an ECA certificate, which you had presented to her. In the front row are some of your ECA team Geraldine, Russell and you.



~~~~~

**On the night of the actual Holocaust Memorial Day, 27 January,** the municipality staged a performance of the 'Night' Concert devised by Dr Jerry Glantz with the words of Eli Wiesel and the music of his father Cantor Leib Glantz, before a German audience of three and a half thousand, in the Congress Hall.



**Jerry Glantz, (left) Director of The 'Night' Holocaust Project says:**

To Alex - my great friend and soulmate, who is the greatest supporter of the Elie Wiesel/Cantor Leib Glantz 'Night' Holocaust Memorial Concert; a one in a kind Meyvin in Chazanut; and the star of the amazing European Cantors Association. Thanks to you, Alex, our great Jewish National Heritage, is alive and well! Blessings on your 70th birthday. Jerry Glantz (New York)

~~~~~

**Cantor Daniel Mutlu** (right in the picture on the right) who starred in the performance wrote:

Dear Alex

I first met you in Vilnius at the 'Night' Holocaust Concert. I had heard many things about you and that you were a true aficionado of cantors and cantorial music. You didn't disappoint when we first spoke, as you seemed to not only have your favourites but really know your stuff!

Wishing you a very happy 70th!  
Dan Mutlu, New York

~~~~~



**Sofia Falcovitch**, cantor, mezzo-soprano, in Paris writes:

Dear Alex

Here is my picture (above centre) with you and Dan Mutlu taken at the last convention at the Villa Seligmann in Hanover in 2020. I wish you a truly happy 70th birthday and am deeply grateful for your kindness and the remarkable work you do for the development of our cantorial traditions.

Warm regards from Paris, Sofia.

~~~~~

**Michael Furst, President of the Jewish Community of Lower Saxony** (right below with Geraldine and you) sent the following message:



# 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday



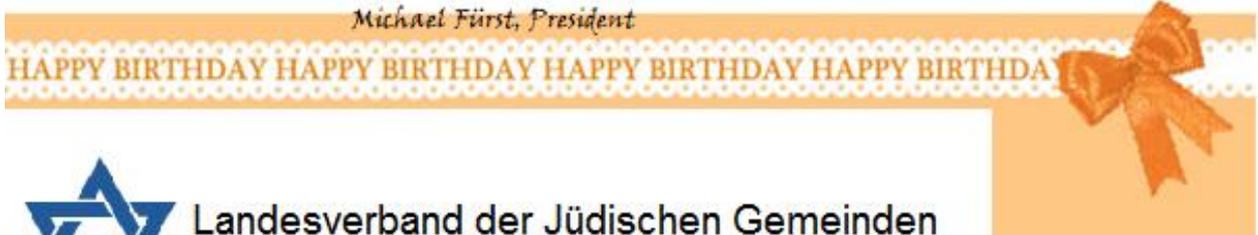
Dear Alex Klein,

We wish You all the Best!  
 Lets the music play in our hearts and continue to spread Your wonderful  
 Nigunim through around the World!

We are proud of our Friendship! See You in Hannover in 2023

Mazal Tow and till 120!

Michael Fürst, President



Landesverband der Jüdischen Gemeinden  
 von Niedersachsen K.d.ö.R.



### At your Open Mic:

Clockwise from top left: with Sveta Kundish, ?, You with Eliah Sakakushev von Bismarck, Assaf Levitin, Paul Heller with Warren Bank, and Nathan Goldman at the Villa Seligmann



## ***Magnified and Sanctified II, Hannover University***

The January 2020 Convention in Hannover, was preceded in September 2019, by the second **International Conference: Magnified and Sanctified** dedicated to the music of Jewish prayer. This Conference was jointly presented by the **ECA Academic Wing** and the European Centre for Jewish Music at the University of music drama and Dance in Hannover.

Alex (in braces) is seen below with delegates at the Villa Seligmann.



**Malcolm Miller, ECA Academic Wing** (4<sup>th</sup> from left in the photo above) writes:

Dear Alex

Mazaltov on your special day!

You are the heart and soul of the cantorial fraternity; your warmth, wisdom and wit, lighten up every meeting, lecture and zoom conversation! I recall our memorable conferences at Leeds (2015) and in Hanover (late night drinks!), and now more or less each week, virtually, as we meet at 'Conversations on Zoom!'

You have achieved so much through your enthusiasm and energy, and now you can also share your treasury of stories whilst looking forward to some really exciting new developments, like the latest series of online talks – The Voice of the Cantor (VOC). What a Fantastic Idea!

Bea and I wish you good health, enjoyment in all you do and much nachat from your family, 'bis hundertzwanzig'. See you soon!

Malcolm, London.

## ***Magnified and Sanctified I, Leeds University, 2015***

The first *Magnified and Sanctified* International Conference on Jewish prayer had been presented by the ECA Academic Wing in partnership with the Department of Music of the University of Leeds in July 2015. 50 speakers came to talk on many aspects of Jewish prayer, there were concerts and receptions. It was part of a major Leeds University-led project called *Performing the Jewish Archive*. Professors **Eliyahu Schleifer**, (Hebrew University, Jerusalem) and **Mark Kligman** (UCLA Los Angeles), and Professor **Jeffrey Summit** Tufts, Boston, were the keynote speakers at the conference. Mark and Eli stayed on to participate in the European Cantors Convention that you arranged at the United Hebrew Congregation (UHC), Shadwell Lane, Leeds, immediately after the Conference,

## **European Cantors Convention UHC Leeds 2015**

This was hosted by UHC's Senior Minister/Cantor Alby Chait, and musically led by Maestro Elli Jaffe (Jerusalem) with Hirsh Cashdan the Programme Director.



In the picture above, at the Leeds European Cantors Convention in July 2015, from the left, we see Maestro **Elli Jaffe** of Jerusalem, (one of the lead teachers) you - **Alex Klein**, Director of ECA, **Hirsh Cashdan** (the Programme Director) **Geraldine Auerbach**, **Alby Chait**, (Minister/Cantor at UHC) and convention host) Professor **Eliyahu Schleifer** of Jerusalem – another lead teacher, and **Barbara Rosenberg**, ECA hospitality Officer.

## Professor Eliyahu Schleifer, Jerusalem, writes

Dear Alex

As we are celebrating your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, you are entering the age of *Seiva*, as it is written in Pirkei Avot (The Ethics of the Fathers, Chapter 5): בְּזֶן שִׁבְעִים לְשִׁיבָה (At seventy, one enters the age of *Seiva*).

What does *Seiva* mean? There are various interpretations of the word and its concept. But since you have been involved in cantorial activities for many years, I prefer to interpret it using the Psalm for the Sabbath Day (Psalm 92:16). There the Psalmist says: עוֹד יְגוּבוֹן בְּשִׁיבָה דְשָׁנִים וְרַעְנָנִים יִהְיוּ [The righteous] shall still be fruitful at the age of *Seiva*, vigorous and fresh they shall be. This certainly suits your active and initiative character and your work both in the cause of cantorial music and in promoting good health.

I wish you God's blessings, may this Psalm verse accompany you for many more years. May you be blessed with good health and vigour in order to continue your good work on behalf of Chazzanut and B'riut.

Eliyahu Schleifer

~~~~~



**Maestro Elli Jaffe – conductor and composer** who also established the first Cantorial School in Jerusalem in 1986. Pictured above (centre) with Alby Chait left and you Alex, **says:**



Dear Alex

It was a real treat for me to be part of such a thoughtful Congress and ensembles and being able to share thoughts and point of views with such important figures in the world of Jewish Liturgical Music. Indeed such a convention which was so wonderfully organised and so meticulously directed by you Alex, plays such an important role for those who want to observe and keep the world of תפילה. May the Almighty grant you Alex, as well as all others

involved lots of blessings and may all our prayers will be responded. Please G-d we shall soon pray together in בית המקדש. Wishing you a very happy birthday Alex, and long may you continue your beneficial work.

Elli Jaffe, Jerusalem בתאריך יום ד', 24 בפבר' 2021 ב-17:09 מאת

~~~~~



**Alby Chait, Senior Minister and Chazan United Hebrew Congregation, Leeds, (seen above left with Elli Jaffe (centre and you) says:**

To Alex:

To the man who has championed cantorial music in the UK and abroad for decades...  
Thank you!

