jmi SOAS
newsletter

JEWISH MUSIC INSTITUTE SOAS
informing, teaching, performing, inspiring

Silver Jubilee Commemorative Edition

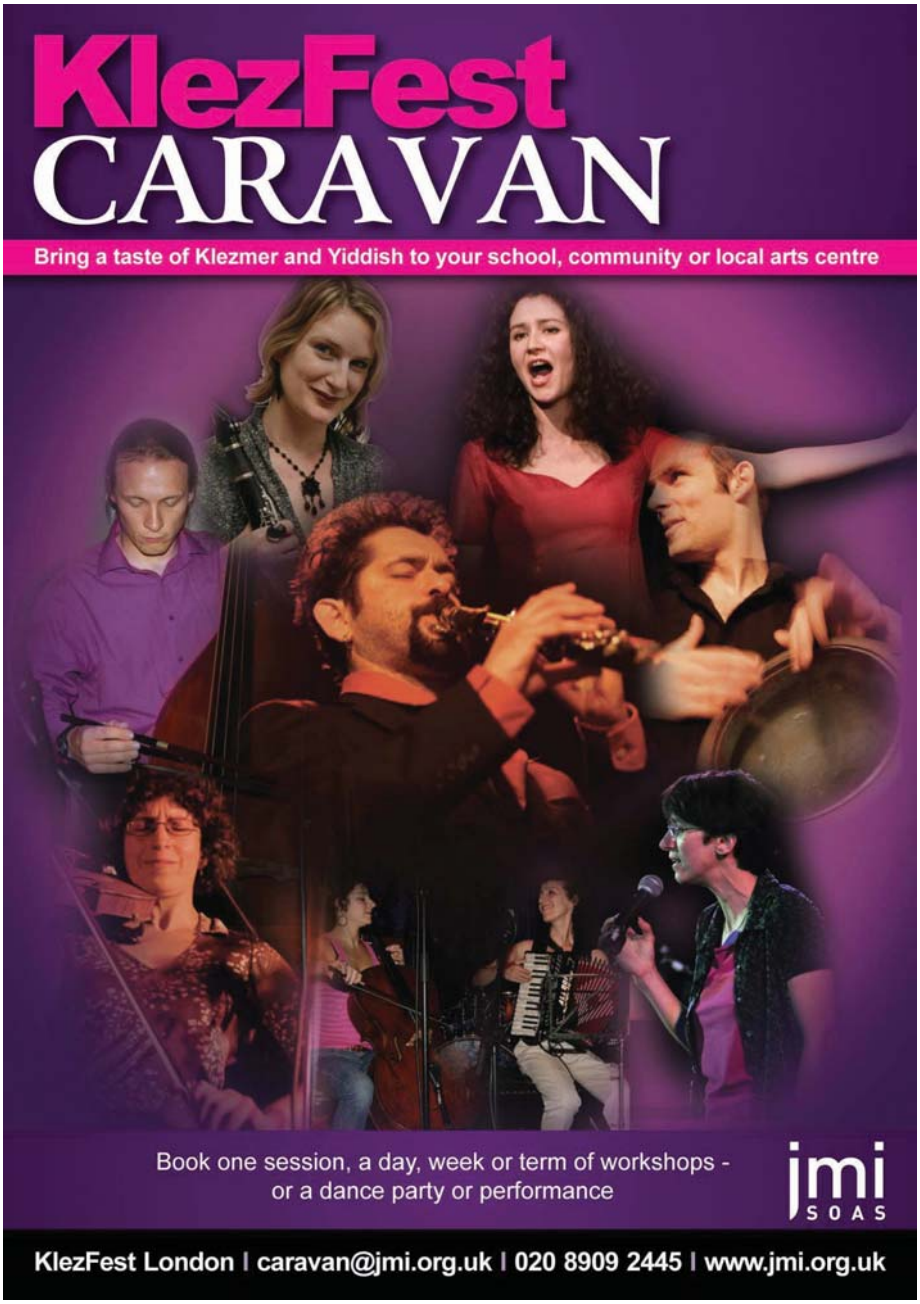
JMI celebrates 25th with massive Outreach Project

The Jewish Music Institute celebrates its Silver Jubilee with the launch of the 'KlezFest Caravan'– a major outreach programme to make the sounds of Jewish music ring out across Britain.

JMI has signed up more than a dozen young, dynamic, inspiring 'graduates' of its ten years of Klezmer and Yiddish training programmes as workshop leaders, dance instructors and song teachers. They will take klezmer music and Yiddish song and dance to schools, communities and local arts centres. One can book just one hour, a whole day, week or term of invigorating and enjoyable workshops, dance parties or performances. Already we have interest shown from Limmud events around the country, Local Education Authorities as well as even from the Royal Marines in Portsmouth and rural retreats in the Peak District.

This Outreach Programme will be officially launched at a Reception hosted by Lord and Lady Sacks'in October 2010. This will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Jewish Music Festival Trust in 1985 that ultimately has become JMI, now based at the University of London.

To book a visit of the KlezFest Caravan to your school, arts centre or or community, contact Francesca Ter-Berg JMI outreach officer email caravan@jmi.org.uk or call JMI events coordinator Yvonne Glass on 020 8909 2445.



Music of Israel Conference in London Purcell Room concert 31 March 2011

The conference is presented by the JMI Forum for Israeli Music in association with the Institute of Musical Research and SOAS Music Department. Leading scholars, composers and musicians from the USA, Germany, Ireland, Greece, South Africa, Turkey, Israel, and UK will explore the wealth of music from Israel and show its significance in an international context. **A Gala Concert** at the Purcell Room on Thursday 31 March will feature international artists. Book the date.

Cantors' Convention to be held in Manchester 27-30 June 2011

In line with JMI's outreach aspirations, the 6th JMI European Cantors' Convention will take place in Manchester. Organised by Alex Klein, it will feature famous guest cantors Yaakov Motzen and Sol Zim with a gala concert on Monday 27 June, followed by three days of intensive workshops lectures and masterclasses. Designed for both professional and lay cantors it will address the subject of 'creating a ruach in your synagogue'. Enquiries from convention@jmi.org.uk

For details of all JMI events and activities see the website www.jmi.org.uk or call 020 8909 2445 or email jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk

25 is the Magic Number

for the *JMI Silver Jubilee Appeal*

(Subscribe on page 15)

All subscribers to the **JMI Silver Jubilee Appeal** – however small or large their contribution, will go into a private draw for a pair of silver plated candlesticks and other gifts to mark the JMI Silver Jubilee (to be drawn in March 2011).

Joint Presidents of JMI:
Lady Solti & Leopold de Rothschild CBE

Thanks to JMI, Jewish music is now a firm part of national artistic and academic life in Britain. Would you like to see it continue and flourish? It can - if you and everyone reading this will lend a hand.

Magic numbers to subscribe to the Fund

Please use **2 and 5 – with any number of 0s** in any combinations and multiples and putting the dot wherever you like – from £2.50 to £2.5million! to subscribe to the Silver Jubilee appeal fund. Our target is to reach £100,000 – on an ongoing annual basis. Please also consider leaving a **Legacy** to JMI.

Here are some options to subscribe:

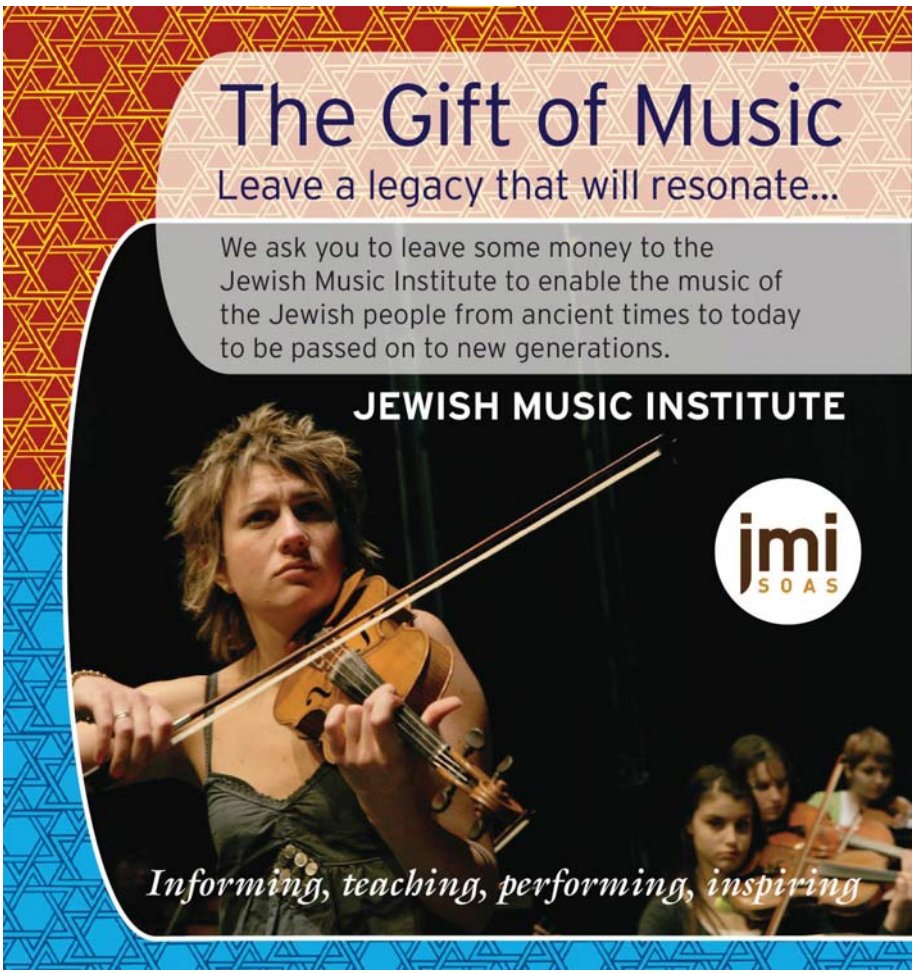
We invite:

