



# International Forum for Jewish Music Studies (IFJMS)

*An academic meeting place for communication, information and discussion for, and endorsed by, scholars, practitioners and archivists in all aspects of Jewish music, and a platform for ongoing activity. (Established June 2020)*

<https://jewishmusic.hcommons.org/>

Hosted by Professors Mark Kligman UCLA and Sarah Ross EZJM Hannover

## International Forum for Jewish Music Studies, Newsletter No 1, June 2020

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Launch of the

## International Forum for Jewish Music Studies

Since 2015 and the International Conferences on Jewish Prayer: Magnified and Sanctified 1 and 2, in Leeds and Hannover, and the European Cantors Conventions, in Prague and Budapest, many have felt the need for a forum retaining the connections between Jewish music **scholars with practitioners** (cantors, composers, performers) and also **archivists** (librarians).

Such a Forum has now been established, hosted by **Professor Mark Kligman** of UCLA and **Professor Sarah Ross** of the European Centre for Jewish music at the University of Music Theatre and Dance in **Hannover**. Many distinguished scholars have endorsed the new Forum. IFJMS looks forward to collaborating and working with other Fora or organisations who have very similar goals. Read more about the Forum and who is involved on page 5 of this, its first Newsletter.

**Established at a time of Coronavirus lockdown, this Forum is pleased to initiate new and immediate ways of connecting and sharing the interests and works of scholars, practitioners, and curators of collections from around the world.**

**The Forum launches with: 'Conversation on Zoom' on Tuesday 23 June 2020**



**Tuesday 23 June 2020,**  
09:00 Los Angeles; 12:00 New York;  
17:00 UK; 18:00 Hannover;  
19:00 Jerusalem time

### **Dr Naomi Cohn Zentner**

Head of the MA program in Jewish music  
at the Schechter Institute of Jewish  
Studies in dialogue with

### **Professor Eliyahu Schleifer**

Professor Emeritus of Sacred music and  
former director of the School of Sacred  
music at Hebrew Union College's  
Jerusalem Institute of Religion.





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Their conversation will be about **Sailing Through Long Liturgical Texts:**

**Ashkenazi Cantorial Renditions of Malchuyot, Zichronot, and Shofarot on Rosh Hashanah.**

When they have explored this together, they will invite discussion from all who have tuned in to listen to the Conversation.

On 30 June **Matt Austerklein** will be in conversation with **Abe Lubin** who studied at Jews College with Bryll and became President of the Cantors Assembly. We envisage this as a weekly experience. Several more 'Conversations on Zoom' (COZ) are in the pipeline being initiated already by **Mark Kligman, Judit Frigyesi, Hervé Roten, Matt Austerklein, Martha Stellmacher, Malcolm Miller and Alexander Knapp** each exploring topics of interest with a chosen dialogue partner. Topics will range from **Ben Haim**, and **Ernest Bloch** on the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth and 60<sup>th</sup> of his death, to amazing resources in hidden archives, and current activity of the participants.

**We invite all scholars, practitioners and archivists to engage in a COZ themselves with a chosen partner.** You do not have to be a member of the new Forum already, to create your own conversation – or participate in conversations with others. **So, pick a date, and a partner** and get in touch. Contact me [geraldine@cantors.eu](mailto:geraldine@cantors.eu) to fit your COZ idea into the weekly Tuesday COZ programme. (See more from Malcolm Miller about how he envisages this programme below.) In this intimate yet open way we will get to know each other and understand our ideas and individual approaches. Conversations will be recorded and archived and will be accessible from the Forum's website which is in preparation at <https://jewishmusic.hcommons.org/>

**To hear about these conversations** and tune in, go to <https://jewishmusic.hcommons.org/> where you will find instructions on obtaining the zoom login. (If you are already a member of the Jewish Music Group this will be sent to you).

We hope you will join the **Forum's Jewish Music Group**. This is free and based at the academic network, 'Humanities Commons' (HC). Joining will enable you to receive all relevant information about future activities and to post details of yourself and your research or other Jewish music interests. There is also an email discussion list.

**To join the International Forum for Jewish Music Studies' Jewish Music Group:** go to the HC homepage <https://jewishmusic.hcommons.org/> where it explains how to register for **Humanities Commons** and then how to 'join a group'. Search for '**Jewish Music**', then click on 'join the group'. If you have any difficulties, please contact the coordinator [Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de](mailto:Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de)

## Malcolm Miller writes about 'Conversations on Zoom'

With our international group, such online activities offer a way to communicate and share ideas and develop research. Whilst there are many finely produced talks and lectures available I feel it would be worthwhile setting up a regular 'research in progress' style activity which would be semi-formal, allowing us to interact and engage with a certain freedom and spontaneity yet also focused on our work.

1. My idea is for a regular "ZOOM conversation-discussion", in which we have a dialogue between two group members (scholars, performers, composers) who would do a little prep and communication beforehand. Thus, scholar A would 'interview' scholar B about their work, and vice



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Hosted by Professors Mark Kligman UCLA and Sarah Ross EZJM Hannover versa, thinking up some questions a little beforehand based on some foreknowledge, though not too prepared and rigid.

2. The dialogue would aim to introduce ourselves to each other and to present the current projects of scholars A and B to the assembled gathering during the space of about 30 to 40 minutes and then 'throw open' the discussion to everyone, in a chaired style, so we can all engage. The entire event could be kept to between one and two hours depending on the discussion.

