

Hazzan-Rabbi Arnold Saltzman

Cantor Emeritus, Adas Israel Congregation, Washington, DC
Rabbi Emeritus of three Maryland Congregations

Elected Cantor and arrived in Wash. DC 7/20/1981 this year, 2024, marks his 43rd anniversary of being associated with Adas Israel Congregation

Composer of Symphonies, Opera and Ballet, www.arnoldsaltzmanmusic.com

Doctor of Music, honoris causa, The Jewish Theological Seminary of America
Academy for Jewish Religion in Riverdale 2004-2007
Diploma of Hazzanut and BSM Sacred Music The Jewish Theological Seminary of America - Ordained Clergy
MA Vocal Music, Choral Conducting - Teachers College, Columbia University
BA Music, piano - Brooklyn College, The City University of NY
Smicha-Rabbinic Ordination

Recent Compositions & Awards:

Bloom Jewish Music Foundation Prize for 2023 for **Geniza: Hidden Fragments**

Review: DC Theater Arts by KJ Moran Velz - Geniza: Hidden Fragments

Geniza:Hidden Fragments a new opera was presented by Adas Israel and the Musical Moments Committee on April 23, 2023 (DC Theater Arts - Review by KJ Moran Velz)

Geniza: Hidden Fragments at Theater of the Arts, University of DC. Grants for the **Oct. 13, 2022** premiere from David Bruce Smith, The Clarice and Robert Smith Foundation, The Harman Foundation the the Hon. Jane Harman, and the Hon. Stuart Eizenstat to the Chesapeake Orchestra for **Geniza: Hidden Fragments**, a new opera by Arnold Saltzman

Geniza: Hidden Fragments and **A Choral Symphony:Halevi** featured internationally on **American-Israel Friendship League - Webinar** including an interview/chatroom with composer Arnold Saltzman & Maestro Jeffrey Silberschlag

Opera Wire feature article on Geniza: Hidden Fragments (David Salazar, Opera Wire editor)

Washington Jewish Week feature interview with Arnold Saltzman by Lisa Traiger and a second cover story with soprano Faith Snyderman.

Recent article in **Religion News Service** features Rabbi/Cantor Saltzman on shared traditions of African American and Jewish musical Passover 'From Slavery to Freedom'

The Alba Music Festival, Alba Italy and **Chesapeake Orchestra of Maryland** invited me to offer a work of chamber music for the 2020 & 2021 Festival. This is a unique honor for an American composer. Due to the unusual circumstances, performances were recorded for 2020 available via streaming at their respective websites. **Solomon and the Dove**, with story and music by Arnold Saltzman was viewed by 1000 followers. The following link will allow you to view 'Solomon and the Dove' with Michael Meir Saltzman as narrator and Maestro Jeffrey Silberschlag, conductor https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=ITE_6HEMThQ&app=desktop

The Eugene M. Lang Foundation grant to American University by Jane Lang, President, in order to premiere 'A Choral Symphony: Halevi' by Arnold Saltzman based on poems by Judah Halevi (1075-1141) with translations by author Raymond P. Scheindlin, Professor Emeritus of Medieval Hebrew Literature JTS.

Alba Music Festival composers premiere, Alba, Italy of 'A Choral Symphony: Halevi' by Arnold Saltzman @ An International Music Festival featuring pianist Brian Ganz, violinist Jose Cueto, I Solisti Veneti and the Romanian Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Maestro Jeffrey Silberschlag with Janice Meyerson and Maurizio Leoni soloists. Giuseppe Nova, co-director

The Maryland Assembly Citation for outstanding service as Rabbi in Southern Maryland.

Congressional Citation of Recognition by US Congressman Jamie Raskin for 'Outstanding Leadership as Rabbi in Montgomery County'

Mayor Muriel Bowser Citation for Outstanding Leadership In the District of Columbia.