2,500	Silver Jubilee **Friends** to contribute annually	£25
250	Silver Jubilee **Donors** to contribute annually	£250
25	Silver Jubilee **Members** to contribute annually	£2,500

All will receive regular information and discounts on some tickets. 'Members' will in addition have free membership of the JMI Dining and Music Club.

How to pay
Use the form on page 15 to fill in your details and the amount you want to subscribe – or you can donate directly from the JMI Website www.jmi.org.uk by clicking the 'donate or pay' button. Or send your donation by cheque (made out to 'JMI'), to Silver Jubilee Appeal, Jewish Music Institute, P O Box 232, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2NN.

Or telephone 020 8909 2445 to chat to our Director about your contribution or e-mail jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk to say how you would like to be part of this great Institution and request the appropriate remittance form and a direct debit mandate.



The Jewish Music Institute - the first 25 years - a one page summary

JMI has returned us to our music - and returned our music to us

Over the last 25 years, the Jewish Music Institute (JMI) under its Founding Director, Geraldine Auerbach, has made Britain aware of the beauty and value of the music of the Jewish people.

Over **80,000 people** have attended **675 JMI concerts** and recitals in prestigious concert halls during JMI's 10 pioneering Jewish Music Festivals and its annual Southbank Jewish Culture Days. New works have been commissioned and many first UK performances presented. Highlights have included ***Kadish for Terezin*** by Ronald Senator at Canterbury Cathedral in 1986, **Ernest Bloch's *Sacred Service*** in York Minster in 1990 – and conducted by Yehudi Menuhin at St Paul's Cathedral in 1995.

There have been groundbreaking events such as a day of Jewish culture in the **Millennium Dome** with 28 acts all day on three stages (9 July 2000) with acts and communities visiting from as far afield as Cardiff and Newcastle. There have been concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall featuring 16 cantors and another with 300 choristers – from male and mixed choirs all on stage together. JMI also staged ***Kol Isha***, the first UK concert for women cantors in 2007. JMI presented ***Simcha on the Square*** in Trafalgar Square, the biggest and most public Jewish culture event in the UK in 2006/7/8 and ***Klezmer in the Park*** around the bandstand in Regent's Park in 2009/10, in partnership with Jewish Culture UK members and the Mayor of London.

A full-time lectureship in Jewish music has been established at SOAS, part of the University of London and over **400 undergraduate** and more than **a dozen postgraduate** students have studied an aspect of Jewish music for their degrees. **Over 1400 singers** and instrumentalists have attended JMI's summer schools. **500 scholars** have presented papers on Jewish music at JMI international conferences. **350 prayer leaders** of all denominations have attended Jewish music enrichment sessions for synagogue prayer leaders. Over **1000 children** have performed in prestigious venues, songs specially chosen and composed for them.

Many specialist performing groups have been established, including **Klezmer Bands,** Children's and Youth **Choirs** as well as the precursor of the Shabbaton Choir – the Bnai Brith Festival Singers. 'Rivers of Babylon' specialising in the music of the Iraqi Jewish Community came into being with the encouragement of JMI. They all give regular concerts and workshops in arts festivals and concert halls across the country. Some have won major prizes in international Jewish music competitions through the opportunities for training and performing that JMI has provided.

Lady Solti, Joint President of JMI, hosted an evening at her home in May 2009, to celebrate Michael Haas (right), Director of the JMI International Centre for Suppressed Music (ICSM) receiving the highest cultural award from the City of Vienna for his exhibition on Hanns Eisler - the sixth in a series featuring Austrian composers who fled Nazi tyranny. Dr Karl Weinberger (left) Director, Jewish Museum Vienna presented the award. On that occasion, comedian Barry Humphries launched 'The Spoli Fund' to support the work of the JMI International Centre for Suppressed Music

JMI in partnership with members of JCUK – the association for Jewish culture providers and the Mayor of London presented the largest Jewish cultural event in Britain on 17 September 2006. Walter Goldsmith, Chairman at the time declared: 'My cup is brimming over with joy: Trafalgar Square became truly Jewish for the day with large crowds, beautiful weather and exuberant performances bringing forth an enthusiastic response.'

58 Jewish music projects were kick-started by the **JMI Millennium Award Scheme.** This involved passionate individuals in research and training in different aspects of Jewish music, resulting in books and new music being written, performed or published and new ensembles and performance programmes being created.

Current projects include outreach work in **klezmer and Yiddish** across this country; an international conference on **Israeli music** (28 – 31 March 2011) at the Institute of Musical Research, University of London, with a concert at the Purcell Room on 31 March; the 6th annual JMI European **Cantors' Convention** to be held in Manchester (27 – 30 June 2011); and the Yiddish Language and Song **summer schools** 14 – 19 August 2011.

JMI embraces both the sacred and secular music of Jewish communities of **Ashkenazi, Sephardi** and **Oriental** origin. It also deals with Western Classical music with Jewish connections as well as the music of modern **Israel** and the Middle East and has a section devoted to resurrecting the music of the early 20th century that **Hitler tried to obliterate**.

Its **Jewish Music Library**, the first of its kind in this country, is a priceless archive of recordings, tapes, manuscripts, scores and other treasures available to musicians, scholars, the media and the public. JMI's Newsletters and festival programmes are housed in libraries around the world.

The JMI Website **www.jmi.org.uk** gives the latest details of its diverse activities and contains articles, pictures, reports and reviews on different aspects of Jewish Music. You can also **buy** recorded music and scores of all kinds from Jewish Music Distribution (created originally by JMI) via the JMI web. JMI **arranges** live Jewish music for weddings and parties. Contact us:

020 8909 2445 jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk www.jmi.org.uk

Thoughts and memories of key people along JMI's trajectory

Yehudi Menuhin: President JMI 1989 - 1999

Message from Lord Menuhin on becoming President of JMI: 'Since biblical times, musical expression has been at the heart of Jewish devotion and communal life. Jewish music today is rooted in this ancient spiritual tradition and contains a rich diversity of musical forms recognised the world over. Throughout the long history of the Jewish people music has been a fertile medium of cultural exchange - a multi-faceted dialogue with many nations. I am delighted that the Jewish Music Institute has established a centre of excellence in London dedicated not only to preserving this great heritage, but also to ensuring that the musical dialogue continues and will enrich future generations'.

Sylvia Lewin: Chairman 1993 – 1998

I call Geraldine Auerbach MBE Queen Midas - everything she touches turns to gold!! If it weren't for Geraldine's determination and tenacity as well as her foresight we would not have reached this Silver Jubilee. She motivates the unwilling as well as the willing, she nurtures the shy violet as well as the self-confident, she never takes no for an answer. She has devotedly served the mission of JMI - to educate, inform and entertain the Jewish and wider public with the music of the Jewish people. We all owe a debt of gratitude to her for uncovering little known music of diverse Jewish communities and introducing the people of Britain to its sounds, its composers and its performers.

Jonathon E Lyons: Joint-Chairman 1998 - 2003

I became inspired to be part of JMI by the amazing dedication of Geraldine. I remember so well co-hosting with Rosa Lipworth a special dinner at SOAS in February 1999 to honour our great and immensely respected late President, Yehudi Menuhin. This event celebrated the launch of Jewish music studies in this esteemed place of learning where we came to be based. Yehudi, like all of us, was so enthusiastic about the progress that JMI had made. This particular evening was beyond all expectation; we were all saddened when this extraordinary man who had taken such a special and active interest in JMI passed away soon after. His involvement and support remain an important part of the foundation of JMI'.

