JEWISH MUSIC INSTITUTE

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informing teaching performing inspiring

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JMI Mission and Policy – a Summary

The Jewish Music Institute (JMI) is an independent arts organisation with charitable status based at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

It is dedicated to the 'celebration, preservation and development of the living heritage of Jewish music for the benefit of people of all ages and backgrounds.

To serve this mission, JMI's work is conducted in different genres of Jewish music. These are operated by teams with specialist knowledge of each area in our forums and focus groups such as – Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Liturgical, Western Classical, Israeli, and music suppressed by the Third Reich. In each area there may be, when appropriate, programmes of **education, practical training, information and performance as well as seminars and conferences.**

1. JMI **Education** policy is to teach aspects of the history, theory and practice of Jewish music from pre-school to University levels and in adult education. In particular JMI supports the academic study of Jewish music at SOAS by part funding the **Joe Loss Lectureship in Jewish Music** currently held by Abigail Wood and by supporting post-graduate students. All first year music students at SOAS have a taste of Jewish music; second and third years have optional courses as part of their degree. At any one time there are up to five post graduate students studying aspects of Jewish music.

2. JMI provides **practical training** in **summer schools** in cantorial music; klezmer music; Yiddish language, song and dance. JMI also conducts evening classes at SOAS and outreach programmes across the UK through the **KlezFest Caravan** – a group of musicians (educated in JMI training programmes from 2001 – 2010) who present workshops in schools and communities.

3. JMI **Information** policy is to answer questions and provide information, advice and provide resources on Jewish music for use by musicians, composers, scholars, students, writers, journalists, film, TV and theatre producers and members of the public. JMI distributes monthly e-bulletins and annual Newsletters. JMI collects materials and has created a **library** and archive of manuscripts, scores, books and recordings.

4. JMI **Performance** policy is to encourage and collaborate with British arts bodies and venues such as Kings Place as well as other Jewish culture providers and ensembles. JMI concentrates in its own performances only on innovatory and ground breaking projects in special venues such as the Southbank Centre, synagogues and cathedrals. JMI also advises on live music and books bands for parties, functions and public events.

To be able to discharge this mission JMI engages in exciting fundraising projects and events with **celebrity artists, chefs and comedians** such as the Joke Lunch, Dining Club and 'Tribute to' (Bernstein, Gershwin, Joe Loss etc) events, (and new ones as they arise).

By focusing on activities that have ongoing positive ramifications – such as training academics, teachers, prayer leaders and performers as well as outreach programmes **JMI ensures a lasting legacy**. Future teachers and are informed about Jewish music; new performance groups are created and many existing ensembles take on Jewish music repertoire; prayer leaders are inspired; and new works are commissioned. Therefore Jewish music is presented to more audiences and touches increasing numbers people across the country.