

1-9-2005

Concert: Ithaca Children's Choir - "Ruach!!!"

Ithaca Children's Choir

Janet Galvan

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The Ithaca Children's Choir
of the
Community School of Music & Arts
together with
Temple Beth El
present



RUACH!!

**An afternoon of spirited
Jewish and Secular Song**

**January 9, 2005
Temple Beth El
Ithaca, New York**

The Ithaca Children's Choir
presents

RUACH!!

**An Afternoon of Jewish and
Secular Spirited Song**

Dr. Janet Galván, artistic director

TRAINING CHOIR

Kristin Zaryski, conductor

Lisa Zuccaro, pianist

Se Fue La Paloma

Traditional Mexican folk song
arr. Alejandro Jimenez

Have you seen the dove that flew away?

She is gone, never to return again.

Achshav

Traditional Israeli folk song

Now in the Valley of Jezreel, rejoice!

SENIOR CHOIR

Jennifer Haywood, conductor

Amanda Lippert, assistant conductor

Dominick DiOrio, pianist

Haida

Traditional Hassidic niggun

A niggun is a melody without words.

Music, Music

Stephen Paparo

YOUNG MEN'S CHORUS OF ITHACA

Sean Conor Anderson and Jennifer Haywood, conductors

Kristin Zaryski, pianist

Al Shlosha

Allan Naplan

Text from Ethics of the Fathers (Pirkei Avot):

*The world is sustained by three things, by truth, by justice, and
by peace.*

Oye

Jim Papoulis

**TRAINING CHOIR, SENIOR CHOIR &
YOUNG MEN'S CHORUS**

S'Vivon

Traditional Hebrew folk song

arr. Valerie Shields

*Spinning top, spin, spin, spin, Chanukah is a good holiday!
Holiday of joy for the people, a great miracle happened there!*

ASCENDING HEIGHT

Alex Ainslie, Robert Dietz, Crawford Doran,
Ernie Fontes, Joey Golinker

Peace, Love and Understanding

arr. Deke Sharon

Selections to be announced

CHORALE

Janet Galván, conductor

Michael Lippert, pianist

Hamisha Asar

Flory Jagoda

arr. Nick Page

Ladino celebration of Tu B'Shevat

House Blessing

David Brunner

Text from a traditional Bahai prayer

La Lluvia

Stephen Hatfield

*The rain—wordless music based on a traditional panpipe
melody from Ecuador*

V'al Kulam

Traditional melody
arr. Brian Hertz

Michael Galván, clarinet

*And for all of these, O God of forgiveness,
Forgive us, pardon us, grant us atonement.*

Yism'chu Hashamayim

Hassidic melody
arr. Valerie Shields

Mirian Nussbaum, flute

*Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice; let the sea roar
and all that fills it.*

Adonai Roi

Gerald Cohen

Rebecca Lustgarten, solo
Psalm 23

Shalom

Allan E. Naplan

Shiru

Allan E. Naplan

Sing!

CHORALE AND YOUNG MEN'S CHORUS

Erev Shel Shoshanim

Josef Hadar
arr. Jack Klebanow

Evening of Roses

Ale Brider

Traditional Yiddish folk song
arr. Joshua Jacobson

We are All Brothers

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE

Dowidzenia

Polish canon
arr. Andrea Schafer

Farewell

ADDITIONAL PROGRAM NOTES

Oye

From Jim Papoulis: While working in Mexico, I had the opportunity to work closely with young children from economically challenged areas.... The children spoke little English but were easily reached through the music and rhythms I played. With the help of enthusiastic translators we connected further. When I asked them if they had a message that they would want to convey to the world in song, their answer was very simple: to listen. The translation of "listen," or "listen up," is "OYE." This seemed like a wonderful, easy word to sing, and our "OYE" is a result of those experiences.

All alone, in the darkness,

They are crying out for your help.

They are hoping, they are dreaming,

They are asking, for a chance to be heard.

Are you listening, can you hear their cries?

They are watching, they are listening,

They are searching to find their way.

Can you see them, can you hear them calling

What their voices are trying to say.

Hamisha Asar

Nick Page says: Flory Jagoda had a happy youth spent with her Nona (grandmother) in the Bosnian village Vlasenica and with her parents in Sarajevo. After the horrors of World War II, she married and moved to the United States. The songs that she and her family perform celebrate the life and traditions of Sephardim, a rich Jewish heritage that was kept alive by the Sephardic Jews forced out of Spain in 1492.