Thank you for never giving up and remaining committed to sharing this wonderful art; for encouraging generations of aspiring cantors that they can make it... so many owe a huge debt of gratitude to your passion, enthusiasm, knowledge and support throughout their careers.

On a personal note, you have always kept a keen eye on my development and given me the guidance and advice that only few would or could... you are one in a million, you are the one and only!!

On behalf of my family and extended family, of which you have been always a close friend, HAPPY SPECIAL BIRTHDAY!!!

May Hashem bless you with continued Nachas from your beautiful family.  
May Hashem give you continued strength in your work...!!!

Warmest wishes

Your friend... Alby x

~~~~~

**Mark Kligman Mickey Katz  
Endowed Chair in Jewish Music**

Chair, Department of  
Ethnomusicology,  
Director of Lowell Milken Fund for  
American Jewish Music  
Professor of Ethnomusicology and  
Musicology

**UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music  
writes:**



Dear Alex, עמוייש

My good wishes to you on this birthday. I do appreciate your kind, welcoming greetings each time I have come to an ECA event over the last few years. You are supportive and have always made me feel like I am part of the ECA family.

I admire your steadfast commitment to Jewish music and all the hazzanim, musicians and scholars to truly build a community for all of us. I look forward to to בייח attending future events that I know will also reflect your deep knowledge, love and creativity.

While the pandemic has not allowed us to be together physically I am so glad we get to see you often – sometimes more than once a week.

Wishing you a year of good health and continued success in all you do. יום הולדת שמח.

~~~~~



At the 2015 Convention Concert at the Beit Hamidrash Hagadol in Leeds, July 2015 we see cantors **Eliyahu Greenblatt** (Israel), **Yossi Saunders**, **Alby Chait**, (Leeds) with **Elli Jaffe** (Jerusalem) **Greg Nogradi** the Hungarian 'Pavarotti of the Bimah', and **Alex Klein**.

**(More pictures from the 2015 Leeds Convention below)**

**Left, Hirsh Cashdan right, Greg Nogradi bottom group outside.**



**Maurice Minsky left, retired chazan London** (in animated conversation with you at tea-time at the Leeds Convention 2015 says:

Dear Alex

Mazel tov on joining the 70s group. You are catching up with me. May we continue always to meet on Simachot, including our love for chazzanut.

We first met on a shabbat morning. You going off to Kinloss shul to hear the resident chazzan

and I was off to Hendon Adas to hear Pesach Segal. We spent so much time discussing all about chazzanim in the UK, that I was definitely late for Hendon shul

I mentioned that my late uncle Shalom Minsky, was bringing from Manchester to Edgware United Shul, Chazzan Hershman and I told you that either I was going to stay with my uncle or would have to walk from Golders Green.

I am very pleased that you have become the Director of ECA. I and enjoy the Zoom programmes which are very inspiring and beautiful, especially the chazzanut ones!

Enjoy your special day

Mazel tov again

Maurice

Best wishes Maurice

~~~~~



**On the steps on the last day**



**Eliyahu Schleifer of Jerusalem, Greg Nogradi of Budapest, Alex Klein and**

## The Voice of the Cantor (VOC)

ECA's new 2021 programme of ten panel discussions on the joys and fears of cantors today across the Jewish world, launches this very month, on 3 March 2021 with you Alex in conversation with an old and treasured friend Dudu Fisher. The series builds on your association with the **Cantors Assembly** of America where you and David Prager, have made some wonderful Zoom presentations in recent months.

**Cantor and Superstar Dudu Fisher** Florida and Israel, says:



Dear Alex

I'd like to wish you happy birthday on your 70th. Biz 120 in good health and lots of naches from your family and friends. Keep on singing and keep on your great work with the European Cantors Association.

With much love, Yours Dudu ~~~~~

## And here are many messages from your friends and associates around the world

**Hazzan Robert Kieval, Cantors Assembly (CA)** who invited you to present on their CA Listening Room programme and who co-hosted the first VOC programme with Dudu Fisher) writes:

I knew of you Alex through my friend of over 50 years, Cantor Beny Maissner. I got to know you personally when I began my series "The Listening Room" for the Cantors Assembly at the beginning of the Pandemic. You were there listening every week even though it was 1AM in the UK!

Eventually, you suggested doing some Programs on Cantors in the UK and I took you up on it. This was the beginning of a wonderful relationship which has continued on. I hope it will only amplify over the years to come. HAPPY BIRTHDAY ALEX AND MANY MORE TO 120!

Hazzan Robert Kieval

~~~~~

**Cantor Beny Maissner, recently retired from Holy Blossom synagogue Toronto** writes:

Dear Alex

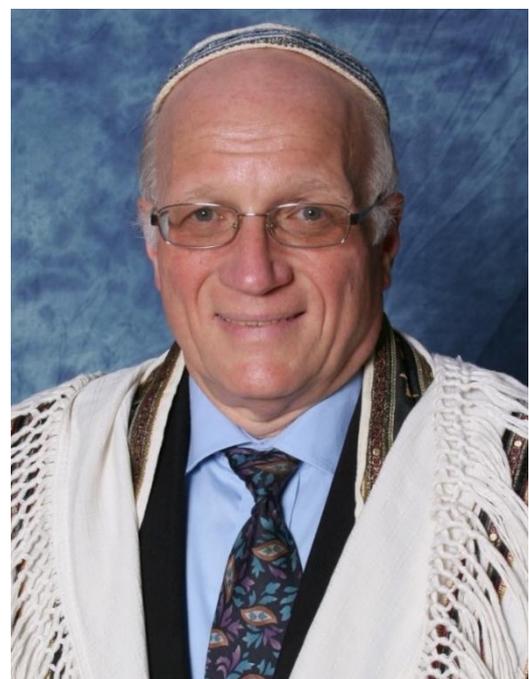
It is such an honor for me to add a few lines and send blessing on the monumental occasion of your important Birthday. I have known about you for many years before we met in person at the ECA convention in Prague when you invited me to come and contribute to the program It was the year with Naftali Herstik and Raymond Goldstein and the Cantorial choir of the Cantorial institute in Tel Aviv Even since then we have created a 'Mutual Admiring Association'. I have enjoyed and admired your passion and love for our Jewish Musical heritage.

I have admired your inclusiveness of all our diverse Denominations and acceptance of all streams, men, women students and seasoned Jewish musicians.

We all look forward to many more interesting, exciting events which only you can dream up and make it happen I wish you and you and your family health happiness and all long happy life AD 120+

With love Beny

~~~~~



**Cantor Joseph Malovany, Fifth Ave Synagogue, New York**



**Distinguished Professor of Liturgical Music, Belz School of Jewish Music, Yeshiva University, New York, pictured above, giving a masterclass at Central Synagogue London in 2013. Yossi writes:**

I have known you Alex, for many years. From the moment I met you at Manchester Airport when I came to teach Nusach and to give a concert of pure Chazanut accompanying myself on the piano.

Alex you are a devotee of Cantorial Music, coupled with much passion. We the Cantors need many, many more people of your caliber. You will always stop your own work to spend time again and again advocating the need of advancing the art of Cantorial Music in Jewish life.

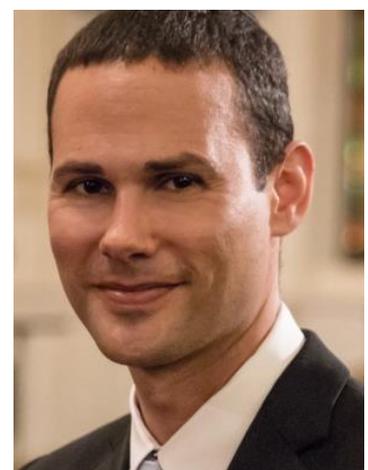
On the occasion your 70th birthday, May I quote our sage Rabbi Yehudah Ben Tema in the book of Ethics of our father's: The age of 70 is regarded as: Ripe Old Age. This does absolutely not apply to you, Alex. Your energy, your dedication, your profound understanding and appreciation of the Cantorial Music, will be with you for many many, more years to come. AD MEAH VE'ESRIM. Till 120 with good health.

Cantor Joseph Malovany

~~~~~

**From Cantor Azi Schwartz, Park Avenue Synagogue New York**

Dear Alex,  
Yom Huledet Sameach!!  
Wishing you a happy and healthy birthday.  
May your passion for Jewish music continue to inspire us all.  
With love,  
Azi Schwartz



~~~~~

**Cantor Asher Hainovitz, Jerusalem writes:**

Dear Alex

A very happy birthday dear friend.

May your enthusiasm and your love for תורה continue to inspire all those who come in contact with you.

Wishing you only the very best of health in the years ahead

Love

Asher



(Asher is seen above on the right, with Warren Bank at the Hannover ECA convention 2020 where Asher was the lead teacher and soloist in the services and concerts.

