
European Cantors Association Newsletter No 9, February 2024

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**Director, Alex Klein Announces the next ECA Convention
3 - 8 December 2024 in Budapest**



Dear friends, we will be holding our next ECA Convention in Budapest from **Tuesday 3 to Sunday 8 December 2024**. Save the dates. We would love you to join us and be part of our ECA family.

We are a non-affiliated organisation that is both inclusive and welcoming; providing first class workshops, masterclasses, open mic sessions and opportunities to sing together and enjoy panel sessions that discuss the life of the cantor in today's world.

At the European Cantors Convention, cantors and those who are interested in synagogue music, come together to share music, stories and experiences. Everyone leaves with something new. All meals are included in the cost of registration. There will be a tour of Jewish Budapest. Our Convention ends with a Gala Concert on Sunday 8 December.

We hope you will join us. Register your interest in receiving further information by emailing convention@cantors.eu

Alex Klein and the Convention team

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From January to April 2024 ECA is hosting a festival of synagogue music, enabling synagogues nationwide to share their musical traditions and tastes.

## ‘From Our Lips ...’ Celebrating Synagogue Music January to April 2024

At a time of turmoil, people often turn to music to soothe troubled souls. And what better music to turn to than the music of prayer – music being able to powerfully lift the words soaring on high. How fortunate that in the new year in the UK while we still grapple with the horrors of the hostages and the war in Gaza, we can turn our minds to celebrating synagogue music.



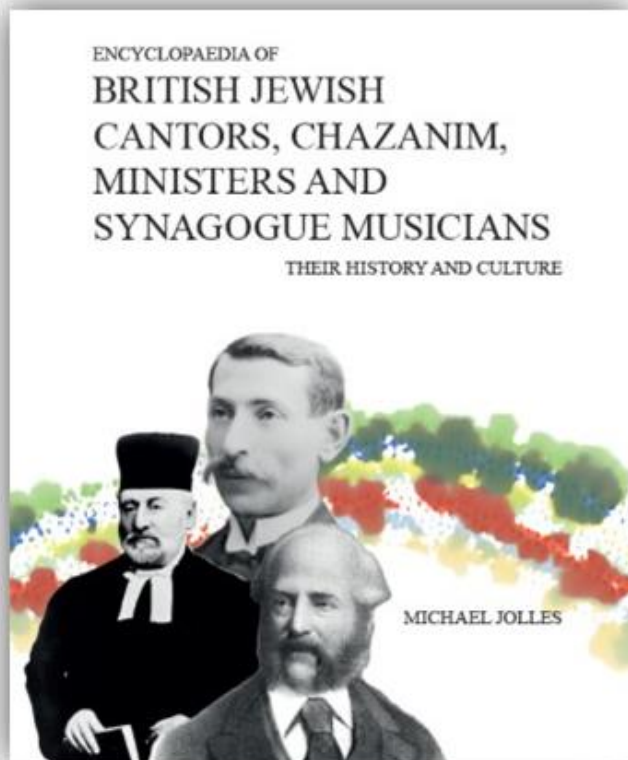
Between the **opening concert** at the New West End Synagogue on Sunday 14 January 2024, featuring Mosaic Voices with Cantor Marc Joseph conducted by Michael Etherton (above) and the **Closing concert** at Belsize Square Synagogue on Sunday 14 April 2024, 4.30pm with the Belsize Professional and Community Choirs plus the Zemel Choir, conducted by Benjamin Wolf, many synagogues are offering Shabbat Services in their particular musical traditions. Guests are welcome.

### **Participating Synagogues Include:**

**Belsize Square** (Independent); **Central** (United); **Edgware and Hendon Reform**; **Kenton United**; **Mill Hill United**; **New London** (Masorti); **New West End** (United), **Richmond** (United), **South Hampstead** (United), and **Westminster**, (Independent)

See the full programme and details of each synagogue’s musical tradition and what to look out for in the service, **go to the ECA Website [www.cantors.eu](http://www.cantors.eu)**. To attend the services please register with the synagogue administrator as indicated for each synagogue.