Walter Goldsmith: Chairman 2003 – 2008

2006 was for me a memorable year when I was privileged to be part of the creation of some of the most significant Jewish cultural events in this country. It was a joy to see Trafalgar Square become Jewish for the day in our first culture partnership with the Mayor of London. We played a part with the National Gallery in establishing the (now annual) Myra Hess commemorative concerts and celebrated *The Gift of Music* at the Roundhouse. We also welcomed Abigail Wood as the new Joe Loss Lecturer in Jewish Music at SOAS, the University with the most exciting and diverse international student community in the UK.

Malcolm Troup: Creator of lectureship in 1991

For me, Jewish Music has been a catalyst for hastening the formation of every great European musical culture; Jewish Yemenite-influenced Gregorian chant; Sephardic/Spanish romanzas and flamenco; Mahler and Schoenberg, or Gershwin and Tin Pan Alley. It deserves to be acknowledged as the first World Music. I was pleased to set up with JMI the first ever Research Fellowship in Jewish music in my Department at City University. With the support of the family of the late Joe Loss this has become a full time lectureship subsequently transferring to SOAS (University of London) where it continues to reach out across the world.

Paul Webley: Director and Principal of SOAS since 2007

I want to say how delighted I am that we teach Jewish music in our Music Department and how pleased I am that we have the Jewish Music Institute on our campus. Our productive relationship with JMI and with Colin Shindler (now Professor of Israeli Studies) at the SOAS Centre for Jewish Studies reinforces our commitment to inclusiveness and tolerance in our student and staff bodies and adds to the rich mix of cultures that thrive side by side at this very special part of London University. I was delighted to confer an Honorary Fellowship of SOAS on JMI Director, Geraldine Auerbach for her work in bringing Jewish music to the wider world.

Jonathan Metliss: Chairman since 2008

I never fail to be impressed by the level and vibrancy of activity, the enthusiasm and optimism of JMI. My mission is to bring more people of all ages to our table to partake of the richness of our culture and heritage. With my connections within and outside the community, I intend to expand JMI's profile and bring the organisation before people who otherwise might not be aware of its existence. As Chairman, I look forward to introducing many newcomers to the JMI family at the home of the Chief Rabbi when he hosts a reception in honour of our 25th anniversary in October 2010.

Lady Lipworth CBE: Joint-Chairman 1998 – 2003

I marvel at how the Jewish Music Institute, now part of the University of London, has brought Jewish music to the mainstream of British academic and cultural life, and made London an international centre for the study and performance of Jewish music. This is almost entirely due to the vision, hard work and determination of its founding Director Geraldine Auerbach. We are all delighted that her efforts have been recognised with honours from Her Majesty the Queen and also by SOAS at the University of London. I am glad to have been able to play a part, over the last 25 years, particularly making opportunities for much needed fundraising.

Jennifer Jankel: Deputy Chairman since 2008

Music is part of the essence of our souls. Jewish music from Temple times has wound a journey throughout the Diaspora - binding us to our communities and accompanying our sorrows and joys. Our composers have thrilled generations with popular and Broadway songs. My pa Joe was a musician – one of the most special people in the lives of so many millions as well as his family. When he passed away, the most appropriate tribute to this beloved and humble man was to create a Joe Loss Lectureship in Jewish Music. From Alexander Knapp, our first incumbent, to Abigail Wood, we are so proud of that decision and their achievements.

Geraldine Auerbach MBE: Director since 1985

I am immensely grateful that through JMI I have had the privilege and opportunity of making a difference to people's lives; of creating opportunities and even jobs in this branch of music; of bringing a whole musical heritage that might still be ignored to higher consciousness; of shining a light on a significant tradition and culture that is relevant not only to Jewish life today – but to the Jewish contribution to culture on a much wider scale. I have had the immense pleasure of working with amazing people – experts in their fields; superb collaborators; wonderful staff; and warm supporters. JMI has given purpose and meaning to my life. Thank you all.

JMI is 25: Anniversary Reflections

What started as the Bnai Brith Jewish Music Festival – a month-long event with 30 separate performances and talks – has multiplied and grown over the last two and a half decades to become an Institute at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, supporting a full time lecturer in Jewish music, postgraduate studies and programmes of education, performance and information for scholars, musicians, the media and the public.

In the words of its founding director Geraldine Auerbach MBE 'When I produced the first festival in 1984 I got the distinct feeling that Jewish music was like a red-hot cable, stretching from the bible to infinity and that people of all backgrounds wanted to be warmed by its glow'.

That led to the establishment of the 'Jewish Music Festival Trust' in 1985, and Geraldine, with her dedicated teams of Trustees, staff and volunteers, has spent the subsequent 25 years enhancing the study and practice of Jewish music for all those that wish to partake of it.

Players of all ages and backgrounds learn the roots of Ashkenazi Jewish music and song together

So what exactly is the Jewish Music Institute?

The Jewish Music Institute is the leading British organisation bringing the rich culture of Jewish music, East and West, from its ancient historical past, right up to modern times within access of everybody. JMI is about music with Jewish roots.

What do you mean by 'Jewish music'?

Jews and music have been inextricably linked since biblical times. The music we deal with is not simply music for its own sake or just for the aesthetics of its melodies and harmonies, as we are used to in the West for the past few hundred years. Jewish music comes from a different time and place – from the Middle East thousands of years ago. It was usually made for a higher purpose – to raise the power of words in prayer, to cement the bonds within families and tribes, to mark the changing seasons and denote rites of passage and Holy Days. Melody, harmony and aesthetics were and are of high importance – but a means to an end – the music being composed and performed to serve a goal.

Is there a definition of Jewish music?

We take a wide historic and geographic view of Jewish music as it has developed wherever Jews have settled over the centuries and across the globe. Alexander Knapp, past Joe Loss Lecturer in Jewish Music, at one stage described Jewish music thus: 'Jewish music stems from ancient prayer chants of the Levant some 3000 years ago. It has been constantly adapting to new conditions and yet retaining its identity in many widely differing ethnic, social and religious environments.

Through its daughter religions, the music of Judaism is one of the fundamental elements in the understanding of the sacred and secular traditions of Europe and the Near East, first having influenced, and then having been influenced by, the music of Christian and Islamic cultures. The study of Jewish music encompasses many genres of religious, semi religious and folk music used in the Synagogue and in the Jewish home and also art music using Jewish texts or themes. The study of Jewish music combines distinctively the essential elements of musicology, ethnomusicology and interculturalism. Jewish music today encompasses a wide diversity of musical traditions and Jewish songs are sung in many languages'.

Is it about religion?

The Jewish Music Institute deals with all kinds of Jewish music including religious music but is not a religious organisation. It is an independent arts body with charitable status and its own artistic and academic policies.

But what if I am not Jewish?

This music and JMI is for everyone: all races, all lands, all cultures and all tastes!

16 Cantors in Concert conducted by Stephen Glass, QEH December 2004 (Vicky Alhadeff)

Early Festival Programmes (set and printed by Graham at Cavalier Print)

Fiddler under the Austrian Jewish Culture Festival poster, at Barbican opening, November 1996 (Richard Kalina)

Charlotte de Rothschild and Harold Lester performing songs from the family archives at a Rothschild Home in Gunnersbury (Judy/Roger Obrart)

Alan Marcuson, Geraldine Auerbach, Professor Malcolm Troup, Mildred Loss and Alex Knapp at the launch of the Joe Loss Lectureship in Jewish Music at City University 1991

Would I have heard of the Jewish Music Institute and its activities?

As a reader of the JMI Newsletter you surely would have, but any member of the public who attends concerts at London concert halls, the Barbican and Southbank Centre, St John's, Smith Square or sees the 'GLA Guide to Jewish Cultural Events in London' or who reads the Jewish and arts press, who buys world music records or follows the music of the world, would most likely have come in contact with something that JMI has done. (However much publicity one creates, there are always people who don't know about JMI – you can help spread the word).

What has JMI achieved in 25 years?

'Transformed the face of Jewish culture ...'

We have received many tributes and good wishes on this anniversary - but what have we actually achieved? Let me put it in the words of poet and playwright **Jane Liddel King**: 'Simply to say that you and JMI have transformed the face of Jewish culture by returning our music to us and us to our music'.

Opened eyes and ears ...

Sybil Michelow, mezzo soprano speaks for many when she says: 'The innovative programmes over the years have opened my eyes, my ears, and my cognisance of Jewish music. I look back in awe and admiration when I follow the growth of this festival from the earliest days in 1984, and I am proud to have taken part with **Malcolm Williamson** in the very first Bnai Brith Festival. **Miriam Brickman**, pianist, stresses the creative experiences she has had working with JMI. She says, 'My colleagues and I are grateful for the opportunities you have provided to create innovative programmes and to meet fellow musicians and for the connections we have made along the way'.