~~~~~

**Warren Bank** (above Left) Financial Lawyer Leeds (soon Bahamas) says:

I first met you Alex when I came over to Manchester from Leeds and we went for a meal and discussed Chazzanut. You sent me a very rare recording of Jonny Gluck (Z"l) whom I knew personally from Johannesburg.

The passion that you have for chazzanut and our wonderful European choral tradition is rarely found today – Alex, you live, breathe, eat and sleep all things liturgical in a manner that is simply unmatched. I wish you a hearty Mazaltov on reaching this milestone and may you continue to inspire us all and spur us on for many more years.

Kind regards

Warren

~~~~~

## **Cantor Benny Rogosnitzky, Park East Synagogue, New York**

Dear Alex

First and foremost, I congratulate you on this milestone birthday. Your work and dedication to the preservation of authentic Cantorial music is second to none.

When history is recorded about this unprecedented period, I am confident that your name will be included at the very top of the list of those who fought valiantly for the promotion and safe keeping of our sacred liturgy and musical traditions. It is an honor to know you and to work alongside you on unique and important projects.



May Hashem bless you with many more years of good health to be able to continue to contribute in the most meaningful way that only you know. May we continue to be united in music, song, and prayer.

With deep respect and admiration

Cantor Benny Rogosnitzky  
Park East Synagogue

~~~~~

## **Cantor Eric Moses, Toronto**

Dear Alex

I want to wish you a very happy birthday! Just as you have supported and encouraged so many of us, it is a true honour to be included among your many friends extending birthday wishes to you from across the globe.

Your love of chazzanus and yiddishkeit is palpable and truly inspiring to those who are working on the front lines of our sacred profession. Thank you for being such a passionate ambassador for cantors and the cantorial art.

From the first time I met you at an ECA convention, you welcomed me as though you had known me for years. Thank you for being such a friend and a mensch. May you be blessed with many more "special birthdays" surrounded by the love of family and friends — "ad mea v'esrim shana!"



HAPPY BIRTHDAY MY FRIEND!

Eric Moses

~~~~~

**From Cantor Yanky Lemmer, Lincoln Square Synagogue, Manhattan**



Reb Alex,

You were my first 'manager' in the UK! When I was still soooo innocent, young and stupid you believed in me and made things happen!

Happy birthday maestro!

Yanky

~~~~~

**From Cantor Deborah Katchko Gray, Richfield Connecticut**

Happy Birthday Alex ! My grandfather Cantor Adolph Katchko and Zavel Kwartin are singing your praises!!

Love from  
Cantor Debbie



~~~~~



**From Rabbi Dr Benjamin Elton, Chief Minister of The Great Synagogue, Sydney (originally from Manchester)**

Dear Alex

I want to wish a very warm mazal tov to you on your seventieth birthday. You have been a powerhouse of the revival and support of chazzanut and all those who value good nusach and music in the synagogue are in your debt.

I wish you many more active years in good health to continue your

wonderful work.

Ben

~~~~~



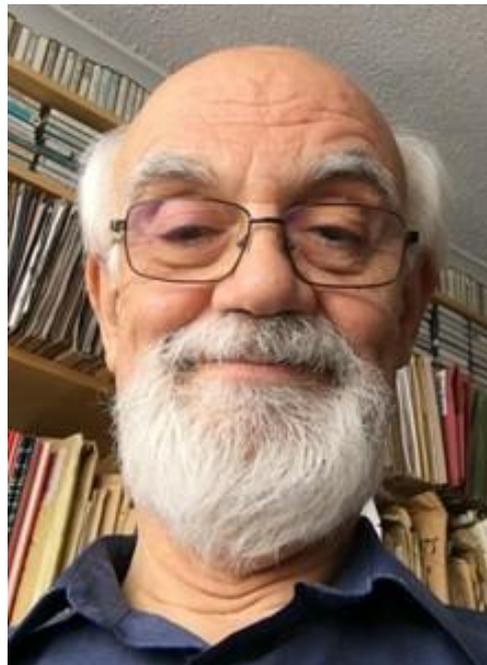
**From Alexander Knapp, former Joe Loss Lecturer in Jewish Music, SOAS, University London**

Dear Alex

I wish to congratulate you most heartily on this landmark event in your life – *Mazel Tov* on your 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

There will be so many relatives and friends and colleagues who want to pay tribute to your pioneering efforts on behalf of Jewish music in general, and *Hazzanut* in particular; and I want to add my voice to theirs, in gratitude for the great energy you devote to preserving and encouraging this unique and magnificent art-form, one that you have loved and nurtured throughout your life.

Our friendship, and my friendship with your dear late brother Julian, goes back a long way - well over four decades! I believe you and I first met in Manchester at a recital given by *Hazzan* Naftali Herstik (for which I was privileged to fulfil the role of accompanist). And we have remained in contact ever since.



May you continue as Director of the European Cantors' Association for many, many years to come, infusing *Hazzanim* and *Ba'alei T'fillah* with inspiration and wise counsel. *Bis hundertundzwanzig!*

Warmest greetings from your old friend Alex (Knapp) London

~~~~~

**From Charles Heller, retired choirmaster in Toronto:**

I have got to know you Alex through your work with the European Cantors Association and more recently through Jewish music Zoom sessions. You are always a welcome presence at all these meetings, especially for those of us in North America, who marvel at your devoted attendance at Cantors Assembly meetings at what is for you the early hours of the morning... Happy Birthday!



me-chayil l'chayil, Mazal tov!

Charles Heller

~~~~~

**Michael Jolles, London, author and compiler of the Directory of UK Chazanim writes:**

Dear Alex

Wishing you a very happy birthday, a cause for a major celebration.

As the greatest living cantorial impresario in the UK, you can look back over the decades with great pride at your amazing achievements.

You have introduced so many outstanding chazanim from abroad to this country, giving great pleasure to so many audiences and co-participants in the brilliant concerts that you have arranged.

Your initiative and involvement in setting up various cantorial conferences, institutions and educational events has been so energetic. You have inspired me enormously. You have inspired so many with your spirited enthusiasm and passion and your generous and kind personality. You have given so much pleasure to so many. Thank you for being exactly who you are, a real mensch.

Please enjoy your birthday.

Very best wishes,

Michael Jolles (pictured above on the right, with David Prager on the left, at the Cantors Convention in London in 2013)

~~~~~



**Message from Yechezkel Klang, Jerusalem**

Alex you are timeless. And Ageless!

You have always have been an inseparable part of the timeless cantorial world. It seems, and feels like I have always known you...as your friend, I wish you, Alex, continued health, happiness, and a wealth of good Chazzanut!

Yechezkel (pictured with Alex at the 2013 European Cantors Convention in London.

~~~~~



**From Isidoro Abramowicz. Berlin**

Cantor and Music Director at the Pestalozzistraße Synagogue-Berlin. Director of the Cantorial program at Abraham Geiger College  
Dear Alex



It has been a few years since I had the pleasure to meet you for the first time and it was not less than through the cantorial art and life. We have common friends and teachers which make this bond even more special. We have been sharing meetings and very interesting conversations in different cities of the world and everything related to questions of traditions and modernity, a theme that you try to combine, knowing how challenging it is. You do a very important job to continue the cantorial tradition and I am glad to have you as a colleague and friend in it.

You are a Mensch and I wish you all the best in your life, keep enjoying the love of your beautiful family. Ad 120 in good health.