"Hamisha Asar" means "fifteen," and refers to the fifteenth day of the Hebrew month of Shevat, known as Tu B'Shevat. This holiday, celebrating the New Year of the Trees, occurs in January or February—in 2005 it falls on January 25.

The words are in Ladino, the Spanish-Hebrew language spoken by Sephardic Jews. Flory Jagoda remembers that "we children would go house to house, carrying a colorful bag

made by our mothers, to gather the customary fifteen kinds of fruit and join in the festivities.”

Hamisha Asar! Come to visit us, we will sing.

The hostess awaits us with fifteen platters of fruit.

Blessed by his name, Lord of the Universe, fruits of Israel!

Hamisha Asar! Come to visit us, let us dance.

The hostess awaits us with baklava and coffee.

House Blessing

The composer writes, “The universality of this Bahai prayer connects us all in heart and thought.”

La Lluvia

This folk melody from Ecuador evokes the rain. Canadian composer Stephen Hatfield prints these instructions to the singers, “Cool and clear, with a steady pulse and a stomach full of soda water.”

V'al Kulam

This solemn and heartfelt plea occurs in the liturgy for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. The prayer is recited in unison by the congregation several times during the long, silent confessional of communal sins.

Brian Hertz is currently a conducting graduate student in the school of music at Ithaca College. He has extensive conducting, directing, singing, teaching and pianist collaborator experience, which includes the recently acclaimed Ithaca College production of “Suessical the Musical.” He has taught public school choral music on Long Island, accompanied for Choral Music Experience at Ithaca College and for choral concerts in Carnegie Hall.

This is the premiere performance of “V'al Kulam,” arranged from the traditional melody for the Ithaca Children's Choir.

Yism'chu Hashamayim

Valerie Shields comments: As early as the sixteenth century, Jewish worship included psalms 95-99 and psalm 29 as part of the Kabbalat Shabbat (receiving or welcoming the

Sabbath) services sung on Friday evenings. Psalm 96 delivers a universal message, envisioning a time when all humanity will worship only God. The music emphasizes that we are to shout: "God is great! Everyday, always, everywhere and to everybody, so come join me in praising!" The music expresses the emotion of yearning for the presence of God, which reaches beyond one person, one nation, and even human beings.

Shalom

Allan Naplan has quickly distinguished himself as one of today's rising young composers of multicultural choral music. His compositions have been performed and recorded throughout the world, and have been featured at national conventions and concerts of the Music Educators National Conference, the American Choral Directors Association, the Guild of Temple Musicians, and the American Conference of Cantors. His honors include winning the Guild of Temple Musicians Young Composer's Award, as well as being a consistent recipient of the ASCAP standard award. The Ithaca Children's Choir was the first choir to commission a work from him. A former student of Dr. Janet Galván's at Ithaca College, Mr. Naplan is now director of the Pittsburgh opera.

Shiru

From the Allan Naplan's notes: Just as a lively gospel song inspires spirit through upbeat tempos, rousing "shout" choruses and high-lying vocal tessituras, Shiru (Hebrew for *Sing!*), accomplishes much of this same musical enthusiasm. One cannot help but be uplifted by the *ruach* (Hebrew for spirit) found in this text.

Sing a new song

Sing, shout all the earth

Break forth, sing aloud, and play music

Shout all the earth

Sing all the earth

Sing a new song

Let the heavens rejoice

Let the earth be glad

*Let the sea roar, and all that fills it
Let the field exult, and all that is in it
Let the trees of the forest sing for joy
Let the rivers clap hands.
Let the mountains sing for joy
Sing a new song
Sing, shout all the earth
Sing!*

Erev Shel Shoshanim

Erev Shel Shoshanim is an old Israeli folksong which many people in the U.S. came to know and love in the versions sung by the Oranim Zabar folksong group in the late 1950's and in recordings by Harry Belafonte and Miriam Makeba in the 1960's. The words are by Moshe Dor and music by Josef Hadra, yet the song has become so familiar in its many guises that in many cases the credits read only "Israeli," "traditional," or "public domain." The style and imagery of the poetry suggest the biblical "Song of Songs." The new translation is by Sara Kramer, an Israeli living in Connecticut. Sara found that previous translations were either freely done and not literal or attempted to be literal but mistranslated certain key words and thus altered the meaning and mood. Her translation is literal, yet the poetry of the original shines through.