In the **ten international Jewish music festivals** (since we pioneered this in 1984) each lasting 4 weeks, our annual **JMI Southbank Jewish Culture Days** and other events, upwards of 80,000 people have attended more than 675 concerts and recitals, discussions and workshops of Jewish music in London's major concert halls and other venues. (Now in the 21st century, many cities in Europe present a Jewish Music Festival – even New York had one for the first time in 2005).

Many concerts have been **broadcast by the BBC** making them accessible to a much wider audience. More than a dozen **new works** have been commissioned and many more heard for the first time in this country. We have introduced new genres of Jewish music to the UK and brought the first klezmer bands and recordings to the UK. Outstanding **artists from the UK and abroad** have performed Ashkenazi, Sephardi, liturgical and classical music. We have brought male choirs from South Africa and Jerusalem – a Yemenite children's mandolin orchestra from a kibbutz in Israel and the Simkha Youth Choir from Minsk in Belarus and toured them around the country. JMI has introduced klezmer to Britain and brought klezmer groups from the USA and the former Soviet Union, Europe and Israel. Today in the UK many venues, promoters, organisations and musicians now present Jewish music. Our pioneering work in Jewish music performance has borne fruit.

Set up the first Lectureship in Jewish music

Specially significantly JMI established at City University in 1991, with Professor **Malcolm Troup**, what we believe is the world's first full-time Lectureship in Jewish Music at a mainstream University. Called the **Joe Loss** Lectureship in Jewish Music the first incumbent **Alexander Knapp** was soon teaching under- and post-graduates. Professor Troup writes: 'So began an astonishing development, which gained credibility and identity for Jewish music as an academic subject in its own right. By 1999 it had already outgrown its cradle in City and was preparing to take its place on the world-stage of the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London, with Alex now promoted from a Research Fellow to a Lecturer and with what used to be the Jewish Music Heritage Trust now resoundingly established as the Jewish Music Institute'. Following our lead, there are today at least three universities in the UK teaching Jewish music on a regular basis. In 2006, Alexander Knapp retired and was succeeded by **Abigail Wood** as the Joe Loss Lecturer in Jewish music. She is a Cambridge graduate and was chosen unanimously from 9 strong applicants

Encouraged research and scholarship

Our **seven International Conferences** and many seminars and training days on aspects of Jewish music at prestigious Universities have brought over 350 scholars from around the world to share their research in Jewish music. Many academics are now working in Jewish music at many different institutions as postgraduates or on the teaching staff. Alexander Knapp established a JMI forum for British Scholars in Jewish music and much academic interchange has taken place between members of the group.

Provided opportunities for practical training

Being based at London University has opened many opportunities for running workshops, evening classes and summer programmes with the world's most inspiring teachers. **Klezmer music and Jewish song** in many languages now stand side by side with Chinese, Indian and Japanese music and can be studied by all students at SOAS as well as musicians from outside the University. In fact JMI was instrumental in encouraging SOAS Department of Music to set up the first World Music Summer School in London, in which amongst dozens of courses, Jewish music and Yiddish feature strongly.

The JMI **Cantorial and Choral** section, under the inspiration of **Stephen Glass**, has revived Jewish primary school choir festivals and created teenage choirs in Jewish schools bringing Jewish values and spirituality to our children and introducing Jewish music to children of other backgrounds. For all choirs and choirmasters our input has raised standards and inspired more commitment and dedication. Stephen Glass also created stimulating programmes for synagogue prayer leaders in both progressive and orthodox traditions which have been very well received. Cantor Josée Wolff was inspiring as leader of the progressive course. Hirsh Cashdan helped to organise and lead Cantors' Conventions with participation by Cantor Moshe Haschel and Rabbi Geoffrey Shisler of London, as well as famous overseas guests.

Through our International Forum for Yiddish Culture launched in 2003 by **Michael Grade** CBE at SOAS and **Lord Janner** at the House of Commons, we have brought the Yiddish language and Eastern European Jewish music, song and dance to life for a new generation. Over 1400 players, dancers and singers have participated in JMI summer programmes and many are now trained and inspired to perform and teach Jewish music in their own environments. Read from page 13 what these students say of being at a JMI summer school. For many it has been a life-changing experience.

Created performing groups

JMI has formed many choirs and bands that are now an essential part of the British Jewish cultural scene: The ***Shabbaton Choir*** was originally created in1986 and made its debut at the Wigmore Hall as the ***Bnai Brith Festival Singers***, with **Stephen Glass** as conductor. The ***Klezmer Festival Band*** was created with **Gregori Schechter** to debut at the Queen Elizabeth Hall in 1991. In 1995 JMI set up with **Vivienne Bellos** the ***Jewish (Heritage) Youth Choir*** that has performed amongst other places at the Barbican Art Gallery, 'Simcha on the Square' and the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The teenage choir, created by Stephen Glass of Montreal and Simon Appleman, who was Head of Music at JFS School, performed at the Southbank Centre for the first time in 2005. ***Shekoyokh Klezmer Ensemble*** was born at the first JMI KlezFest. Also many other instrumentalists and singers have emerged and become established because of the work of JMI. **Sara Manasseh** writes: '***Rivers of Babylon*** was formed and named in 1999 at Geraldine's invitation and suggestion that I should create an Iraqi-Jewish instrumental and vocal ensemble. Since then we have gone from strength to strength, now numbering nearly a dozen players and singers. We have developed our repertoire and have recently completed our first international tour. Thank you JMI for my Millennium Award allowing me to research and publish more repertoire of my Baghdadi Jewish tradition and for making such rich experiences open up for us.'

Still recovering music lost in the Nazi era

Another area where our work has been recognised as valuable in European and international terms is in searching out, performing and recording works lost during and after the Third Reich. **Michael Haas**, Research Director says, 'JMI has created the main English language centre dealing with this subject and we address queries from all corners of the world. Our panel includes musicologists, writers, musicians, composers, publishers and producers and provides a network of key contacts in the field.

With support from **Sir Simon Rattle** our object is to discover how music in Central Europe was developing in the early part of the 20th Century before many of the most active practitioners at the time – composers, librettists, conductors, teachers and impresarios were banned, exiled or murdered. Our aim is to bring this music back to public consciousness'.

From this platform JMI has helped to crystallise, manage and deliver projects such as an International Conference at SOAS in June 2000 on Franz Schreker and his composition students, entitled ***Thwarted Voices: Music Suppressed by the Third Reich*** and a concert series of the same name at the Southbank Centre in November 2001 introduced by Barry Humphries. Other major projects included ***Continental Britons - The Émigré Composers*** (2000), as well as a four-day Conference followed by two days of concerts and public lectures in April 2008 entitled ***Music, Oppression and Exile: The Impact of Nazism on Musical Development in the 20th Century***. This revealed how much research and promotion is still needed to bring back to the concert hall the music of those who fled to the UK to escape Nazi persecution.

Michael adds: 'The work needed to recover music lost between 1933 and 1945 has only just begun and could easily last many lifetimes. Given this fact, it is desperately important to all who love and value music that JMI is able to support the work of the International Centre for Suppressed Music'.

Students of all ages enjoy Jewish Song Summer School, 2005 (Kristel Richards)

Michael Grade CBE Launching the 'JMI International Forum for Yiddish Culture' at SOAS 2003. (Judy/Roger Obrart)

Writer and Comedian Barry Humphries introducing the first British performance of Max Brand's banned 1929 opera, Maschinist Hopkins with Peter Tregear Conductor (l) and cast, Southbank Centre, Nov 2001. (Judy/Roger Obrart)

Betty Collick and Yvonne Glass, Foyer QEH (Judy/Roger Obrart)

Baroness Nicholson who presented certificates to the 58 JMI Millennium Award Scheme winners including the late Jim Marcovitch (left) and Rohan Kriwaczek (right). (Judy/Roger Obrart)

CDs on the JMI 'Jewish Music Heritage Recordings' label (available from JMD orders@jewishmusic-jmd.co.uk)

Israeli composers – Jewish and Arab: Yehezkel Braun, Menachem Wiesenberg and George Samaan in 'Musical Dialogues of East and West' on the South Bank November 2004 (Geraldine Auerbach)

Alexander Knapp flanked by Doris and the late Bertie Black' at the initiation of the Jewish Music Institute Library which the couple founded in 2001.'

'Simcha on the Square' stage at Trafalgar Square where JMI working with other Jewish culture providers in JCUK presented 5 hours of Jewish music song and dance of many varieties in September 2006

Kickstarted 58 projects and assisted students, musicians and scholars

JMI was thrilled to be able to kick-start 58 creative projects in Jewish music. In the Millennium year we became a partner with the Millennium Commission to set up a scheme to give **JMI Millennium Awards** with funds from the National Lottery. Projects from Wales to Sheffield and Brighton to Manchester involved research, travel and training and resulted in workshops, CDs books and performances of an amazing array of Jewish music.