Mazal tov and L'chayim,

Yours, Isidoro ~~~~~



**Cantor Aaron Bensoussan, Toronto  
(Tutor at the European Cantors  
Convention 2012)**

Dear Alex

It is a pleasure to honour you, dear Alex on your birthday.

I first met you and Yvonne when you visited Toronto years ago. You dovened at my shul at the time, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, and came to my house for lunch after services. That was the beginning of a long and wonderful friendship. I can't think of anyone who is as passionate about hazzanut as you, Alex. You have devoted your life's work to preserving and continuing this beautiful and essential art. Alex you are a champion for hazzanut and for hazzanim.

What I love most about you is that you are supportive of all hazzanim regardless of their

denomination. You have love for everyone and are loved by everyone.

Alex, may Hashem bless you with good health, ad mea V'esrim, to continue the precious work you do. With friendship and respect.

**Cantor Aaron Bensoussan**

~~~~~

**Jennifer Jankel, Jo Mark, Raphael Knapp and Gil Karpas**  
of the Jewish Music Institute sent this card:



**Jennifer**

**Joanna**

**Raphael**

**Gil**



**DEAR ALEX KLEIN  
HAPPY 70TH BIRTHDAY! "BIZ 120!"**

**All the team at  
JMI - Jewish Music Institute wish you  
Mazal Tov!**

**We are all incredibly grateful to you for your  
hard work in the support, development  
and promotion of Chazzanut**

**From Beryl Glansberg – Florida**



To the Fearless Leader of the ECA, Alex Klein with his new look: Happy 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday and may you have 120 years! We should only hear good news from you and your family! You have held this organization together for so many years and promoted both Chazzanut and Chazzanim. Many owe their careers to your promotion and connections. Your efforts to keep this treasured Cantorial art current and preserved for now and the future are amazing. May you go from strength to strength. Much Nachas and glick, with love,

The Glansberg's, Beryl and Mark, Joshua, Ariel Benjamin and Lindsay with little Natalie, Daniel and Estelle Teitelbaum Slomovitz, the original Chazzanut maven.



**From Tania Nelson and family**

Happy 70th Birthday to our dear friend Alex, Wishing you a hearty mazel tov on reaching this special milestone. May hashem bless you with good health, so that you and Yvonne can continue to enjoy happiness together and you have the strength to continue all your wonderful endeavours.

Much love, Tania, Simon and family.  
(It's you and Yvonne at my son's bar mitzva, chanucah 1997. As you can see it's a younger version of you, which indicates how long we've been friends. ~~~~~)

## Alex has been an inspiration to so many UK cantors and to cantors at the start of their careers .....

Here are some appreciative words from colleagues at home and around the world.

**From Adam Caplan, Chazan of Prestwich Hebrew Congregation Manchester** (and treasurer of ECA)

In honour of our dear friend Alex on the wonderful occasion of your seventieth birthday.

Alex, you have followed my career and progression keenly from when I was a young child. Specifically, in the past decade it has been a privilege to count you as a congregant, a friend and a mentor as you rejoined our Shul, a place where you were previously a notable member and committee member. We have also worked closely in the European Cantors Association where I hold the position of Treasurer and had the pleasure to support your work in maintaining the future of synagogue music. We have worked closely on the two conventions and several concerts hosted by the Prestwich Hebrew Congregation, Shrubberies.

You always have encouraging words offering appreciative insights into the glory of our liturgy and nusach, offering a rallying call for tradition as well as relevance in our services, as well as being a great advocate the importance of education – educating the youth, as well as the average Jew how the words of Tefillah the variety of our prayers, cover all our emotions, all our feelings and are a true indicator of our relationship with Hashem. Your enthusiasm for davening and davening done properly is one that is inspiring and your inimitable style pushes others to achieve and excel.



70 is an important number throughout the Torah – 70 nations descended from Noach, 70 souls came down to Egypt, 70 elders helped Moses in the desert, there are 70 faces to the Torah, and we know from Pirkei Avot that 70 years represents a 'fullness of years. Shulchan Aruch obligates us to rise for a person of 70 years or older, this is to acknowledge their life experience, their wisdom and to give the respect that this individual deserves.

Wishing you a happy 70<sup>th</sup> birthday, hoping that you and Yvonne have many years of health and happiness together in the future. I look forward to welcoming you back to Shul, so that the words of encouragement will be from the man himself and not just via Zoom during Kabbalat Shabbat!!

With much affection

Adam

~~~~~

**Cantor RC (Rafi) Muller**  
**Cheadle, Manchester**

To Alex

Wishing you all the best for the future!

Rafi



~~~~~

**From Phil Cammerman, Choirmaster, UHC Choir, Leeds**

Dear Alex

We bring you sincere good wishes from Leeds on the occasion of your 70th birthday. You have done so much for us and our choir at the UHC. Over the last 15 years or so, you have introduced us to so many chazanim and conductors and have enthused me personally to continue my work with the UHC choir in Shadwell Lane in Leeds. Our best wishes to you and Yvonne may you continue your work and go from strength to strength and remember

- 70 is only a number.....ad Mea v'essrim

Phil Cammerman – on behalf of all choristers in Leeds and the UHC

Below, Phil is conducting the UHC choir at the European Cantors Convention 2015 Leeds.



~~~~~

**From Jeremy Michelson Vice Chair (Education) JRC of Greater Manchester & Region**

Dear Alex

I have known you for many years. In particular I have been your chairman since you joined the Education Working Group of the Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester & Region. Alex, you care deeply about good interfaith relations. This has motivated you to be so active on Salford's Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education, which examines the way in which Religious Education is taught.

You have also been passionate about improving the community's interest in Chazanut and the improvement of leadership in prayer. You are passionate about all aspects of Jewish life. Your infectious enthusiasm keeps us all active.

Happy 70<sup>th</sup>, Alex

With Best wishes from Jeremy Michelson, Manchester



~~~~~

**From Robert Brody, London**

Alex you have been a valued friend for some years. You have been productive in promoting and sustaining Chazanut, active at the highest level and with the International leaders of the profession.

You have supported and encouraged young and trainee Chazanim and have made an outstanding contribution that is greatly appreciated.

Alex, I wish you and Yvonne many happy and healthy years together in the future.

Kindest regards, Robert

~~~~~



### **From Adrian Alexander and family**

Dear Alex



Wishing you a very happy special birthday! I am pretty sure that the world of chazonus would not be the same without your unrelenting and contagious enthusiasm towards preserving our beautiful shul music. We are all indebted to you for everything you have achieved, ranging from conventions to concerts and lots in-between.

Your assistance has been invaluable whenever I reached out to you, and you have supported our family in times of crisis. I can't think of anything more we could ask for, in an ambassador for such

an important cause.

Pg you should go from strength to strength with much hatzlachah for many more years. Warmest regards and mazeltov

Naomi and Adrian Alexander and family

~~~~~

**From Yaacov Orzech, Vancouver, Canada** (used to be in South Tottenham)



Dear Alex

Wishing you a happy 70th birthday with lots of Mazel and Brocho and may Hashem give you the strength to continue doing the wonderful work you do promoting Chazanut.

Best wishes

Yaacov

~~~~~

**From Spencer Nathan, Edgware**



Dear Alex

Thank you for all the work you have done for so many years now to keep chazanut alive.

Best wishes on your 70th.

Spencer Nathan

~~~~~

**From Chazzan Jonny Turgel, Stanmore**

Dear Alex

Wishing you a very Happy 70th Birthday and a Mazel tov on this milestone. The cantorial community is very grateful to you for championing our cause.

On a personal note, I am very appreciative of all your support and encouragement to me especially over the past few years, as well as for promoting my material online.

To many more years of continued health and strength.

Best wishes, Jonny Turgel

~~~~~

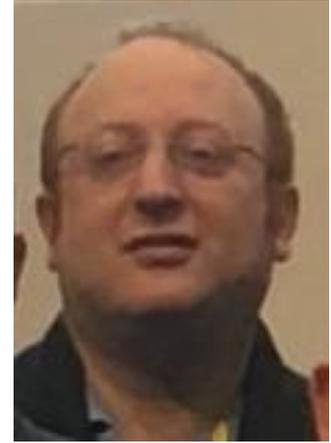


## From Daniel Hirshfield, London

Dear Alex

A huge mazel tov on the occasion of your 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!

