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## European Cantors Association Newsletter no 1, September 2019

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### Jewish Prayer in Hannover

Leaders of the Association of Jewish Communities of Lower Saxony gave a very warm welcome to ECA Convenor Alex Klein and Geraldine Auerbach when they met in September, attending the **International Conference Magnified and Sanctified 2: the music of Jewish prayer**. They were pleased to be able to discuss, face to face, the exciting plans for the **13<sup>th</sup> European Cantors Convention** to be held in Hannover in January 2020. Through the generosity of our partners and grants received, ECA is able to considerably reduce the Registration Fee for the next convention.



**Towa Harety** (left in the picture below) our wonderful liaison with the Association of Jewish communities of Lower Saxony, arranged a meeting with **Arkadij Litvan** – Board member of the Hannover Jewish Community and (right) **Naum Nussbaum** - choirmaster of the Hannover Jewish Community Choir at the beautiful shul. They discussed and agreed the arrangements for the community to share the 25/26 January Shabbat Services with our Convention delegates.



Arrangements were also made for the Kosher shabbat meals which will be served within the community buildings.



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*The future of synagogue music*

Patrons: Chief Rabbi Ephraim Mirvis

Cantors Naftali Herstik, Joseph Malovany, Asher Hainowitz

Convenor Alex Klein: [alex@cantors.eu](mailto:alex@cantors.eu)



Towa also introduced Geraldine and Alex to **Michael Fürst**, (right in the picture on the left) the charming and generous Chairman of the Association of Jewish Communities of Lower Saxony, who with Towa is managing all the arrangements.

Michael has kindly offered a **complimentary tour to Bergen-Belsen** on the morning of Tuesday 28 January as the closing event of the Convention.

As you know, the 13<sup>th</sup> ECA European Cantors Convention, will be

### **A Special Musical Gathering Commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Liberation of Auschwitz**

It will be held in the City of Hannover at the beautiful Villa Seligmann, (called the House of Jewish music). ECA is organising and presenting this Convention in partnership with the **Jewish Community of Hannover** and the **Association of Jewish Communities for Lower Saxony**

Sessions will highlight **the Progress of Synagogue music in the last 75 years and where it might go in the future**

**Cantor Asher Hainowitz** of Jerusalem will be a tutor and there will be presentations by other international known experts and practitioners, including **Professor Mark Kligman** of Los Angeles and Cantor **Beny Maissner** of Toronto, (whose family came from Hannover and whose uncle **Israel Alter**, was chief cantor there from 1925-1935). There will also be opportunities for **delegates to present short sessions** and to sing in the open mic and concerts.

### **The 'Night' Concert**

We are privileged to be in Hannover on Monday night 27 January, when **The 'Night' Concert** will be presented. This is an oratorio, based on the Holocaust testimony book 'Night' by Elie Wiesel. It will feature the Kaliningrad Symphony Orchestra and the Vilnius State Choir as well as Moscow and Hannover Jewish choirs and Cantor Daniel Mutlu of New York as soloist. It was composed by esteemed cantor and composer Leib Glantz and arranged and orchestrated by Joseph Ness (USA).

### **Villa Seligmann**

This beautiful house, where our 13<sup>th</sup> European Cantors Convention will be hosted, used to belong to a tyre magnate before WW2. It is now designated a 'House of Jewish music'. Its upper floor houses the offices of the European Centre for Jewish music (EZJM) which is part of Hannover's University of Music Theatre and Dance. Its lower floors house synagogue organs saved from ruins in Germany and Hungary.







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### Magnified and Sanctified 2 – the International Conference

Alex Klein and Geraldine Auerbach were visiting Hannover to attend the Second International Conference on the music of Jewish Prayer (9-12 September 2019) co-organised by ECA Academic Wing with the European Centre for Jewish Music (EZJM) at the Hannover University of Music Theatre and Dance. It was a very satisfying, friendly and enjoyable event, charmingly and efficiently hosted by Professor **Dr Sarah Ross** and researchers **Martha Stellmacher** and **Miranda Crowdus of EZJM**. (The first such conference was set up by ECA in collaboration with the Department of Music at the **University of Leeds in June 2015**).

Artistic Director of the Villa Seligmann, **Elijah Sakakushev-von Bismarck**, (who had attended the 12<sup>th</sup> ECA European Cantors Convention in Prague) invited the delegates at the **Magnified and Sanctified 2 Conference** to the Villa Seligmann for the closing session. Here below, Elijah (left) is introducing some of the delegates to the elaborately carved rooms at the Villa.



Keynote speakers **Judit Frigyesi** of Bar Ilan University, and **Mark Kligman** of the University of California LA,



led the discussions. Challenging aspects were on 'what makes a melody Jewish, and on written versus oral tradition. It was wonderful to see the numbers of young scholars who came to present papers on aspects of prayer music in their home countries from **Czech Republic, Croatia, Galicia,**

**Austria, Greece, France and the USA**. The conference included musically illustrated papers, concerts, dinners and a walking tour of Jewish Hannover. A fuller report will follow.



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Here is a picture of delegates to the International Conference, at the closing session at the Villa

### **Connecting the Conference and the Conference – and Email discussion list**

It was decided, that where possible, the **Magnified and Sanctified Conference** should **connect directly** to the **European Cantors Convention**, as we did in 2015 in Leeds – as there was much to be gained by both scholars and practitioners from such connection. It was further decided to create a dedicated **email discussion group for Magnified and Sanctified to enable archivists, researchers and practitioners** in the music of Jewish prayer, to keep in touch and to continue the conversation and take things forward. If you would like to participate in this discussion group, please contact me at [geraldine@cantors.eu](mailto:geraldine@cantors.eu).

We hope you will join us for our next adventure in Hannover for the 13<sup>th</sup> European Cantors Convention, 23 – 28 January 2020 **organised and presented by** the European Cantors Association in partnership with the Jewish Community of Hannover and the Association of Jewish Communities of Lower Saxony, and hosted at the Villa Seligmann.

Convention is also **Supported by** the Jewish Music Institute, the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London [www.jmi.org.uk](http://www.jmi.org.uk), and the Teitelbaum/Glansberg Family in honour of Estelle Teitelbaum Slomovitz

**Download the registration form at [www.cantors.eu](http://www.cantors.eu)**

Contact ECA Convenor **Alex Klein** [Alex@cantors.eu](mailto:Alex@cantors.eu) for queries and further details.

**ECA wishes all colleagues and friends a Sweet and productive New Year.**

**Newsletter no 1** is compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE [geraldine@cantors.eu](mailto:geraldine@cantors.eu) for the European Cantors Association, and 'Magnified and Sanctified' September 2019.