Professor **Malcolm Troup**, Chairman of the assessment panel writes' I saw this miracle repeating itself on a shorter time-scale as Jewish or non-Jewish applicants of all ages vied to put forward proposals capable of strengthening community relations on a national and ecumenical level. I could hardly believe the enthusiastic nationwide uptake generated by this scheme, the diversity and imaginativeness of the yearlong projects undertaken, the scrupulous completion rates nor the rich harvest of performances and publications. (See the JMI Website **www.jmi.org.uk** for details of all these amazing creative projects).

JMI has also been able to help students and scholars attend conferences to study Jewish music in the UK and abroad (eg China, Hungary, Lithuania, USA).

Published and distributed recordings, scores and books

JMI created a **record label** and established **Jewish Music Distribution** bringing Jewish music into homes and shops. JMI provides information almost daily on Jewish music and musicians to radio, television and film producers, writers, journalists, teachers, students and the general public. It has published **books** and **scores** as well as its award-winning **Newsletter**, **online journals** and maintains an informative website **www.jmi.org.uk.**

Introduced the music of Israel to the UK

For the JMI Millennium Festival in 2000, JMI created a 'Forum for Promotion of **Arab-Jewish Dialogue** Through Music' headed by Dr **Sara Manasseh** and presented workshops and concerts of Middle Eastern music by Iraqi, Israeli, Algerian and Lebanese performers. In 2003 Dr **Malcolm Miller** created the JMI Forum for Israeli Music (FIM). He says: 'While many Israeli performers are internationally recognised, the vast repertoire of music for concert and stage by Israeli composers is still unfamiliar in the UK and beyond. Unique to Israeli music is the particular symbiosis of East and West. The highlights have been two days featuring the music of Israeli composers at the Southbank Centre in 2004 and 2008. FIM also appointed a '**Visiting Composer from Israel**', and with first Menachem Wiesenberg and subsequently Michael Wolpe who is the Head of Composition and Conducting at the Jerusalem Academy, a vibrant exchange programme is in place. More than 30 lectures, workshops or seminars have been given at 15 British music colleges and Michael Wolpe has in turn invited British professors to work at the Jerusalem Academy. FIM also supports the International Israeli music **competition** run by Sagi Hartov and endeavours to include the winners in a recital in a prestigious venue.

In March 2011, FIM will host a major **International Conference** on Israeli Music at London University (see page 1) and a concert at the Purcell Room on Thursday 31 March will feature musicians and music from Israel.

Created a Jewish Music Institute Library

Doris and the late Bertie Black supported the Jewish Music Institute and their names are associated with the Jewish Music Institute Library. It was officially opened by Dr Christian Meyer of the Schoenberg Institute in Vienna at a prestigious event at SOAS in March 2003. Encouraging messages were delivered on stage from colleagues at the British Library and the Royal College of Music amongst others. The contents of the library cover a period from the **Middle-Ages to the 21st Century** and genres from folk and ethnic to liturgical and art music on 78s, LPs CDs, manuscripts, scores and in books. The library has many personal collections from cantors and choirmasters who made a special contribution to Jewish music in Britain. You can search the record collection on the JMI website www.jmi.org.uk. JMI's books on music are catalogued by the main library at SOAS and can be searched on the university's catalogue. JMI has been made a Research Centre for the Florida Atlantic University's Judaica Sound Archives. You can see this wonderful resource at http://faujsa.fau.edu/jsa/home.php. To visit the JMI library, contact Francesca Ter-Berg 07962 251 601 or email francesca@jmi.org.uk.

Created Major Public Jewish Culture Events in Trafalgar Square and Regent's Park

The last four years have marked the growing relationship with the **Mayor of London** and the Greater London Authority and the creation of '**Simcha on the Square**' a huge public celebration of Jewish culture in Trafalgar Square in 2006 and subsequently in 2007 and 2008. This huge event was presented by JMI on behalf of JCUK – the Forum for Jewish Culture Providers that Geraldine and Rickie Burman, Director of the Jewish Museum London established in 2001. It was hailed as a groundbreaking event in the annals of Jewish culture in Britain. In 2009 and 2010 JMI, with the participation of many colleagues in JCUK, presented instead '**Klezmer in the Park**' in partnership with the Mayor of London – a free Jewish Culture event in Regent's Park for all the family, enjoyed by thousands of Jewish and other Londoners.

Celebrated the 350th Anniversary of Jews in Britain in 2006

The Gift of Music: JMI along with the whole community celebrated this anniversary, not only with 'Simcha on the Square' but with a raft of special events. Of major significance to JMI was The Gift of Music, an extraordinary event at the Round House in support of the Jewish Music Institute, organised by Walter Goldsmith, JMI Chairman at the time, working together with Dame Gail Ronson, Don Black and Maureen Smith. It celebrated the contribution of Jews to the world of music and featured such celebrated artists as Michel Legrand, Maria Friedman, Michael Ball, Brian Conley and Maureen Lipman. Many remarked that this was one of the most glittering and memorable events they had ever attended. **Myra Hess Day:** Another major achievement of the 2006 anniversary celebrations was to help initiate the Myra Hess Commemoration Day at the National Gallery. This is a project that we are delighted to see has been ongoing annually since then – still supported each year by Ernest Hecht – the generous sponsor that JMI brought together with Carmel Hart, Clive Bettington and the National Gallery Education Department to establish this important commemoration. It shines a light on a significant Jewish pianist and the outstanding work she did during WW2 in staging concerts each day in the National Gallery. Our JMI Trustee Betty Collick sang in one of these concerts in July 1943.

Chanukah candle lighting for the first time in Trafalgar Square was also facilitated by JMI with the office of the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone.

Distinguished pianist, Yonty Solomon, a pupil of Dame Myra Hess, takes a bow after his lunchtime recital at her tribute event in the Barry Rooms, National Gallery. This event was helped into creation by JMI as part of the 350th celebrations. JMI supporter Ernest Hecht sponsored the event, which continues each October.

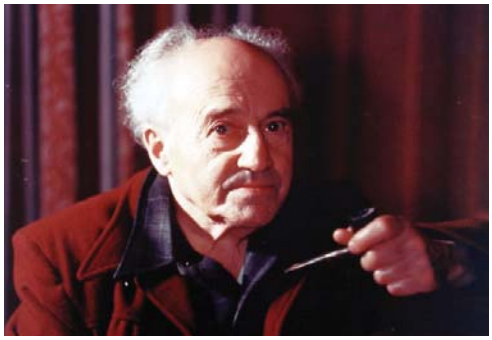
Celebrated Composer Ernest Bloch on the 50th Anniversary of his Death

2007 saw the beginning of JMI celebrations of the Swiss-American composer Ernest Bloch. Rabbi Dr Norman Solomon supported and guided the biggest gathering of key Bloch scholars (and performers) as well as members of the Bloch family in Cambridge that year; an event that proved a really warm-hearted and enjoyable International Conference from which a book is now being published by Cambridge University Press. Performances of Bloch's music were encouraged throughout the world during 2009 – the 50th anniversary of Bloch's death. JMI presented two outstanding chamber concerts at the Wigmore Hall featuring the piano quintets performed by Piers Lane and the Goldner Quartet and a violin recital by Jack Liebeck who has since gone on to win major awards. These were supported by the John S Cohen Foundation together with Norman Solomon, whose late wife had actually met Ernest Bloch. JMI helped to create The **International Ernest Bloch Society** with distinguished Presidents (including the late Sir Charles Mackerras) and Vice Presidents to continue the work of promoting the music of Ernest Bloch. Professor Malcolm Troup is the Chairman of the Society and its activities can be seen on the society website www.ernestblochsociety.org. These include regular Newsletters, an international competition, talks and performances.

Dame Gail Ronson DBE (left) Maureen Lipman, at the spectacular Gift of Music event at the Roundhouse in 2006 that Dame Gail and Walter Goldsmith created in support of JMI

Celebrated the excitement of Nu? Musik!