I have had the great pleasure of knowing you for a number of years now. In fact, I feel that we have been connected vicariously for much longer. As you know, your dear brother, Julian z"l, was my Cheder teacher and played an instrumental role in my Jewish education and, like you, shared your passion for Chazzanut.



Alex, you have been the inspiring force behind so many initiatives to promote Jewish cantorial music here and abroad that no words can adequately describe the full impact that you have had within the cantorial community and beyond in the wider Jewish community. This, of course, is only one area in which you have served the community; equally impressive is the work you do in local schools, your role in planning Holocaust Memorial Day events, and all that you do as a patient representative.

But it is the selflessness with which you conduct yourself that is most striking. The following words in Tehillim encapsulate your mission in life: "Sing praises to Him; speak of all His wondrous acts." (Ps. 105:2)

שִׁירוּ לָהּ וּמְרוּ לָהּ שִׁיחוּ בְּכָל־נִפְלְאוֹתֶיהָ:

I look forward to seeing you on further Zoom events and, in time, in person at our next European Cantors Convention where we can all join you in singing praises to Him and speaking of all His wondrous acts.

**עד מאה ועשרים!**

Best wishes,

Daniel Hirschfield

~~~~~

## David Apfel (retired Chazzan Leeds)

Alex

I have had the privilege of being able to call you my friend for many, many years.

During that time, not only have I valued your friendship, but I have also always appreciated your persistently kind words of encouragement.

I am sure I am not alone in this - far from it.



So, with that in mind and always remembering all the wonderful and tireless work you have done for the treasured tradition of **chazzanut**, may I take this opportunity to

wish you, your dear wife and indeed all your dear family only blessings and more on the occasion of your seventieth birthday.

G-d Bless you....always,

Sincerely,

David Apfel

~~~~~

**From Gwen Lamb, Manchester**



Dear Alex  
I want to wish you a wonderful 70th birthday and to pay tribute to your tireless efforts to keep Yiddishkeit and Chazzanut alive and well for our constant enjoyment! It's so long ago since I first met you in Manchester at a concert and you jumped to help when I strongly recommended a young Gateshead Yeshiva student who has a magnificent voice.. .. He now trains at the Cantorial Academy in Tel Aviv!  
Here's a photo of me....  
AD ME'AH V'ESRIM ALEX!  
Your fan! Gwen

~~~~~

**David Mankoff, lay leader in Leeds and aficionado of chazzanut**



Happy 70th Birthday ALEX  
from DAVID MANKOFF.

~~~~~

**Simon Caplan** (Chazzan London - now Meade Hill Road Manchester)

In the time I have known you Alex, I always find you a real Mensch who cares about his fellow human beings in all different ways.

I also feel a real sense of camaraderie when in your company whether discussing the state of the world or Chazzanut and Classical music.

Wishing you dear Alex, good health and the strength to continue being our Ambassador for traditional Nusach and Chazzanut .

Be well and Happy Birthday.

Best wishes.

Simon Caplan

~~~~~



**Cantor Moshe Dubiner** (Western, and other Synagogues, London)

Dear Alex

Thank you for all your wonderful work in the liturgical field.

I was a great friend of your late brother Julian who designed my very first record cover for me! Wishing you happy birthday and all the best.

Moishe Dubiner

~~~~~

**Dov Speier** (London, Palmers Green) writes:

Mazal Tov Alex

Best wishes on your 70th birthday. May you continue with the good work for Chazanuth for many years to come, in good health and happiness.

Dov and Edit Speier

~~~~~

**From Andrew Rosemarine**

Alex, in Maimonides' mammaloshen, is an abbreviation for The (AL) EX-ceptionally Enthusiastic. Alex, your enthusiasm for hazzonos is contagious and inspirational.

Your high spirits win hearts. Bis zwei hundert und vierzig Alex, live well!

Andrew M Rosemarine (Yitzchok Meir ben Tovya)

~~~~~

**Nathan Goldman** (from Liverpool now in Stuttgart)

Dear Alex

Lots of love to you and the family on this very special time what you do for the chazzanus is so important and we all appreciate it.

All the best  
Nathan and Katja

~~~~~



**Avrom Gilbert (Rabbi Eitz Haim Synagogue Leeds)**

Wishing you, Alex continued success.

עד מאה ועשרים שנה.  
אברהם גילבערט  
דק"ק ליעדז

~~~~~

**Rabbi Danny Bergson (St Anne's on Sea)**

Dear Uncle Alex

I thought this photo would be a lovely reminder of the wonderful work you do on behalf of the European cantorial association.

Just to jog your memory I am with the prime minister of the region after our amazing "night" concert as part of the conference.

May Hashem bless you with continued gezunt to inspire more leaders and educators as well as many many Jewish people wherever they come from to the importance of Jewish musical and liturgy You are a Levi! So song is intrinsic to your soul

In truth as a Levi your task is to leviyah-accompany every Jewish soul on their Jewish journey and help them discover the root of their soul which as we know can only be touch by music  
🎵

Where words and definitions conceal the true essence it is neginah that reveals it

That is why the leviim would sing in beis Hamikdash prior to the more silent avodah of kohanim

Happy birthday on this amazing milestone

Lots of love Danny

~~~~~



**Memories from Michael Isdale, chazan in South Manchester**



“On this special milestone, I’d like to send my best wishes and a hearty Mazaltov to you Alex. We go back a number of years now and I’ve always known you as an “Impressario extraordinaire!” You have worked so hard and indeed, are still heavily involved with the Cantors Association which has reached out globally - long may this continue.

I personally well remember the “old days”, when you used to arrange concerts with the late great Shlomo Carlebach z”l” where I often sang with him on stage, when he visited London and Manchester. So much so, that we arranged for Reb Shlomo to daven for a

Shabbat in my ex-shul, Yeshurun Cheadle in the early ‘80’s and shall always remember that very special, most entertaining and memorable Shabbat at our home.

Fondest wishes to Yvonne and your family. Mazaltov again!

Chazan Michael Isdale

~~~~~

**R. Graham Gordon, Member of Manchester Representative Council**

Happy Seventieth Birthday, my good friend!!!

I wish many more happy, healthy years, continuing the wonderful work you do.

R. Graham Gordon, (with Sue & family)

~~~~~

**Thanks from Natan Fagleman, Allerton Synagogue, Liverpool**

Dear Alex

Mazal Tov and Happy Birthday on this special occasion. Ever since we met at one of the first ECA conventions in London, I have been inspired by your drive and passion for our Sacred Music.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity you gave me to study at TACI. May you be blessed to continue this holy task for many years to come in good health and in better times.



Your good friend, Natan Fagleman ~~~~~

## Councillor Rabbi Arnold Saunders writes:

Where to start??

Well Alex you always tell me you remember me in short pants! I certainly remember you from my younger days (yes- believe it or not, I was young once!) when you moved to Manchester after your marriage to Yvonne, sister of my classmate and good friend, Alan Perrin.

Over the years we became close friends. I attended several concerts that you promoted - at first through "Almar Promotions"- for various good causes - in particular the Manchester Talmud Torah. Thinking back, I realize how spoilt we were! Alex, you brought over the likes of his great friend Shlomo Carlebach, Moshe Stern, Chazanim Muller, Miller, Zim and Motzen. I particularly recall the conference in Manchester a few years ago which climaxed with a wonderful and inspiring concert.

I must however mention the period in which you were a member and regular attender at our Shool, Higher Crumpsall and Higher Broughton Synagogue where the renowned Chazan Avraham Hillman was accompanied by the Shool choir. For most of my time, the conductor was Adrian Isaacs, who also conducted the Manchester Male Voice Choir which accompanied so many Chazzanim at concerts. Of course, music should naturally come to you Alex as you are a Levy – a member of the Tribe who sang in the Temple!



Above is a picture of you Alex with me at a HMD event in Salford in January 2019. We were both on the organising committee.

We shared many simchas - including the marriage of your daughter at which I was the officiating rabbi.

I cannot conclude without mentioning the scholarship that **my son, Yossi** was awarded by the **Julian Klein Memorial Fund**- set up by you Alex in memory of your twin brother Julian. This gave Yossi the opportunity to spend a year studying chazzanut at-TACI under the direction of Chazzan Naftali Herstik.

I wish you Alex, a Happy 70th Birthday and many happy returns.

May you and Yvonne enjoy many more years together, in good health, shepping much nachas you're your children and grandchildren.

And below is a picture of you Alex at an Anne Frank exhibition which you attended in you capacity as Chair of *Salford Sacre* of which I am also a member. As I took the picture, I am not in it.



You also sit on the Manchester Jewish Rep Council and like me, you are a member of the Education Committee. These meetings are also where we "cross paths".

Best wishes

Arnie

Councillor Rabbi Arnold Saunders

