



Belsize Square Synagogue – London



Belsize Square in Hampstead, is an independent synagogue, founded by refugees from Germany Austria and Czechoslovakia in 1939. It uniquely preserves the nineteenth-century German *Liberale* Tradition in liturgy and music. They have their own Sidur, and holiday prayer books prepared by Rabbi Rodney Mariner in the late 20th century. Current membership is around 1000 and about 80 join on Shabbat. Services are also live-streamed and as many again join in online.

The German *Liberale* Musical Tradition Belsize synagogue music was rescued by their first cantor from the ashes of the [Fasanenstrasse Synagogue](#) in Berlin after 'Kristallnacht'. The repertoire is foremost the music of Louis Lewandowski (b1821) of Berlin (influenced by Felix Mendelssohn) and Salomon Sulzer of Vienna (b1804) a contemporary of Schubert. Their distinguished cantors, Revs: Magnus Davidsohn, Joseph Dollinger, Louis Berkman, Lawrence Fine and Norman Cohen Falah, (who added a Sephardi element) have developed and shaped their musical offering, that is especially enjoyed by congregants and visitors. **Since 2013**, [Paul Heller](#) has been the professional full-time cantor. Belsize has a professional choir which sings Friday nights and festivals plus a community choir, all conducted by their Music Director, [Benjamin Wolf](#) supported by [Michael Cayton - Organist](#). They have a youth choir conducted by Ben also introduces music by contemporary composers. (left: See Paul, at the front, and Ben). They also have a regular youth choir. [The Belsize Square Synagogue YouTube channel](#) features highlights of Belsize music.



What to Expect: In Belsize Square Synagogue's 'From Our Lips ...' service you should look out for Mombach's *Lecha Dodi*, the grand Lewandowski Psalm 92 and our own Sue Mariner's *Hashkiveinu*, amongst other musical gems. **Guests welcome:** Register at office@synagogue.org.uk and bring photo ID

Fridays 19 and 26 January, 6.45pm Saturday 27 January 10.00am
 Belsize Square Synagogue, 51 Belsize Square, London NW3 4HX 020 - 7794 3949
 website <https://synagogue.org.uk/>
 Full programme on the ECA Website www.cantors.eu