The Jewish Community Relations Council Award for leading the Vigil to Free Alan Gross - a former prisoner in Cuba.

September 2020 and June 2021 - Alba Music Festival: European Premiere of **Solomon and the Dove** an original story with chamber music by Arnold Saltzman in **Italian translation by Elena Sereni**.(Youtube - Chesapeake Orch. Labor Day Concert.

February 24, 2019 - **The North American Premiere by American University of Arnold Saltzman's 'A Choral Symphony: Halevi' in Washington, DC.** The American University Orchestra, Chorus and Chamber Singers conducted by Maestro Matthew Brown, with choral preparation by Dr. Daniel Abraham and Casey Cook. The Strathmore Children's Chorus, artistic director Dr. Michael Wu, and operatic soloists, Janice Meyerson, and Rob McGinness. American University presented the premiere at the National Presbyterian Church for a capacity audience.

<https://www.american.edu/cas/news/halevi-premiere-a-smash-success.cfm>

<https://www.american.edu/cas/news/au-presents-world-premiere-of-halevi.cfm>

<https://washingtonjewishweek.com/51814/journeys-medieval-and-modern/arts/>

<https://religionnews.com/2019/03/11/cantor-regains-his-lost-voice-by-composing-jewish-music/>

Labor Day Concert 2020 - the Chesapeake Orchestra, **Solomon and the Dove** (Youtube)

October 2018 limited CD release of 'A Choral Symphony: Halevi'

2017 - Rabbi Emeritus; Completion of 4th Symphony: Halevi; Engraving of Orchestration and Parts; Piano Vocal Score & Engraving.

From 2014-2017 **Torah Commentator** for the Washington Jewish Week & **Opera Reviews** for the Washington Jewish Week and the National Catholic Reporter.

Three term member of the **Jewish Community Relations Council**

Member of the **Educator Director's Council** (ten years)

Leader of the **Vigil to Free Alan Gross** (Sermons, speeches, photos and posters in the collection of the Newseum and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington).

In 2013, at the request of the Government of Denmark and the Royal Danish Embassy in Washington, DC '**Rescue in Denmark Symphony**' by Arnold Saltzman was performed on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary of the Rescue of the Jews of Denmark, with the participation of Amb. Peter Taksoe-Jensen, Amb. Stuart Bernstein, and Amb. Stuart Eisenstadt, and Rabbi Bruce Lustig.

Cantor-Rabbi Saltzman's creativity has been acknowledged through numerous Major Arts Grants, United Synagogue awards in music and creative arts, reviews in the NY Times, Washington Post, the Washington Jewish Week, Religion News Service, The Embassy of Spain and Opera News. He has written and produced, the opera '**Touro**' presented at the George Washington University Lisner Auditorium, the symphonies '**An Israel Symphony**', '**Rescue in Denmark Symphony**', and '**An American Symphony**', and the children's ballets, '**Solomon and the Dove**' and '**The Little Rooster**'.

His 'An Israel Symphony' was the feature program of the 2002 Conservative Movement Convention in Washington, DC, and included the participation of the Ambassador David Ivry of Israel on behalf of the Sharon government and Daniel Schorr as narrator.

The 'Rescue in Denmark Symphony' was featured on **TV-2 Denmark** and included both the Ambassador of Denmark to the United States, Amb. Ulrik Federspiel, and Ambassador Richard Stone, former Ambassador of the United States to Denmark.

His 'An America Symphony' was presented at the **Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center** at the University of Maryland and included Dan Raviv, Professor Sam Dash, Sari Hurwitz, Rabbi Jeffrey A. Wohlberg and Rev. William Howland with Clarice and Robert Smith in the audience. He has received the distinguished Eugene M. Lang grant for Composition and 'Cafritz' grant in Composition, The Eric Fox & Amber Scholtz commission for 'An Israel Symphony', United Synagogue Major Award for 'An Israel Symphony' 2002, David Smith for Geniza: Hidden Fragments, Jack & Ina Kay for 'Rescue in Denmark' Symphony, Mel and Ryna Cohen for 'An American Symphony', Washington Hebrew Congregation for 'Rescue in Denmark Symphony', Adas Israel Congregation for 'Geniza: Hidden Fragments', and over 350 grants for creative musical composition.