~~~~~

A card from  
Cantor Paul  
Heller,  
Belsize  
Square  
Synagogue,  
London



~~~~~

### A toast from Rabbi, Cantor Geoffrey Shisler

I have known you Alex since you were a little boy. You often remind me that I was once your Madrich in B'nei Akivah (and no, I'm not that much older than You). You have always had a passion for Chazanut and in recent years have been in the forefront of the gallant group of people striving to keep Chazanut alive in this country.

Anne and I are delighted to join in wishing you a hearty Mazal Tov on reaching your 70th birthday.

In Pirkei Avot Yehuda ben Teimar tells us 'בן שבעים לשיבה' - which means 'At the age of 70 one reaches ripe old age.' Homiletically we could connect the word שיבה with לשובת - 'to rest' and then we might translate the phrase as meaning 'At the age of 70 one reaches the time to take a well-earned rest!' Well, I cannot see you doing that so, looking at you we have to assume that 70 is the new 55!



May Gd grant you countless more years of good health to enjoy your family and friends and continue in your wonderful work.

*Geoffrey Shisler*

~~~~~

**Appreciation from Chazan Eli Perry** from London, studied at Gateshead and Mir Yeshivot

Dearest Alex

Heartiest mazel tov on this wonderful occasion of your 70th birthday.

Although we haven't met yet, I really appreciate your help and support in pursuing my chazzonus career. Especially with the Chanukah concert at Heaton Park Shul.

May you continue to keep the chazzonus world alive with all the tremendous work you do in good health and happiness for many years to come.

Warmest wishes

Chazan Eli Perry



~~~~~

**Blessings from Cantor Modi Spitzer**, Bury Hebrew Congregation, Manchester

Dear Alex

Mazel Tov on your 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday

There is a Halachic obligation to arise when a person of over 70 enters a room, just as one would rise for a Torah Scholar. I feel that the world of traditional Chazzanut must rise for you in appreciation for all that you do to keep our heritage alive. The art of Cantorial music, is a sacred work, and you rise to the challenge of keeping it relevant in our modern world, this keeps you young as you enter your 71<sup>st</sup> year.

May you be blessed with only health and strength to continue your vital aims, and serve Klal Yisroel for many years to come.

Best wishes

Modi Spitzer

~~~~~



## Wishes from Peter and Miki Pretz from Manchester now in Budapest

What can we say about you Alex whom I know since the late 70's from Manchester. You are a man of golden heart, and with music in your heart. You will help all who ask for this. May you continue with your good deeds in health for many more years to come, with the sound of music and chazanut. Lechaim to Life!

Best Regards Peter and Miki Pretz



~~~~~

## A fuzzy image from Raymond Roth

Alex! A hearty Mazal Tov in achieving this outrageous milestone!

It seems only weeks ago when you had an amazing quantity of dark curly hair as you and I shyly posed for the group photo as part of that infamous committee's heyday! After searching high and low I have managed to locate the elusive photo from my archives- found in an old suitcase in the loft no less! It's from The Jewish Gazette in 1982 when we were both on a fundraising-social committee and it's very poor quality-a copy of a copy! The youthful Alex is on the right and I am on the left.



So yes, we do go back a long way. Without fear of contradiction, I feel confident in stating that it is an obvious fact that neither of us have changed one bit – in fact some might say that we look even better now!

Long may you keep up the wonderful work you do in so many aspects of communal life both here in the UK and

also your key role on an international level in respect cantorial concerts and conventions worldwide 🎵 🎶 🎷

Steph joins me in wishing that, B "H, you should, together with Yvonne and your wonderful family, go from strength to strength for very many years to come.

L'Chayim! Mazal & Brocho

Ray (Roth)

### **And a clear image of you from Abigail Hirsch, Montreal**



Dear Alex

I am delighted to be able to send you birthday blessings for your special day.

You have been so supportive and warm ever since I first wrote to you about attending the Cantors Convention, a wonderful quiet leader.

Here is a picture of you at the Hannover City Hall

Wish I could give you a big hug in person,

Perhaps in Budapest 2021 at the next Cantors convention.

Keep up the good work, your passion for cantorial treasures. Happy Birthday.

Your friend

Abigail

~~~~~

## Cantors conventions:

**There have been 13 Cantors Conventions, since 2006**, that you have been involved with in one way or another Alex. Here is the list below. Some were under the auspices of the Jewish Music Institute's Synagogue Music Section, of which you were a key part, some of Tephilharmonic in which you were a major player and some under the European Cantors Association from 2012 when it was formed of which you are the Director. We will highlight a few of these in this Birthday Book: On page 5, we have highlighted the latest one – the 13<sup>th</sup> held in Hannover in January 2021. On page 10, the 10<sup>th</sup> one in 2015 in Leeds. Below we highlight the 8<sup>th</sup> convention in London in 2013 where the Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis gave a passionate speech in favour of cantors and their role. (You can read it on the ECA Website [www.cantors.eu](http://www.cantors.eu).) Later we feature Conventions in Budapest 2014, and Prague 2016 and 2018.

1. **2006 – JMI at SOAS London** with Arie L Subar, Alberto Mizrahi, Shmuel Barzilai. Programme Director Stephen Glass
2. **2007 – JMI at SOAS London** with Asher Hainovitz, Arie L Subar. Programme Director Stephen Glass
3. **2008 – Tephilharmonic at Central Synagogue London** with Naftali Herstik, Raymond Goldstein, Geoffrey Shisler, Programme Director Hirsh Cashdan
4. **2009 – Tephilharmonic Central Synagogue London** with Moshe Shulhoff, Moshe Haschel, Daniel Gildar, +Jerry Glantz. Programme Director Hirsh Cashdan, plus Julian Klein Memorial Concert and Competition.
5. **2010 – Tephilharmonic Central Synagogue, London** with Asher Hainovitz, Goldstein, Hashel, Shisler. Programme Director Hirsh Cashdan, plus Julian Klein Memorial Concert and Competition.
6. **2011 – JMI Manchester** with Sol Zim, Yaakov Motzen, Yehuda Marx, Basle Great Synagogue Choir. Programme Director Alex Klein
7. **2012 – ECA Director Alex Klein, Manchester** with Malovany, Yehezkel Klang, Aaron Bensoussan, Alex Tsaliuk. Programme Director Alex Klein
8. **2013 – ECA Director Alex Klein**, at London Central Synagogue with Sol Zim, Yehezkel Klang, Programme Director Alex Klein (guest Ephraim Mirvis Chief Rabbi elect)
9. **2014 – ECA Director Alex Klein**, in **Budapest** with Hainovitz, Motzen, Programme Director Hirsh Cashdan
10. **2015 – ECA Director Alex Klein**, in **Leeds** with Elli Jaffe, Eli Schleifer, Mark Kligman, Alby Chait, UHC synagogue Choir Cammerman, Programme Director Hirsh Cashdan
11. **2016 – ECA Director Alex Klein**, in **Prague** with Herstik, Goldstein – Jerusalem choir Programme Director Hirsh Cashdan
12. **2018 - ECA Director Alex Klein**, in **Prague** Herstik, Goldstein, TACI choir. Programme Director Hirsh Cashdan
13. **2021 – Director Alex Klein, ECA Hannover** with Hainovitz, Programme Directors Hirsh Cashdan and Russell Grossman.

# The 2013 European Cantors Convention

took place at Central Synagogue, London.