The January 2024 edition is now available from ECA  
of Michael Jolles's phenomenal



## Encyclopaedia of British Jewish Cantors, Chazanim, Ministers and Synagogue Musicians, their history and culture

In a very recent online review of this major work, in the prestigious journal *Musica Judaica*, **Judith S. Pinnolis, Associate Director of the Berklee College Library** concludes:

*Overall, it is little less than astounding to have this vast amount of historical material made available by the dedication of one person. Undoubtedly, **Jolles** will continue to receive well-earned acclaim and thanks for this ambitious undertaking. He has set the table, now it is for future scholars to come and use it and build upon it.*

Read the full review here: [Musica Judaica Online Review Jolles Pinnolis 2024](#)

The Encyclopaedia is now 15% longer than the original 2021 edition. It has additional and updated material in both the 200-page introductory section and the alphabetical (mainly biographical) section, in which latter, incidentally, proportionately more entries of women (albeit few in absolute terms) are now included, as are a number of discographic details.

To download your own searchable updated pdf copy of the updated, Encyclopedia, please email [DownloadJollesEncyclopaedia@cantors.eu](mailto:DownloadJollesEncyclopaedia@cantors.eu) to request the link to be sent to you.

To watch – or watch again – again the launch event on 6 October 2021 with distinguished guest speakers from around the world including Michael Jolles himself, click here:

[Jolles Book Launch](#)

Michael Jolles has been ably assisted by the editorial team of David Prager and Cantor Yehuda Marx. Readers are encouraged to contact them by email to add or comment on anything in the Encyclopaedia, especially to add those who have not been mentioned. Amongst the set of current focuses are provincial choirmasters, as well as academics and researchers. Any information, even if just a name (and decade) would be very much appreciated. To contact the editors suggesting additional material, amendments, photographs, discographies, references to academic sources, and links to appropriate websites email

[EditorialJollesEncyclopaedia@cantors.eu](mailto:EditorialJollesEncyclopaedia@cantors.eu)



The European Cantors Association  
*Bringing together all who love Jewish liturgical music and  
the power it brings to prayer*

**The European Cantors Association (ECA) is an independent organisation** established in the United Kingdom in 2012. It is a framework for cantors, prayer leaders and interested lay people across the spectrum of Jewish worship, to engage in dialogue, training and profile-raising to ensure that the beautiful and unique music of Jewish prayer continues to enhance synagogue services for generations to come. ECA's work is endorsed by several distinguished rabbis and cantors and recognises best practice wherever it exists.

**ECA partners with several international organisations** to create programmes that are relevant to cantors of today and those with whom prayer leaders work closely. ECA presented a Zoom series of 21 programmes in 2021 and 2022 under the title: *The Voice of the Cantor* (VOC) tackling some of the burning issues in the cantorial world today and with ECA Director Alex Klein interviewing cantors round the world who have made their mark.

**ECA's Academic Wing** presents International Conferences 'Magnified and Sanctified : The Music of Jewish Prayer' in partnership with universities (Leeds University 2015, Hanover University of Music and Dance 2019).

**All who are interested** in the music of the synagogue and the role and art of the cantor or prayer leader are welcome to join the European Cantors Association and attend its activities. To join **our mailing list**, send an email to [info@cantors.eu](mailto:info@cantors.eu)

**Donations are welcome** to support ECA. **To make a donation:**  
Sort code 40-20-14, Account name: European Cantors Association  
Account number 91408429 (International Bank Account Number GB60MIDL40201491408429)

**ECA Executive:** Alex Klein, Russell Grossman, Matt Austerklein, Barbara Rosenberg, Geraldine Auerbach

**For further and continuing information** on the European Cantors Association:

- join the [ECA Facebook group](#)
- check out the ECA Website: [www.cantors.eu](http://www.cantors.eu)
- send your email address to [russell@cantors.eu](mailto:russell@cantors.eu) to be put on the Newsletter circulation list.
- follow us on **Twitter/X:** [@eurocantorsassn](#)
- follow us on **Instagram:** [europeancantors](#)
- follow us on **YouTube:** [European Cantors Association](#)

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ECA Newsletter #9 compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, February 2024
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