3. We would invite members of the group to volunteer to create these conversations and choose someone to interview. Thus, they are not 'paper presentations' but could include some specific details of research nevertheless, and also, more importantly, the type of problems encountered in doing such research, or activities (including performance and composition). Also, it could be useful for scholars to hear responses to their ongoing work from others.

### **Migration and Transformation in Jewish Music – an overarching three-year project**

The International Forum for Jewish Music Studies invites scholars, archivists and practitioners in Jewish music to participate in this overarching project in an appropriate way: They can offer to run mini or daughter projects including research seminars, conferences, cantorial gatherings, summer schools, courses, workshops, working groups, compositions, performances, children's activities or other activity in Jewish music under the heading above.

Each participant or organization involved will organise and fund their own contribution to this topic in the first instance. It may be possible when we know the scope and participation in the project to jointly bid for funds – or to support individual bids.

The International Forum for Jewish Music Studies will host the culminating International Conference for this project (connected to the European Cantors Convention) under the title **Migration and Transformation in Jewish Music** in November 2023 in Hannover and will offer to consider for publication material from all participating individuals and organisations in its online journal **Tekiah**.

The International Conference will take place at the **European Centre for Jewish Music, Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media**. It will include papers on Jewish prayer constituting the third conference called: '**Magnified and Sanctified III**' and will be connected to the **European Cantors Convention** at the **Villa Seligmann**, the House of Jewish music in Hannover.

Please contact the International Forum for Jewish Music Studies via Martha or Geraldine to discuss your participation

**Martha Stellmacher** EZJM, Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media

[Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de](mailto:Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de)

**Geraldine Auerbach** MBE Director of ECA Academic Wing [geraldine@cantors.eu](mailto:geraldine@cantors.eu)



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ECA invites you to write some: **Liturgy in Lockdown**

**From Daniel Tunkel on behalf of ECA**



Dear colleagues



First and foremost, we hope that you, your family, friends and loved ones are well and stay well.

The Covid-19 Lockdown has affected all of us in many ways. Not least in our relationship with music.

We know that **this mailing list includes many composers and arrangers**. We would like to invite – or challenge – those to contribute compositions **they have specifically created during this period of enforced separation** from our synagogues and communal life.

We won't suggest too many "ground rules" but there should be a few.

1. ECA is about cantorial music and, more generally, shul music. We think this should therefore be about **music for the liturgy**, rather than art music or folk music per se. Music that you foresee may be used in your services when we are all able to meet and pray communally once again, and which will then remind us in a way of this difficult but thankfully unique experience in our lifetime.
2. **Original compositions and arrangements** of other material would be fine. Even if all you have is a melody, that's fine too. But it must be music you have created in the Lockdown; this is supposed to be about how creative you feel right now!
3. **Submission should be by PDF** in the first instance. Kindly do not send recordings. If you prefer to compose longhand, just make a scan copy of the music.

This is not a competition. There are no prizes. ECA aims to publish on its website, everything received, subject to editing into a consistent format. We have asked one or two of our colleagues with experience with computer music software to oversee this operation and if/when you submit something, they will contact you to discuss.

We hope you will find this a stimulating suggestion.

Please respond directly to Daniel Tunkel [daniel.tunkel@cantors.eu](mailto:daniel.tunkel@cantors.eu)



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**IFJMS is hosted by**  
**Professor Mark Kligman** (right) Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music, Herb Alpert School of Music UCLA, Los Angeles  
**Professor Sarah Ross** (Left) Director, European Centre for Jewish Music (EZJM) Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media  
Coordinators:



### International Associates:

**Professor Philip Bohlman** University of Chicago  
**Professor Judit Frigyesi** Bar Ilan University, Ramat Gan  
**Professor Edwin Seroussi** Hebrew University, Jerusalem  
**Professor Jeanne Zaidel Rudolf** Wits School of Arts, Johannesburg  
**Dr Naomi Cohn Zentner** Schechter Institute of Jewish studies, Jerusalem  
**Dr Gila Flam** Director of the Music Department of the Jewish National and University Library  
**Dr Tina Fruehauf** Assistant Professor, Graduate Center, Columbia University New York  
**Alex Klein** Director, European Cantors Association  
**Dr Alexander Knapp** Jewish Music Institute; Research Associate, Department of Music SOAS University of London  
**Dr Malcolm Miller** Hon Associate in Music and Associate Lecturer, Open University, UK  
**Dr Stephen Muir** Senior Lecturer Department of Music, University of Leeds  
**Dr Hervé Roten** European Institute for Jewish Music, Paris  
**Dr Eliah Sakakushev von Bismarck**, Director, Villa Seligmann, Hannover  
**Dr Joseph Toltz** Sydney Conservatorium of Music  
**Dr Ilana Webster-Kogen** Joe Loss Senior Lecturer in Jewish Music, SOAS University of London

### Coordinators

**Martha Stellmacher** EZJM, Hannover University of Music, Drama and Media  
[Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de](mailto:Martha.Stellmacher@hmtm-hannover.de)  
**Geraldine Auerbach MBE** Director of ECA Academic Wing [geraldine@cantos.eu](mailto:geraldine@cantos.eu)

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### Newsletter #1 of the International Forum for Jewish Music Studies

Compiled by Geraldine Auerbach MBE, London, June 2020

For further and continuing information on the International Forum for Jewish Music Studies go to <https://hcommons.org/> and register to join **Humanities Commons**. On the right it asks what you want to do: click 'join a group' and search for '**Jewish Music**', then click on 'join the group' IFJMS website <https://jewishmusic.hcommons.org/>

If you would rather not receive these IFJMS Newsletters, please let us know and we will remove your name.