JMI's Nu? Musik! team collaborated with many vibrant young musicians who are drawing on the music of their roots and reclaiming their identity through contemporary and experimental sounds. First were artists of the JDub record label of NYC (famous for launching Orthodox rapper Matisyahu) and **rapper** Epryhme, who was in the UK for some Purim Spieling and who gave a spectacular performance at Sandys Row Synagogue, where he mixed traditional Klezmer and Middle Eastern harmonies with **hip hop, Kabbalah, psychology and politics.** Also in March, JMI and AMC (Asian Music Circuit) co-hosted an eclectic evening at Cafe Oto in Dalston, featuring renowned Carnatic violinist Jyotsna Srikanth performing a **traditional South Indian** set followed by the London Klezmer Quartet playing **traditional Jewish music** from Eastern Europe – culminating in **experimenting together** with common threads creating magical new sounds. In June, pop groups and singers competed in the UJS Battle of the Bands. The lucky winners were given scholarships to attend KlezFest 2010 and develop their talent in a Jewish context. In August *Girls in Trouble* (also signed to JDub) played at The Macbeth in Hoxton. Lead singer and violinist Alicia Jo Rabins describes their music as '**post biblical art pop**'. Their haunting melodies and beautiful stories of Biblical women described from a personal perspective left the audience mesmerised. This past Sukkot has seen an explosion of artist celebration. The Carlebach Minyan and Elliot Tucker presented '**Skin of the Leviathon**' - a night of art, film, klezmer, poetry and storytelling in the Sukkah of a small, beautifully restored synagogue in the Jewish East End. Clarinetist Amy Sampson and friends, all graduates of KlezFest, played heart-breaking Doinas and new arrangements by Frank London. Nearby, Spitalfields City Farm saw the launch of The **East London Sukkah**, a collaboration between the subversive Jewish network Jewdas, architect Heather Ring, the East London Mosque, and others, with music curated by our own Francesca Ter-Berg. Visitors were fed, engaged with in-depth discussion and entertained throughout the week by a variety of radical thinkers, superb visual and spoken word artists plus live **klezmer music** by Klezmer Klub, Merlin and Polina Shepherd, and Kavona. To know more about the bands, performers or events or to tell us about your Nu? Musik! activities, contact Laura@jmi.org.uk or Francesca@jmi.org.uk.



Ernest Bloch – the man and his music were reassessed for the 21st Century with a conference in Cambridge in 2007 and a Festival including concerts at the Wigmore Hall in 2009 the 50th anniversary of his death

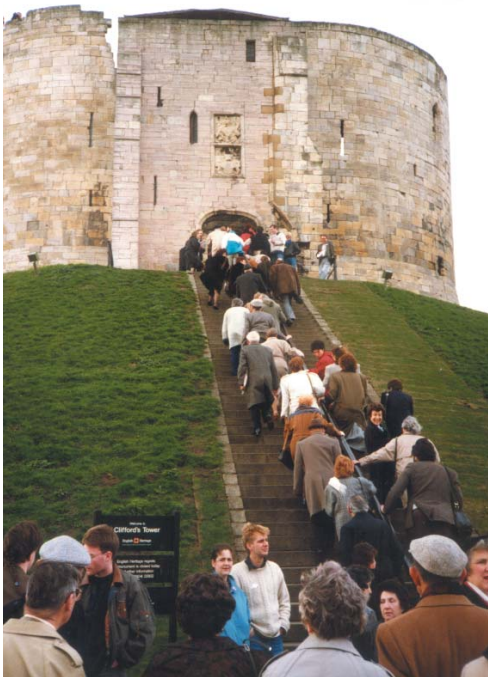
Laura Wolfisz (left) and Francesca Ter-Berg Nu? Musik! facilitators, with Geraldine

What are the highlights of JMI's activity?

Let's ask some of our long time associates to tell of their most enduring memories.

Geraldine and Sylvia Lewin at the launch of the first Bnai Brith Jewish Music Festival in 1984 (Derek Goldfoot)

Kaddish for Terezin in Canterbury Cathedral June 1986 (Juliette Soester)



Guests ascending the steps to Clifford's Tower in York for the commemorative service March 1990 (Yorkshire Echo)

Geraldine Auerbach receives her MBE at Buckingham Palace October 2000 (Sylvia Lewin)

Sylvia Lewin remembers a Terezin day in Canterbury in 1986

Sylvia Lewin, under whose auspices as National President of Bnai Brith the Jewish Music Festival was instigated in 1984, remembers how hard it was to get the first festival off the ground and how Geraldine's plan for a 30-day multi-event feast came to fruition. That was then followed by 9 more biennial Jewish Music Festivals up to the year 2000 taking Jewish music for the first time into the mainstream British cultural arena. Sylvia especially appreciated that 'All events were documented in a programme book brimming with interesting information'. (Copies of all these programmes are still available from JMI).

Sylvia's most touching memories surround the Canterbury event in the June 1986 Festival dedicated to the victims of the Holocaust. She remembers 'We brought together pianist Edith Kraus from Israel and bass-baritone Karel Berman from Prague. They had last been together in Terezin concentration camp. They met again in Canterbury after 40 years. She sat down at the piano, he stood alongside - and they made music as if there had been no break. There was not a dry eye in the house'. A film was made about them called 'They Never Touched my Bread' and broadcast on ITV on Remembrance Sunday 1986.

Sylvia Lewin also fondly remembers our celebration of Patron Larry Adler's 80th birthday and other amazing events. She says: 'Geraldine deservedly was awarded the MBE and I was the lucky one who accompanied Ronnie and Geraldine to Buckingham Palace. Watching Geraldine curtseying to the Queen and 'teaching' her about Jewish music also brought a lump to the throat'.

Composer Ronald Senator on his *Kaddish for Terezin*

'I am personally grateful to Geraldine and JMI for launching my Holocaust Requiem, 'Kaddish for Terezin', with libretto by the late Rabbi Albert Friedlander, at Canterbury for which they obtained the auspices of the United Nations no less, the German Government and the Council of Christians and Jews. This work has since been performed worldwide including in the Vatican and in Terezin itself, with the leading orchestras and soloists and often in the presence of Ambassadors and Jewish and Christian dignitaries'.

Jackie Gryn remembers Canterbury:

Mrs Jacky Gryn recalls the emotion of listening to her late husband Rabbi Hugo Gryn – himself having been a concentration camp inmate - blow the shofar in front of an audience of 900 in Canterbury Cathedral. This was the Anglican Church's heartfelt commemoration of the Shoah. (We had not realised that those fleeing Nazi persecution had actually been given refuge in the Deanery at Canterbury during the war). This event was broadcast live on BBC Radio London with interviews with Hugo and other holocaust survivors in the intermissions.

Clifford's Tower Commemoration, York 1990

For many, one of the most memorable events was the historic long-weekend in March 1990, commemorating the massacre of Jews in Clifford's tower 800 years earlier. This was organised together with many organisations – the York Jewish-Christian Friendship Society, CCJ, the York Council of Churches, the History Department of York University and the Jewish Communities of York and Leeds. Sylvia Lewin remembers: 'Geraldine created an event to remember with music, drama, poetry, walks and musical services in Churches and Synagogues'. It started with a service and Kadish recited by Rabbi Norman Solomon in Clifford's Tower itself in the presence of the Archbishop of York. There was a reception with the Lord Mayor of York in the Guildhall and on Saturday night there was a magnificent performance in York Minster of Ernest Bloch's Hebrew *Sacred Service* performed by Jewish and Christian choirs conducted by Malcolm Singer. It concluded on Sunday afternoon with a superbly moving *Celebration of Heritage and Hope* created by Canon Geoffrey Hunter who co-chaired the planning team.

Joe Lehrer, Treasurer of Bnai Brith, wrote

What a Triumph! I can't remember spending a more outstandingly memorable weekend than last week's at York. The whole event was amazing, musically, religiously and organisationally. Even God played His part – the weather being delightful!

Judy Obrart remembers York and other highlights

Former Trustee and Director of the 1988 Jewish Music Festival, and still closely associated with JMI, Judy says, 'I come from Yorkshire, have visited York many times but found spending Friday night in the company of probably the biggest gathering of Jews there since the Middle Ages unbelievably moving'. A Friday night Shabbat service in Bootham School with Rabbi Walter Rothschild of Leeds officiating with the whole of the Zemel Choir drew hundreds of Jews of all denominations as well as Christians, Quakers, and nuns – who marvelled that 'even the words were the same'. Judy went on to say, all events that weekend were memorable but 'there was something about benching (singing grace after

meals) after a hot kosher dinner that Friday night in the Merchant Adventurers' Hall, (that only our Trustee Judith Unikower could have arranged) that lifted that evening beyond the just memorable'.

Judy says: 'I also fondly remember a committee meeting about the prospective concert at St. Paul's Cathedral with Yehudi Menuhin conducting Bloch's 'Sacred Service'. I remarked that this was a big enough event to invite a Royal. OK, says Geraldine, can you organise it? I phoned Buckingham Palace and wrote a letter as directed. Reply came back saying HRH Prince Philip would consider it at his next planning meeting and then another one saying 'yes'. '

Judy also has clear memories of 'hearing Mendelssohn's Octet played on 8 Stradivarius instruments at the inauguration of JMI; hearing Barry Humphries, otherwise known as Dame Edna Everage, explain how he first got to know the 'banned' composers from Germany and Austria; watching Yiddish Theatre in Yiddish when I only know a few words (must get around to going to Ot Azoy!); singing in a massed choir at the Chanukah concert conducted by Stephen Glass to a capacity audience at the Queen Elizabeth Hall; watching the interest and belief in our Jewish music heritage grow and flourish over the last 25 years. It's been a great journey!'

