



Central Synagogue – London



was first established in 1855 as a 'central' branch of the Great Synagogue Dukes Place, following migration of Jews westward in Victorian times. In 1870 it became independent with a dedicated building in Great Portland Street. After this first Central synagogue was destroyed by bombing in 1941, the current building on the same site was consecrated in 1958. It is an orthodox constituent of the United Synagogue. Its current membership is approximately 600. Central has hosted many cantorial concerts and at least three ECA Cantors Conventions since 2012.

A Rich British Musical Tradition

Rev Simon Hass 1951 – 1993. For over 40 years Central Synagogue enjoyed the services of Rev Simon Hass, one of Britain's most revered and beloved cantors. Simon was passionate about Jewish music. It was Hass who introduced the first **midnight selichot service** in 1963. He made countless concert, radio and TV appearances and produced many outstanding recordings of a wide repertoire. Currently, Central employs and enjoys **Steven Leas since 2003** as their



part-time cantor. From South Africa, Steven involves himself with every member of the community. There is a choir once a month for their Shabbat service, conducted by **Harry Style**, at which they expect 100 attendees. Steven, the chazzan, is the person who drives the music and chooses the repertoire. He knows well what the members expect and enjoy, but because he has such a close relationship with them, he is able to surprise and delight them with new melodies and sometimes even some cheeky tunes.

What to Expect: In Central's 'festival' services you should look out for *Mishebeirach* for Israel. The *Kvodo* will be sung to *Bring Him Home* from *Les Misérables*, and *Adon Olam* is always a surprise.

All are welcome. Register in advance administrator@centralsynagogue.org.uk
Saturdays 27 January and 16 March. Central Synagogue, 36 Hallam Street, W1W 6NW
 +44 20 7580 1355 website: <https://www.centralsynagogue.org.uk/>



Full Festival Celebrating Synagogue Music programme is on the ECA Website www.cantors.eu