

Cantor Jeff Warschauer

255 Mount Lucas Road, Princeton, NJ 08540

phone 347 623-4228

jeff@cantorjeff.com • www.cantorjeff.com

Education

Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY

Masters in Sacred Music and Cantorial Ordination, 2015

New England Conservatory, Boston, MA

Bachelor of Music

Hebrew Studies at the Conservative Yeshiva Summer Program, the University of Haifa Summer Ulpan (Israel), and at JTS

Yiddish Studies at Tufts University, Oxford Summer Programme in Yiddish and the Columbia/YIVO Summer Program (Advanced Level)

Employment as Cantor, Student Cantor, Cantorial Soloist and Synagogue Musician

Cantor at Congregation Brothers of Israel, Newtown, PA (2022-present)

Cantor-in-Residence at Temple Beth-El, Jersey City, NJ (2022-present)

Cantor at the Jewish Center of Princeton, NJ (2018-2022)

Cantor at Congregation Keneseth Israel, Allentown, PA (2017-2018)

Cantor-in-Residence at Israel Congregation of Manchester, VT (2016-2017)

Cantor at Temple Sinai, Massapequa, NY (2015-2017)

Student Cantor in Brooklyn, NY, New London, CT and Portland, ME (2011-2015)

In eleven years of cantorial positions has functioned as clergy in a wide range of skill areas: leading services, leyening, acting as gabbai, delivering sermons, providing pastoral care, leading and co-leading lifecycle events and shiva minyanim, restructuring and directing a large b'nai mitzvah program, as well as teaching b'nai mitzvah, religious school students and adults, introducing new, participatory repertoire in a wide range of styles, designing and teaching special classes and highly participatory vocal and instrumental ensembles for all ages, creating holiday programs for the entire community, and serving as a member of a bet-din.

High Holiday Spiritual Leader (Kol Bo) and Cantor, Beth Israel Congregation, Bath, ME (2015 and 2016)

Along with co-leader Deborah Strauss, filled all clergy roles, including leading or overseeing all services, reading Torah and delivering sermons.

Cantor for High Holidays, Temple El Emeth, Youngstown, OH (2012-2014)

Co-leader, Vocal and Instrumental Soloist, Family Services at Congregation Beth Elohim, Brooklyn, NY (2004-2011)

In eight years of High Holiday experience created (with rabbis) participatory services and special events. Led (with rabbis) evening, Torah and Musaf services on Rosh Hashana, plus Kol Nidre/Maariv, Torah, Yizkor, Musaf and Neila services on Yom Kippur. Also co-led, with Deborah Strauss, family services and special musical programming for Slichot.

Guest Cantor, Artist-in-Residence, Synagogue Music Director, Music Educator, Vocalist and Instrumentalist (1986-present)

In collaboration with Deborah Strauss, leads services and artist residencies throughout North America and Europe. Serves as guest cantor, band and choir leader, arranger, composer, and vocal and instrumental soloist. Works with congregational singers and instrumentalists on new, innovative repertoire for services, and teaches classes for all ages on synagogue chant and song, klezmer music, Yiddish song and Yiddish dance.

Educator and Artistic Director**KlezKanada Institute for Jewish/Yiddish Arts and Culture, Montreal and Lantier, Quebec, Canada
Coordinator, Program Director, Co-Artistic Director and Sole Artistic Director (1996-2009)**

Created groundbreaking initiatives, led and/or oversaw all programming of a major, internationally-acclaimed Yiddish and Jewish arts and culture festival. In collaboration with a world-class team of artists and scholars, produced concerts, hands-on workshops and lectures on multiple aspects of Jewish, especially Ashkenazic, arts, culture and academic inquiry. Collaborated with and reported to Board on all aspects of summer and year-round programming. Moved to an advisory role in 2009 in order to pursue full-time graduate studies. Currently Senior Artistic Advisor and Founding Artistic Director.

Columbia University, Associate in Music (Faculty Coach of the Columbia Klezmer Band) (2002-present)

As instructor and coach of the ensemble (a for-credit course) has overall responsibility for the group. Mentors the student leader, leads the audition process, coaches all aspects of instrumental and vocal performance, provides arrangement ideas, supplies audio and printed resources, evaluates student participation and supervises the organization of two concerts per year.

Jewish Music Educator (1986-present)

Designs and teaches classes in cantorial modality and improvisation, Yiddish and Hebrew song, Hasidic melodies and klezmer music throughout North America and Europe, including at the Jewish Culture Festival in Cracow, the Oxford Yiddish Summer Programme, KlezFest London, KlezKanada, KlezKamp, Yiddish Summer Weimar, Yiddish New York and the Workers Circle.

Performer, Musical Director and Composer**The Klezmer Conservatory Band (1990-2003)**

Featured as instrumentalist and singer throughout North America, Europe, Australia and New Zealand and on multiple recordings. Featured in concerts, recordings and film with Itzhak Perlman and Joel Grey.

The Strauss/Warschauer Duo (1995-present)

Performs and teaches throughout North and South America, Eastern and Western Europe, Australia and Israel, including the Philadelphia Folk Festival, the Jewish Culture Festival in Cracow, the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater and KlezFest St. Petersburg (Russia). Featured in performances with legendary actor and singer Theodore Bikel z"l.

Theater Music Director and Composer (1986-1996)

The American Jewish Theater (New York City) and the Jewish Theater of New England (numerous productions)

Recordings

Featured on CDs with Itzhak Perlman, The Klezmer Conservatory Band, The Strauss/Warschauer Duo, and a solo klezmer guitar and mandolin CD, among many others.

Ethnographic Fieldwork (1986-present)

Collects Yiddish and Hebrew songs and klezmer instrumental music from older Yiddish-speaking singers and instrumentalists in North America, Eastern and Western Europe and Israel.

Awards

Hammerman Memorial Prize and Holzer Memorial Prize for Excellence in Judaica (JTS) 2015, Kogen Community Activities Award (JTS) 2014, Cantors Assembly Prize (JTS) 2013, Prize for Excellence in a Musicological Project (JTS) 2012, Field Prize in Music (JTS) 2011, KlezKanada Distinguished Service Award 2009, Massachusetts Folk Arts Fellowship 1990, Amalgamated Bank Prize in Yiddish 1986

Community Service

Member of the National Executive Board of the Workers Circle/Arbeter Ring (2004-2007). Board member of the JCC of the Lehigh Valley (2017-2018).

Languages

Yiddish (fluent), Hebrew, some French and German