Yvonne Glass remembers Ashkenazi and Sephardi

'I can hardly believe I have been with JMI for 10 years.' Yvonne says: Having worked in music and at the BBC and even having written my University dissertation on the topic of Jewish music, I was hardly prepared for the delicious onslaught of diverse Jewish musical experiences that came my way. First was my initiation into Klezmer at the inaugural KlezFest London in 2001, where I stood mesmerised and let the sounds of Eastern Europe seep into my very being. Little did I know then that I would become JMI Event Coordinator dealing with every aspect of KlezFest for the next ten years! Truly amazing was to bring Klezmer to London's concert venues, such as the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Jazz Café and specially the Union Chapel in Islington, where in 2005 we witnessed a capacity audience straining to hear the mystical sounds of Giora Feidman's clarinet as he slowly made his way from the back, his clarinet getting louder and louder until he burst into life with his band when finally reaching the stage. Then who can forget the 'Sons of Sepharad' with three great Sephardi Cantors accompanied by oud and percussion performing from the bimah of the candle-lit Bevis Marks Synagogue. No-one wanted to leave despite having sat on hard wooden benches the whole evening.'

Hirsh Cashdan recalls sleeping in Anne Boleyn's Room

A volunteer for JMI since 2005, Hirsh says: 'When I decided to take early retirement I had looked around for interesting activities. I am so pleased I found JMI where I was immediately welcomed as "one of the family". This has given me many memorable experiences. I particularly recall being moved by sitting on the floor at West London Synagogue singing spiritually uplifting nigunim at Klezfest 2006, suffused by the warmth and passion of the faculty and particularly mesmerised by Shura Lipovsky. Another unforgettable experience was to attend and present a paper as a JMI delegate at Sacred Voices - an interfaith 3 day conference at Windsor Castle in 2007, on the similarities and contrasts between Jewish, Christian and Islamic music. I had the dubious fortune of being allotted the rooms in which Ann Boleyn had slept! I am thankful to JMI for introducing me to Merlin Shepherd, one of the foremost Klezmer clarinettists in the world who is patiently teaching me and enabled me to make a few public appearances including playing one of Rabbi Geoffrey Shisler's new compositions at the launch of his new synagogue music book – Shiru Lo Shir Chadash - at the New West End Synagogue in 2008.'

Betty (Sagon) Collick's memory is of Hebrew in York Minster.

Mezzo soprano, who sang to the troops in WW2 and was a member of the Carl Rosa Opera Company and also worked for Decca Records, Betty has been associated with JMI for most of its 25 years. She was a fixture with her clipboard as stage manager for many JMI concerts at the Queen Elizabeth Hall – putting all the artists at their ease. Hearing the Hebrew words of Bloch's Sacred Service ring out amongst the rafters of York Minster is a treasured memory for her. She says, 'I well remember travelling up to York once a month with Geraldine and meeting with the Canons of York Minster and others, planning the whole weekend of music, poetry and prayer. Helping Geraldine organise all these activities has been an amazing and enlightening experience and I look forward to many more in the future. Her contribution to spreading the knowledge of Jewish Music is outstanding and unique and we hope it will continue for many years to come.'

Valerie Bello – Ben Uri Orchestra Concerts at West London Synagogue

In its early days, B'nai B'rith enthusiastically helped to establish the Festival, sponsoring events and raising funds. My initial involvement dates back to 1984 when Geraldine asked me, as a member of both B'nai B'rith and West London Synagogue, if I would organise a concert under the baton of Sydney Fixman, our Music Director, at the West London

HRH Prince Philip, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Lord Menuhin: St Paul's Cathedral November 1995 when Yehudi Menuhin conducted Ernest Bloch's *Sacred Service* (Judy/Roger Obrart)

Judy Obrart with special guest star and Patron Spike Milligan at the JMI Jewish Culture Day, South Bank 1999

Chris Smith the then Rt Hon Minister for Culture, Media and Sport opening the 9th London International Jewish Music Festival at St John's, Smith Square with a fanfare on the Shofar instructed by Malcolm Miller (left) November 1998

Sylvia Lewin with Patron, Larry Adler at his JMI 80th birthday celebration (Doug Mackenzie)

Edith Kraus, pianist and Karel Berman, bass baritone who were incarcerated in Terezin, brought together again in Canterbury after over 40 years take a bow after a performance in the Old Synagogue, Canterbury June 1986.

Lucie Skeaping and The Burning Bush who performed and conducted workshops at 'Klezmer on the Cam' August 2002

Laoise Davidson JMI Head of Communications; Tom Tomlinson, Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities SOAS; Walter Goldsmith, Chairman of JMI and Geraldine Auerbach Director of JMI at a garden party in Harrow to celebrate JMI's 21st anniversary (Vicky Alhadeff)

Yiddish actors, the late Bernard Mendelovitch (left) and Anna Tzelniker (far right) with lady Solti and Geraldine Auerbach at the House of Commons reception hosted by Lord Janner in 2003 to inaugerate the JMI Yiddish Forum (Judy/Roger Obrart)

Sophie Solomon, Dora Schwarzberg, Menachem Wiesenberg and Malcolm Singer at the Première of Menachem's Double Concerto with the Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra March 2007.

Geraldine Auerbach MBE, who was made an Hon. Fellow of SOAS at the 2008 graduation between Professor Keith Howard (left) Head of Department of Music and Professor Paul Webley, Principal and Director of SOAS.

Synagogue as part of the Festival. This became a well loved and important fixture for the first three festivals.

Lady Klug – *Klezmer-on-the-Cam* Weekend

Liebe (Lady Klug) writes: 'Peterhouse is over 700 years old - one of the most revered colleges in Cambridge. It is more used to Nobel laureates - but undaunted, the Cambridge Jewish Residents Association, helped and inspired by Geraldine and the JMI KlezFest programme, hired this hallowed place for a long weekend in 2002. We brought exuberant tunes from Jewish Eastern Europe never heard before in its long history - although we had learned that the land was originally owned by a Jew. So picture the scene: the large vaulted dining hall with stained glass windows, the long wooden tables lit by thick half-used candles from the chapel, creating an atmosphere far from the 21st century. Helped by the wine, and encouraged by the lively playing of Lucie Skeaping and the Burning Bush, the 100 participants began to dance. Round and round the long tables, singing and swaying in celebration. Of what? This final meal seemed to bring the past and the present full circle. Is it too fanciful to suggest that for that while, the land that had belonged to a Jew was being returned to us dancing Jews?'

Laoise Davidson – Every KlezFest was Special

'I can recall many highlights during my 5 years working for JMI' says Laoise Davidson who was JMI Head of Communications and Event Organiser from 2003 – 2008, 'Among them must be the three 'Simcha on the Square' events held in Trafalgar Square, where we brought Klezmer, the Hora, Israeli dancing and Sephardi music to the heart of London. KlezFest in Hyde Park was also a high point, where several thousand Jewish music fans turned out to dance, sing and listen to top notch Klezmer in a festival atmosphere in London's most popular park. Every KlezFest that I attended or helped organise was special, but I will always remember KlezFest 08 where we focussed on the Yiddish Theatre and brought together the creative talents of New York trumpeter and composer Frank London, Yiddish Broadway singer Joanne Borts and Yiddish dance star Steve Weintraub to develop a Yiddish theatre piece. For those of us lucky enough to be in that group, we learnt so much about performing in theatre, movement and professionalism and witnessed the total dedication and passion of our American Klezmer heros.'

Graham Halsey – A Pritt Stick, Pair of Scissors, and 50p of Photocopying – Look what it led to!

'It was a Friday afternoon, 25 years ago and into my print shop came Geraldine (though I didn't know that at the time). She spent ages and about 50p taking copies and resizing bits, cutting them up and sticking them down at my shop counter, until eventually she had a leaflet she was pleased with. That I reckon was the start of what we now know as JMI. It wasn't long before she was back, and this time it was for typesetting and proper printing, for what became the first Bnai Brith Music Festival. I've watched JMI grow into the acclaimed organisation that it is today, and am very pleased to have been involved. I'm still setting and printing the Newsletters, and such is Geraldine's persuasive power that she has got me writing a little piece for this commemorative issue - and I don't do writing! But then if you look at the list of famous names of both patrons and artists associated with JMI over the years you realise that it is Geraldine's enthusiasm and dedication that has persuaded them to get involved. Long may it continue!'