Touro, an opera set in Colonial America (four acts and an epilogue) which includes the musical setting of "To Bigotry No Sanction, To Persecution No Assistance" from the Washington Letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport. (Premiere at The George Washington University - Lisner Auditorium, Washington, DC for Adas Israel's 125th Anniversary), Choreographer - Virginia Freeman, Maestro Joel Lazar, conductor, Dr. J. Thomas Mitts choral conductor, Carol Nissenson, soprano, Lara Colby, soprano, Richard Crawley, tenor, Reginald Bouknight, tenor, David Faircloth, baritone. David Sislen, lighting and set design.

Supreme Court Justice Arthur Goldberg commissioned him to write a memorial service for his wife, Dorothy Kurgans Goldberg, which was used again for Justice Goldberg's memorial at Arlington National Cemetery with Cantor Saltzman and Carol Nissenson singing the commissioned music, with the Justices of the Supreme Court all in attendance and seated in two rows. The music is part of the Archives of the Supreme Court.

Cantor-Rabbi Arnold Saltzman, a JTS 'vested' Hazzan, which is now considered ordained, was elected Hazzan of Adas Israel in 1981, after graduating the Jewish Theological Seminary's Cantors Institute. During his tenure at Adas Israel he was one of the most sought after cantors in the world. He was invited to sing at the Knesseth in Israel in 1987 for the opening of the first International Cantors Convention in Jerusalem (along with Ari Braun, chief cantor of the IDF, and Cantor David Propis and Cantor Nate Lam). He led a Shabbat Service for a 'standing room only' congregation of international cantors in Jerusalem at the Agron Street Synagogue.

In 1984 his presentation of Charles Davidson's 'Hush of Midnight: Slichot' at Adas Israel was broadcast on 200 ABC TV network affiliates in the United States and Canada and one month later he co-chaired the production of the Washington premiere of Martin Kalmanoff's 'Joy of Prayer' at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall featuring Metropolitan opera star, Sherrill Milnes and the National Symphony Orchestra (New York Times feature story). The Hush of Midnight was rebroadcast in Israel the following year in addition to a repeat broadcast in the United States and Canada.

He was colleague to Rabbi Stanley Rabinowitz for five years, and nineteen rewarding and productive years with Rabbi Jeffrey Wohlberg. Additionally he was colleague at Adas Israel to Rabbi Chaim Listfield, Rabbi Avis Miller, Rabbi Jeremy Winokur, Rabbi Justin David, Rabbi Alana Suskin, Rabbi Alex Pollack as well as Cantor Abe Golinkin, Cantor Maurice Singer, Cantor Jenna Greenberg, Cantor Adina Klein Ackerman and Cantor Aaron Marcus.

He was associate Rabbi to Rabbi Reuben Levine and succeeded him as Rabbi of Hevrat Shalom of Maryland. He has been mentor and coach to many cantors and rabbis, including Rabbi Noah Bickart, Cantors Frances T. Goldman (Richmond, Virginia) and Cantor Rochelle Helzner, and mentored cantors Mike Stein, David Wolff, Caron Dale and Beth Rubens . During his tenure at Adas Israel he had excellent musical support from organists, Nancy Reed, Russell Woollen, Dr. J. Thomas Mitts and Dr.

Geoffrey Simon as well as the Adas Israel Quartet singers especially soprano Carol Nissenson. Members of the Quartet included Lara Colby, Linda Hallman, Elizabeth Taylor, Gregory Garrett, Michael Bilenke, David Faithcloth, Deborah Rubin, Ann Wiczeroski, Dr. Woodward Waesche, and Grace Gori.