*Evening of roses, let us go out to the grove;
Myrrh, fragrant spices and incense are a threshold for
your feet.
Night falls slowly and the wind of roses is blowing;
Let me whisper you a song, secretly, a song of love.
Dawn, a dove is cooing, your head is filled with dew;
Your mouth is a rose unto the morning, I will pick it for
myself.*

Ale Brider

From Joshua Jacobson: According to Eleanor Gordon Mlotek in her wonderful book of Yiddish songs, "Ale Brider" is an adaptation of a poem by Morris Winchevsky (1856-1932) entitled "Akhdes" (unity). In the 1920's the folklorized

song, much as we know it today, titled “di Kalekotke,” was published by the Yiddish writer and folklorist Litvin in Di Tsayt, a Yiddish newspaper. Litvin notes that it was the most popular folk song that was sung in the old country, mostly at Bundist parties. Every time it was sung, something was added by each singer extemporaneously. (The Bund was a popular movement and socialist political party in Eastern Europe that supported non-religious, humanistic Yiddish-language Jewish culture in the framework of a progressive environment.)

The word “oy” doesn’t need to be translated. It is a “krekhtz” (a groan) delivered with a smile!

We’re all brothers, singing joyous songs.

We stick together like no one else.

We’re all united, no matter what we have.

We all love one another like newlyweds.

We’re happy and lively, singing songs, tapping our feet,

And we’re all sisters, too, just like Rachel, Ruth, and Esther.

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- To acquaint children with great musical literature.
- To give children the opportunity to make music with professional artists.
- To allow children to develop artistry.
- To help provide children with a means of expression.
- To help children develop confidence and freedom in their voices.
- To provide an experience for children that is based on excellence.
- To use music as a bridge to understanding.
- To develop skills of working with others in a cooperative manner.
- To learn about other cultures through music.

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About the Choir

Formed in 1983, the Ithaca Children's Choir—an ensemble of the Community School of Music and Arts—is open to young people with a desire to sing. Known for their beautiful sound and joyous spirit, the choir has become one of the country's models of excellence. Under the direction of Dr. Janet Galván since 1986, the choir has grown from about ten children to a full youth choral program for young beginning to advanced singers, comprising five different groupings. The Chorale (most advanced treble group) has performed with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, the Ithaca Opera Company, the Ithaca College Opera Department, and the Ithaca Community Chorus. They have sung in Carnegie Hall and at the Disney World Holiday Children's Chorale Festival, and were featured on WSKG's "Choirs in Concert."

In 1998 the Chorale toured and performed in Spain. In 2002, Chorale and the Young Men's Chorus performed in Montreal and Quebec City. In the summer of 2003 the two groups toured Virginia and the Carolinas, where they performed with the Gullah Kinfolk. The Young Men's Chorus has also been honored as the guest artistic group at the first New York Men's Singing Day.

By including multicultural repertoire, Dr. Janet Galván and the choir have been pioneers in young people's performance in a wide variety of languages and styles, from medieval and Baroque music to jazz and gospel. The music is taught in a cultural context with research done on the language, text, setting, and background. The goal is to honor the cultures of the repertoire and achieve authentic pronunciation and style. The choir has performed in Norwegian, Finnish, Swedish, German, French, Swahili, Zulu, Shona, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Czech, Polish, Italian, Latin, Greek, and other languages. They have premiered several compositions and arrangements in Hebrew.

Choir members have worked closely with several of the prominent composers and arrangers on today's program, including Allan Naplan, Nick Page, Stephen Hatfield, and Jim Papoulis. The summer Choral Music Experience (CME) workshops at Ithaca College provide a unique opportunity for the musical training of singers as well as conductors.

The Chorale and Young Men's Chorus look forward with excitement to a performance tour in Italy next summer, when they will travel to Pisa, Florence, Venice and Rome.

Members of Ithaca Children's Choir build bridges of understanding with their music wherever they go. They continue to grow in their understanding and ability to perform music of different cultures and different styles. Internationally renowned conductor Doreen Rao called the Ithaca Children's Choir, "a light in the world of children's choirs."