Guest teachers were **Sol Zim (New York and Yehezkel Klang, Jerusalem.**

The Guest of honour was the **Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis** who gave a passionate speech about how important the Shaliach Tsibur was. You can see it on the ECA Website [www.cantors.eu](http://www.cantors.eu)



**Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis** writes to Alex for his Birthday:

Dear Alex

Many happy returns! I was delighted to hear that you will be celebrating your 70th birthday and would like to avail myself of this opportunity to thank you so much for your significant contribution to chazanut and the spirituality of our synagogue services.

May you be blessed to continue to be an inspiration to us all for many years to come.

With warm regards and very best wishes

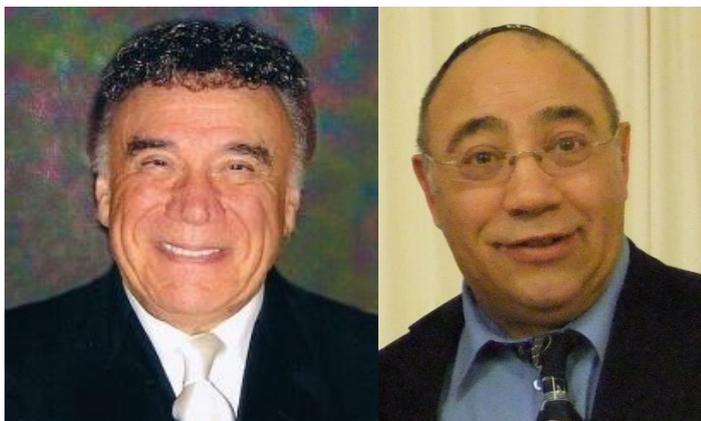
**Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis**

Left, Alex Klein, Cantor Yehuda Marx, (Manchester) Alwyn Shulman (Dublin) and Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis



~~~~~

**FROM: SOL ZIM (a BIG FAN)**  
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
**TO MY DEAR FRIEND ALEX!**



My dear Alex

You and I have been very close friends for so many years! You are truly an exceptional human being with a *Neshama* of gold. I am blessed to call you my friend.

I can remember the first time you spent Shabbat here in New York at my Synagogue (Hollis Hills Jewish Center). I witnessed your love and passion for Chazzanut and Jewish Prayer. You kept singing along and I could clearly see how you live and breathe Chazzanut, and how you love the traditional Nusach and melodies as well as the modern touch. June and I were thrilled to have you join us that weekend and I recall how you were singing with such fervor all the way through the Shabbat meals. Shortly following that weekend, you reached out to me and told me that you would like to bring me to Manchester for a Concert for the Jewish Day School. I had mentioned to you that I would like a children's choir to sing 3 songs, and you made it happen in a most beautiful way. You also arranged for a wonderful Orchestra. You were so organized and put together the concert magnificently. In fact, I want to say thank you to you for bringing me to England many times for various concerts. I so enjoy working with you. You are a true professional.

I recall when I came to England to attend your daughter's wedding, that Shabbat we had gone to shul and suddenly I heard from afar many children's voices singing my melodies. It was the children's service taking place in another location in the shul. You then told me that you had given my music books to the music teachers to teach the children my melodies. I had such joy listening to the beautiful voices of the children singing and seeing them dancing to the music.

Your leadership role at the Jewish Music Institutes Synagogue Music Section has been remarkable. You have had an integral role in keeping Cantorial Music alive throughout Europe, with the Cantorial Conventions that you have organized and the concerts you present. When your beloved brother, Julian, passed away, you began the Julian Klein Memorial Scholarship and you began annual concerts in his memory. What a beautiful way to remember and honor your brother who I know was also a lover of Chazzanut.

As Director of the European Cantors Association (ECA) your contributions to the furtherance of Cantorial Art is like no other. I am so proud of your devotion and determination in bringing Cantorial music to the forefront. The Conventions you run, bringing in world renowned Master Cantors to teach, guide and share their experiences, is profoundly impactful. All of the events that you present; Concerts, Conventions, Classes, special Shabbat services led by Master Cantors from all over the world. I am always proud to be part of these Conventions, Concerts and Scholar In Resident Weekends, teaching and sharing my music with all the cantors and guests who attend. All of your incredible efforts are ensuring that the Cantorate and Jewish

Music will live on for generations to come. I am so proud of you and your dedication to Chazzanut, Jewish Culture, Tradition & Jewish Music.

Alex, you are really accomplishing your mission. To carry on the legacy of the Cantorial art, *MiDor L'Dor*, from generation to generation. I thank you, on behalf of the Jewish community.

Your collaboration with Geraldine Auerbach, the Founder Director of the Jewish Music Institute, Director of the ECA Wing and the founder, together with you, of the European Cantor's Association is exceptional. Geraldine is also ensuring the furtherance of Chazzanut. Her innovative programming of Jewish & Cantorial Music is exceptional. I respect you both tremendously. You also collaborate with one of my very dear students, **Jaclyn (Jacky) Chernett**, who is also a very special person. Not only is her love for Nusach Hat'filah boundless, but her devotion to spreading the love & teachings of the Cantorial Art is one of her goals that she is truly accomplishing.

Alex, I can't wait to come back to Manchester, go to shul with you on Shabbat and Concertize for your community. I know we will all be together again soon. I look forward to spending time with you and Yvonne when I am in town. My dear Yvonne, June and I send our love.

I am proud to call you my friend and I am proud of all you do!

May God Bless you, Yvonne and your children with good health and peace!

With love and respect,

Sol

~~~~~

### **From Chazan Jaclyn Chernett, Edgware Masorti**

To dear Alex

We wish you a birthday full of happiness and song and that the coming years bring you good health, love and music! Thank you for all the joy you are bringing to the world through your love of chazanut and long may it last!

Love from Jacky and Brian Chernett

Chazan Jaclyn Chernett

Founder and Director of Studies



**EUROPEAN ACADEMY FOR JEWISH LITURGY**

~~~~~



## ECA Convention, Budapest 2014 – Hainovitz, Motzen



### Message from Ella de Vriend

Dear Alex

We first met in Budapest (see picture above) during the ECA Convention in 2014, where all of you - not just you Alex - were very kind to me. We saw each other again in Prague and Leeds. For personal reasons I was unable to go to the subsequent conventions, which I regret very much. Alex, your work is greatly appreciated. We keep in touch via Facebook and the odd Zoom session.

~~~~~

### Cantor Greg Nogradi from Budapest says:



Dear Alex,  
my brave, smart  
and kind pal, I  
hope that you  
and I remain  
friends for the  
rest of our lives.

Mazel tov!  
Love,

Greg

Budapest,  
Hungary  
(pictured left  
with Alex)

~~~~~

# Prague 2016 – Herstik, Goldstein, Jerusalem Male Choir



You invited **Cantor Naftali Herstik**, Chief Cantor Emeritus of the Great Synagogue in Jerusalem. He and programme Director **Hirsh Cashdan** devised a stunning few days of study and sharing, combining the old with the new for the High Holydays. There was wonderful cantorial music in both the Friday evening and Shabbat morning services in the Altneu synagogue, an **intimate concert** on the Thursday evening and a gala concert at the **Spanish Synagogue** on the Saturday night, featuring (among many others) **Gideon Zelermeier** from Montreal and **Greg**

**Nogradi** from Budapest. And being Prague, which has a weighty Jewish past, on Friday afternoon, **Rabbi Michael Dushinsky** acquainted us with all the history and took the group on a **tour of historic Jewish Prague**

(above we see Rabbi Michael Dushinsky with Cantor Naftali Herstik in Prague in 2018)



Left the Spanish Synagogue  
prague

~~~~~

## Special Message to you from Naftali Herstik

Chief Cantor Emeritus  
The Jerusalem Great Synagogue  
Dean of the Tel Aviv Cantorial Institute

Dear Alex

In Early May 1972, It was with a great splash that the large crowd at Finchley Synagogue welcomed the young new star.....

Among those who used to walk home with me, I noticed two young men who looked very much like twins. After a few hesitant encounters they became more courageous and introduced themselves as Julian and Alex Klein. That 'after davening shabbat stroll' became a weekly affair, and you both revealed your secret love for davening and Chazanut.

When Alex, you came back from a short trip to America, describing your encounters with the greats such as Moshe Gantchof, Shmuel Vigoda, and Shmuel Malavsky, it became clear how far this "meshugas" went..