His work in education has endeared him to generations of Adas Israel members, as well as his singing of services and concerts. In recent years he was Rabbi of three Congregations and Educational Director of two congregations, a member of the Educational Director's Council as well as a three term member of the Board of Managers of JCRC. He produced a Music Curriculum: Songs for Hebrew Schools, Song Curriculum for K-4th Grade, Song Curriculum for Grades 4 and 5, and Pre-Bar Mitzvah Curriculum for grades 6 and 7.

While at Adas Israel he began Decanter Productions which produced many fine recordings of his singing artistry along with soprano, Carol Nissenson, and keyboard artists, Dr. J. Thomas Mitts, Russell Woollen, Janice Kilgore, and Bruce Steeg. These recordings were in demand throughout the United States and Canada, and parts of Europe and Asia. In addition they were popular with Hebrew literacy classes, College Jewish Study Programs and in Day Schools. They could be found in Jewish Bookstores in Maryland, Boston, New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and Canada as well as libraries in Japan, Hungary, Germany and Poland.

He was engaged by the Kennedy Center on several occasions to produce and perform a Hanukkah Concert on the stage of the Concert Hall, singing, producing and conducting. His singing can be heard in the NBC's broadcast 'Next Year in Jerusalem' which was shown in the United States and Israel and which included interviews with Rabbi David Hartman, Cantor Jacob Mendelson, and Rabbi David Gordis.

For Israel's 50th Anniversary, the Kennedy Center's 'Art of the State' had Cantor Saltzman singing the festival opening on the stage of the Opera House followed by the Bat Sheva Dance Company, and concluding the festival later in the year with his own composition 'An Israel Symphony' featured as part of the festival.

As a singer he was invited to sing at the opening of the International Yiddish Convention in New York City, and was regularly featured as a guest artist on the Forward's Hour on WEVD, local television in Washington, National television and TV in Israel and Europe including PBS and TV-2 of Denmark. His Passover melodies were recorded by VOA to

be broadcast in former Soviet Union, and his participation and organizing won a United Synagogue Award for the Soviet Vigil.

He sang leading roles with the Bel Canto Opera, Gunda Mordan, The Brooklyn College Opera and the Liederkrantz Foundation. His main voice teacher was Aldo Di Tullio, and he coached opera with Nico Castel, Yiddish with Lazar Weiner, and Lieder with Otto Herz. His main cantorial coaches include: Charles Davidson, David Kusevitsky, Solomon Mendelson, Noah Schall, Max Panish, David Tilman and Joseph Levine.

He became Cantor Emeritus in July 2005, the first cantor emeritus in the congregations history and assumed the new post of 'Chair in Jewish Music' for three years, a unique composers chair in the American synagogue. For three years he studied at the Academy for Jewish Religion in their Rabbinic Studies Program and an additional year of independent study culminating in Smicha, and now he has become **Rabbi Emeritus** after 12 years of service as Rabbi to three Maryland congregations. In addition to Smicha (Rabbinic Ordination), He was awarded a Master of Arts in Music from **Teachers College, Columbia University (1976)**, and in 2013 he was honored by the **Jewish Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Music, honoris causa**, which cited his extensive music compositions in the award.

The Adas Israel Youth Choir was directed by Cantor Saltzman for over two decades and established a remarkable performance record as an ensemble including singing for the opening of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Video production by the museum of the 'Remember the Children' program, the Pre-Inaugural of President William Jefferson Clinton at Howard University, broadcast on PBS worldwide, The Kennedy Center Concert Hall and Millennium Stage, B'nai B'rith Klutznick Jewish Museum Hanukkah-Kwanza Programs, the Garden of the Righteous programs, as well as singing on recordings of symphonies and synagogue music. The Youth Choir also performed at Cantors Conventions both in Washington, DC and in Detroit, and premiered works by Arnold Saltzman, Thom King, Dr. J. Thomas Mitts, and Michael Isaacson.