Training Choir

Gray Andres
Isabel Boratov
Violet Briggs
Keara Byron
Arin Caveney
Savannah Charif
Jahn Chen See
Trevel De Aragon
Marlena Doerr
Daniel Erickson
Jonathan Fenwick
Eveline-Adele Halpert
Karamae Hayman-Jones
Ina Joo
Brigid Kujawa Luce
Silas Kujawa Luce
Sophia London
Eva McLafferty
Luke Parker Zielinski
Elise Reynolds
Isabella Riva
Elliana Salustri
Emily Sharp-O'Connor
Joy Smith
Madelaine Vandenberg
Kathryn White

Senior Choir

Ashanee Mae Brooks
Jahslyn Chen See
Sam Christensen
Amanda Coate
Dominique Cooper
Jackie Cornell
Amelia Crigler
Elizabeth Crigler
Julia de Aragon
Julie Erickshon
Kaitlin Gibson
Ashley Marie Gonsalves
Vanessa Gonsalves
Sierra Helmann
Sunyoung Joo
Tracy Keilbach
Raven Larson
Hannah Mcelroy
John Nozell, Jr.
Adele Christina O'Rourke
Erin Rieger
Lucy Rogers
Cacidy Rosemann
Sarah Saxon
Katherine Schrader
Anna Stern
Ahmed Talfir
Gwendolyn Umbach
Anneke van Renesse
Abby VanSoest
Brianna VanSoest
Laurel Wolfe

Chorale

Rebekkah Adams
Jena Andres
Christopher Archer
Laura Archer
Lisa Archer
Rachel Berkowitz
Joyous Bey
Alena Blinova
Jessie Bonney-Burrill
Kara Breedlove
Lindsey Brous
Cassie Burkhauser
Abby Cole
Betsy Cowdery
Carla Crandall
Lucy Rose Davidoff
Claire Doran
Aisha Farley
Shandiwe Farley
Leslie Fisher
Elena Galván
Sarah Gasser
Emma Gibson
Eva Hall
Kathryn Hall
Helen Highfield
Gwen Hoover
Hansi Hoskins
Heather Hummel
Sophia Hutnik
Dayna Joan Jorgenson
Rebecca Lustgarten
Alison Mehravari
Lauren Meador
Kristen Nozell
Miriam Nussbaum
Julie Rivest
Golda Rosenfield

Rebecca Rozzoni
Sarah Schneider
Amy Somogy
Sylvie Strauss
Elizabeth Susmann
Herb P. Susmann
Elizabeth Usher
Caitlin Wentzel
Nicole White
Katherine Young

Young Men's Chorus of Ithaca

Alex Ainslie
Ben Bornstein
Abel McSurely Bradshaw
Michael Burgevin
Robert Dietz
Jesse Dong
Crawford Doran
David Drew
Ben Feldman
Tavis Flanagan
Ernest Fontes
Yves Gahmbare
Daniel Gilbert
Joseph Golinker
Sebastian Gutierrez
Michael Longenbacher
Matthew Lepage
Gregory MacDonald
Nikolas Mateer
Matthew Mills
Nathan Nicholson
Isaac Schwartz
Ben Shumway

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Lee-Ellen Marvin of CSMA, for publicity expertise with flair

Casey Stevens of WHCU & Bill Snyder of WSKG for radio interviews; Rachel Berkowitz, Robert Dietz & Janet Galván for their appearances

Ithaca College School of Music

CSMA administration and staff

Jerry Dietz, Lenny Rosenfield & the shleppers & helpers

Jane Griffith, Temple Beth El administrative assistant

Myra Berkowitz & Marjorie Hoffman, concert organizers

Rabbi Scott Glass & Temple Beth El

All others who helped with this concert

The members of Ithaca Children's Choir & their parents

Janet Galván, Artistic Director of Ithaca Children's Choir, together with her conductors and accompanists, for their dedication and talent in training children and providing music for the whole community

Temple Beth El

Temple Beth-El was founded in 1924 and is located at the corner of Court & Tioga Streets in downtown Ithaca, NY. Ours is a liberal synagogue affiliated with the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. We serve a growing and diverse congregation in and around Tompkins County. Recognizing the complexity and variety of people's relationship to Judaism in this community, Temple Beth-El strives to preserve and enhance our Jewish heritage by providing a wide range of religious, educational, social, and community activities that enable people to explore all aspects of Jewish life.

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The Ed Cohen-Rosenthal Cultural Arts Fund

This fund was established in memory of Ed Cohen-Rosenthal, past president of Temple Beth El and beloved member of the congregation. RUACH is the first event supported from this fund, which has provided for piano rental and installation.

רוח

RUACH

Hebrew, pronounced Ru-AH
n. spirit, wind, breeze, air, disposition, mind

Proceeds from this concert will benefit the Ithaca
Children's Choir Travel Scholarship Fund and the
Rabbi Felix Aber Religious School of Temple Beth El