When you and Yvonne married, I attended the wedding in Manchester and came up on the London bus along with the rest of the wedding guests, despite being in the middle of the very busy wedding season.

When David Koussewitzky davened on Shabbat at the Western Synagogue, Julian ז"ל followed me all the way from Golders Green and back..

**It was therefore no surprise you Alex, are such an active enhancer, programmer and producer of Chazzanut and Jewish music.**

Nearly 50 years of friendship produced so many mutual interesting ventures of great artistic value.

Mazal tov Alex, and may hashem bless you and Yvonne for many years to come to carry on your work in good health and lots of nachat from your children Ad Meah Veerim Shana. אמין וכן יהי רצון.

With deep friendship

Elka and Naftali

~~~~~

## Message from Bryan Wood, Chazzan, Altneu Shul, Prague



Happy birthday  
Alex!

I'm really grateful  
to you for all you  
have done for  
chazzanus.

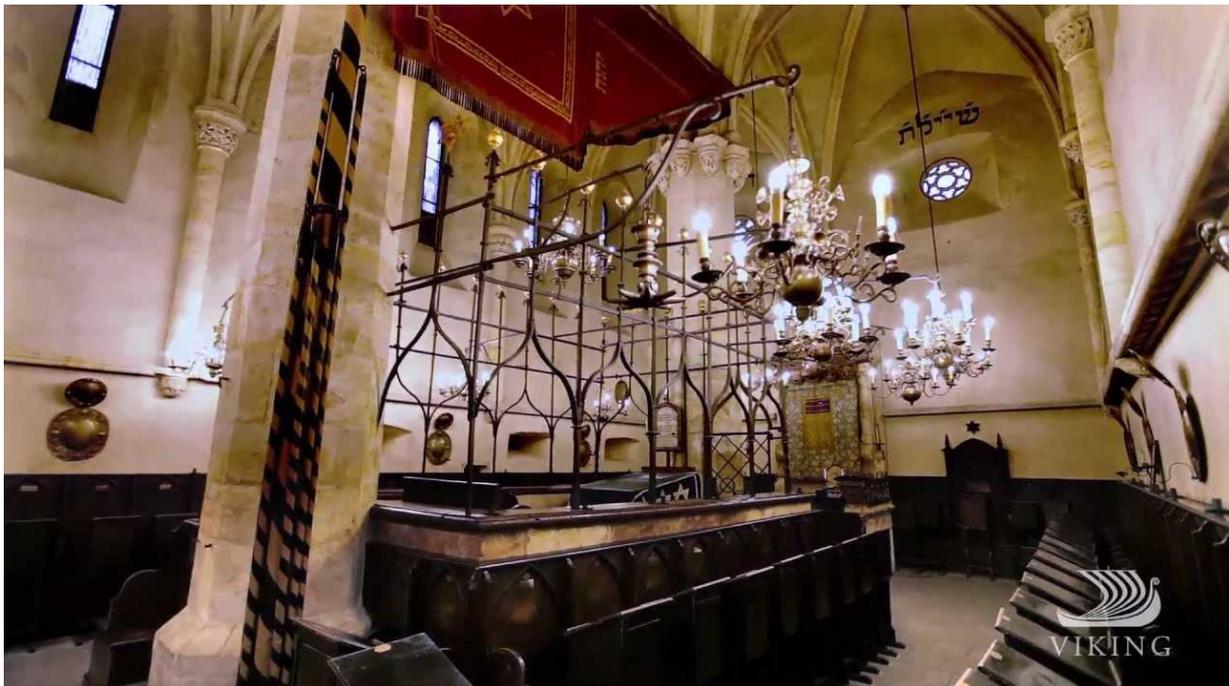
I remember the  
very earliest days of  
the cantors  
convention and



hearing your passion and love of chazzanus and nussach.

It was indirectly through the convention that I got my job as a chazzan. I am grateful to you for the idea to start such a wonderful initiative.

You have always been so warm to me and also my wife when she came to the conferences a couple of times.



More recently during this hard time your posts on facebook provide inspiration and ideas for us. How can I make my davening more inspiring? I read what you post and I have been trying to learn more, as was your advice to me when we last met in Prague. You told me not to stop putting effort into my chazzanus.

I myself am a triplet, you know that. I know it is happy time on your birthday. But it is also a hard time without your dear brother to celebrate it with. I'm sure he is very proud of what you have done in his memory and honour.

Happy birthday Alex.

With love

Bryan and family ~~~~~



## Prague 2018 – Herstik, Goldstein, Kligman, TACI Choir

**From Raymond Goldstein, Choir master Great Synagogue, Jerusalem**

Wow 70 already!



Let me take this opportunity of wishing you, dear Alex many happy returns on the occasion of your birthday!

I have always admired your enthusiasm and love for chazzonis coupled with the tremendous encouragement you have given all of us, cantors, choir masters, music directors and arrangers. To perform and talk at your conventions has always been a highlight in one's musical year - as it was always well thought out ahead of time - making the experience great edutainment!

May you only have many years of good health ahead of you; and be able to carry the banner of chazonis high up above your head.

Lots of love from all of us in Jerusalem

Raymond

~~~~~



Back row Rabbi Daniel Katz, Daniel Tunkel, Eliah S v Bismarck, unidentified person, Joshua Dolgin

Middle Row: Alex Klein, Russell Grossman, unidentified person

Front: Robert Brody, Raymond Goldstein, Beny Meissner and David Prager (who provided this picture) of the European Cantors Convention Prague, November 2018.

~~~~~

**David Prager** (right in the front row above) writes:

Dear Alex

Herewith a photo of us together in Prague at one of the many memorable ECA conventions you have so superbly organised.

What a lovely write up we had from the distinguished Cantor Robert Kieval about our December sessions with the Cantors Assembly on "UK Cantorial Gems". Here's looking

forward to the Choral ones in February. I hope we can again generate such a good level of interest and participation.

Jill joins me in sending heartiest best wishes for your 70th birthday. Ad mea ve'esrim!

Looking forward to being together again!

Yours, David (Prager) London

~~~~~

**Philip Holmes, Manchester, sent these pictures and writes**



Philip Holmes centre back with assorted chevra European Cantors Convention Prague 2018. (Rabbi Dushinsky, with white beard, in the front)



Philip Holmes (left) with, David Ezra Okonsar centre and Alex right, Chabad, Prague 2018.

### **Philip Holmes writes:**

These are some of my treasured memories of being with you, my dear friend Alex. All of these pictures were in Prague as it happens. Despite the fact we live only a few miles from each other, I haven't seen you for almost a year! (Although we do speak regularly).

Here we are in Prague (Philip, Alex, Rafi Rod, student of Dushy's and Dushy).



Happy Birthday Alex. Love and best wishes, Philip

~~~~~

### **From Rabbi, Chazan Lionel Rosenfeld, Marble Arch**

Happy Special Birthday Alex!

I think that of all who want to wish you many happy returns on your 70th birthday, I must be among those who have known you the longest.

All those years in Kinloss – just like me, you were listening to the chazan and gaining a love for chazanut and learning nusach hat'fillah from a master of nusach (who just happened to be my father z"l).

This started you on your way to be a master convenor of chazanut programs. All those who love their tefillah will be grateful to you, whether they know it or not, for educating us all in the art of the true Ba'al tefillah. Your magnificent efforts have ensured that the art of chazanut has not been forgotten.

Our Rabbis say *ben-shiv'im l'sayvah* - "Seventy for ripe old age" - and you, Alex, must be the exception that proves the rule.



So many, many more years of good health and of giving to others - and my deepest thanks for all you have done for cantorial music and for those who give it expression.

Sincerely Lionel



Here are some pictures of our friends in regalia from *Cantors in Concert* Queen Elizabeth Hall 2004



Above: Robert Brody, avid Shine, Lionel Rosenfeld

Below: Stephen Robins, Geoffrey Shisler, Jonathan Murgraff, Steven Leas, David Apfel, Yejuda Marx, Adam Musikant. Queen Elizabeth Hall, December, 2004

Top: Moshe Dubiner, Dove Speyer, Moshe Haschel, Tzvi Lider



Below: Yehuda Marx, Adam Musikant, Larry Fine, Moshe Dubiner







For Alex: 24 March 2021