As a narrator he was engaged by the Kennedy Center for the 'Service Sacre' of Darius Milhaud, and the National Cathedral for their performance of Arnold Schoenberg's 'Kol Nidre' conducted by J. Reilly Lewis with Schoenberg's family in the audience. He was also engaged by the Smithsonian to speak about the Cairo Geniza during the recent exhibit on **Manuscripts of the Bible**; the Lillian and Albert Small Museum 125th

Anniversary including producing a CD 'Synagogue Music of the 19th Century' for the Jewish Historical Society; and the dedication of the Lloyd Street Synagogue of the Jewish Museum of Maryland. He is cited in Leonard Garment's autobiography 'Crazy Rhythm', and his compositions are discussed in the online Encyclopedia Britannica (The New Tonalists). He is cited in the 'Voices of the Vigil' by the Jewish Historical society which features an online essay and his photos of the Vigil.

He produced a concert, with the blessing of Lea Rabin, in memory of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin which raised funds to create a cantorial scholarship at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America and which is still granting stipends to cantorial students. He participated in the Washington Memorial for Rabin with Vice President Al Gore, as thousands of people poured into the congregation and listened to the service on Quebec Street. He participated in a memorial for Arthur Burns with former President Nixon and President Ford, and he was welcomed in the Rose Garden by President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan for the 1st National Day of Prayer.

He also served as president of the Cantors Assembly, Seaboard Region, and was a member of the Executive Board of the Cantors Assembly, in addition to writing for and serving on the editorial board of the Journal of Synagogue Music. In addition, he created the Gan Hayeled 'Black Tie Recital Series' introducing instruments, classical music, dance, improvisation, and mime to nursery school students. For twenty-five years, Elinor Tattar, was his associate and assistant.

Cantor-Rabbi Saltzman has performed on several network television specials. His recordings include 'L'Hitpalel: Music of the Sabbath', 'The Festive Table', 'An Israel Symphony', 'Shabbat with Spirit', 'Rescue in Denmark Symphony', 'An American Symphony' and 'Synagogue Music of the 19th Century' and 'A Choral Symphony: Halevi', Youtube 'Solomon and the Dove', and Vimeo 'Geniza: Hidden Fragments'. He was a member of AFTRA and was an AFTRA-SAG Producer, and is currently a member of ASCAP.

Cantor-Rabbi Saltzman began his singing career as a child soloist with the Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus and made the 'Mm! Mm! Good!' Campbell Soup commercial for RCA Victor as a child singer. As a child singer he was featured with David Kusevitzky in Madison Square Garden for the UJA Night of Stars, and he was soloist for Cantors Sholom Katz, David Kusevitzky and Moshe Ganchoff for several years (he once participated in a wedding with all three of these legendary cantors). He was featured on

Tikva Recordings with Cantor Shabtai Ackerman, and RCA Victor on the album 'The Sound of Children'. A graduate of Yeshiva Rambam (8 years), he is a distinguished graduate of LaGuardia High School (Music & Art, Performing Arts High School). As a child singer he worked extensively as soloist with the choirs of Samuel and Rose Sterner, Oscar Julius and Cantor Jacob Goldstein.

His wife, Carol Nissenson, Director Emeritus of NowThis Kids and Now This! (an improvisational theater company) is working on her 5th Novel. Rabbi/Cantor Saltzman and Carol have two sons, Josh Saltzman, an attorney in New York, married to Hagar Sadan (gifted artist and teacher) and the parents of Keren and Eden Saltzman, and Arnold and Carol's son, Michael Meir Saltzman, an actor-writer (currently writer for Um...Actually, Online College Humor) married to Kaitlin Walsh Saltzman (Vice President, Head of Scripted at WV Enterprises) who live in Los Angeles, California with their daughters, Sophie and Emma. So many blessings!

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