David Stone – The Transition from JMHT – to JMI

David, who had managed a Holocaust Commemoration Concert at the Royal Opera House and also created the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, attended Menuhin's performance of the Bloch Sacred Service that JMI presented in St Paul's – as an ex-principal of his chamber orchestra. It was there, he said, that Geraldine 'corralled' him. 'The Jewish Music Heritage Trust, JMI's progenitor, was then enjoying a plateau of success: but to realise its considerable further potential called for administrative structure and long-term planning. It was a pleasure for me to contribute to the metamorphosis into JMI and the symbiotic SOAS relationship. I treasure the warmth, friendship, companionship and humour of the Board members and Geraldine's community. It was a real privilege for me, specially as I am a non-Jew, albeit with Jewish forebears. I believe in the power of shared artistic experience to cross boundaries and create understanding. There is a wealth of Jewish arts and culture to nurture, explore and promulgate. They communicate the indomitable spirit of the Jewish people. In this essential mission, music leads the way. It is, wise men say, close to the divine language. And so, long may JMI continue to 'praise him in the cymbals and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe' and may the Lord 'hear our songs and our private prayers within them'.

JMI summer Programmes

What better way of describing the atmosphere and effectiveness of our teaching programmes than hearing from the students themselves:

Ever since the Jewish Music Institute was invited to be based at SOAS in the year 2000, JMI has developed programmes of practical training in various aspects of Jewish music. These involve **evening classes, workshops and intensive summer schools**. They cover klezmer and Yiddish music and song, the music of the synagogue and choral music for children and adults. These courses are run in association with the award-winning Department of Music at SOAS and many form part of the World Music Summer School at SOAS that JMI helped to create.

Summer Schools and workshops have been held on the Russell Square and Vernon Square campuses of SOAS as well as at West London Synagogue; Central Synagogue, Great Portland Street; the Leo Baeck College; Edgware and District Reform Synagogue; Jewish schools; British Music Colleges; the Southbank Centre and the Wigmore Hall.

The most inspiring teachers have been invited from New York, San Francisco, Montreal, Berlin, Amsterdam and further east. Nearly 200 Summer School students each year have come from around the world: about half from the Greater London area, a quarter from other centres in the UK and others from South Africa, Australia. Brazil, Canada, the USA, Western and Eastern Europe.

What do 'KlezFesters' say?

KlezFest was Incredible - it made me feel **so proud to be Jewish**, got me in touch with some incredible people and made me fall in love with Klezmer. (Abi Magrill 16, London)

A wonderful week. Jewish music and culture really speaks to me and I have felt connected spiritually and musically throughout the week. (London)

The week was dramatically important to me. As you said it would, it fed my soul. I learned, danced, sang, played my instrument, played in ensembles. I met fabulous people and spent quality time in structured and unstructured settings. Plus it was FUN FUN FUN! (Judy Kleppel, Philadelphia)

Again I like to say a thousand thanks. This wonderful week with its warm and friendly mood, the brilliant faculty and your warm-hearted leadership is a touching memory. (Christian Strupp, Dortmund)

What do Song-Schoolers think?

'It was an extremely important experience for me. The **creative and nourishing** environment I had a privilege to be in during this week was very much enriching and encouraging to carry on exploring and performing Jewish song!' (Tanya Gutova, Moscow)

'It's not just about the music, the atmosphere is what draws people as well. Being together with people in a team, a group, sharing a vibe and a feeling. The food this year was excellent. The presence of the Russians added real depth, soul and talent into the mix. Thank you.' (Penelope Solomon, London)

'My summer with JMI at the Jewish Song School and also at the Cantorial Summer School and Choral Festival was a most exciting experience. I got a lot of new inspiration and enlarged my musical experience. The Synagogue of Gothenburg will celebrate its 150 year anniversary at the end of this month and we will perform songs both in Yiddish and Ladino as well as new music by a local composer. Our Queen and King will be present so it's quite a big thing for us.' (Lars Hernqvist, Gothenberg)

And how do Faculty Members feel?

As a teacher in New York's KlezKamp for 18 years, I can tell you that KlezFest was **one of the very best Klezmer weeks for me** – for all the positive energy there, for a great collective staff, great neighbourhood and shul, fine food and hotel etc – there was a real 'family feel to this group of people which was helped by the fact that it was a relatively small number but it was really an amazing combination of folks from all over the globe! Bravo!

Frank London – leader of the KlezFest faculty for the last 6 years writes: I would like to thank Geraldine, Barbara and Yvonne for their sustained years of effort. It is not an understatement to say that you have made an impact on the way Jewishness is seen and celebrated in the UK; had a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of people, and done amazing work that is so far beyond the call of duty that we can only stand in amazement. Our hats are off to you, may you accomplish much more; until 120 or more years. A groyse dank, enough cannot be said.

To the best of my knowledge, **no other festival like this** has paid so much attention (successfully) to growing and nurturing its own local community of committed, capable and qualified artist - teachers. The proposed touring extension that Geraldine proposes is testimony to that effort. It is and always has been an honour and a real joy to know and work together with each of you.

Frank London, KlezFest from 2005 to 2010 Programme Director, leading KlezFesters and the public at Regent's Park (Vicky Alhadeff)

Andreas Schmitges, Emma Stiman and Barbara Rosenberg and others enjoying Yiddish dancing in Regent's Park (Vicky Alhadeff)

The late Jim Marcovitch, of She'koyokh Klezmer Ensemble, (London) and Mark Kovnatzkiy, of Berl, Schmerl and Sons (Moscow) and the Queen Esther Klezmer Trio in Germany (Kristel Richards)

Polina Shepherd at Klezmer Klimax! Queen Elizabeth Hall July 2005 (Kristel Richards)

Barbara Rosenberg, Yvonne Glass and Geraldine Auerbach – the KlezFest London team – with KlezFest Faculty Head, Frank London at KlezFest 2010

Anna Tzelniker Yiddish Actor and frequent participant in Ot Azoy! with Warren Mitchell at the JMI 60th Anniversary celebration of The King of Lampedusa, in which Anna originally took the starring role (Judy/Roger Obrart)

Alan Bern of Brave Old World KlezFest programme Director 2004 (Ruth Steinberg)

Matt Darriau of The Klezmatics at KlezFest 2005 (Kristel Richards)

Cantor Geoffrey Shisler at the launch of his book of synagogue music at the New West End Synagogue with Cantor Moshe Schulhof and convention organiser Hirsh Cashdan.

Stephen Glass introducing the London Teenage Choir at the QEH July 2005 (John Rifkin)

It's Chanukah! Adults and children take the QEH stage December 2005 (John Rifkin)

What about Ot Azoy! the Yiddish Crash Course?

Each year 50 or so students ranging in age from 16 to 91 gather at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London for a total immersion in Yiddish language – until they start to dream in Yiddish. This introductory course organised by Khayele Beer of UCL of one week only, enables those who are not confident or advanced enough or willing to give up a whole summer to take the first step in learning Yiddish. Many of our 'graduates' are now happily taking higher degrees and attending other courses, and Ot Azoy! itself now has a core of regular returnees and advanced students. Here is what the students say:

A very inspiring week with outrageously good teachers and a great variety of good people participating.

Very emotional and enriching. A link into the **language and culture of my father** and of the lost and destroyed culture. Finding spiritual responses to the music that I didn't know I had.

I am not at all educated in Judaism. I was even very separated from it. As a first generation child re the war where my parents were murdered. Yet practising seriously Buddhism for 25 years opened my heart paradoxically to return to Yiddishkeit!

'Extremely stimulating. I thought it would focus more just on the language; so delighted that there was input on culture too....Films particularly valuable for hearing the language ... you didn't make it clear what a wonderful singing teacher/leader you had in Shura Lipovsky, which lifted the course into another realm.' (David Lewis, Hemel Hempstead).

What of Cantorial Summer Courses:

Programmes of enhancing music in the synagogue have been established to meet the needs of progressive and orthodox congregations. Participants in the **progressive courses** expressed great appreciation for the teaching and inspiration of Cantor Josee Wolff.

'It was a great experience. I am taking both information as well as approaches back home with me for my community'. (Beth Gahbler, Munich).

And to quote participants at the **Orthodox events**: 'It was fantastic – rejuvenating, enriching and inspiring. Lots to think about and a huge amount to put into my davening';

'Very stimulating. I davened the Friday night service on the day after the course and it was probably the most spiritually uplifting I have ever done.'

'I appreciate all the hard work to produce such an excellent programme. The dinner on Wednesday followed by singing reminded me of the old days when there were many chazanim in London who gathered each Chanukah for similar evenings.'

'Thank you very much for an outstanding experience which I believe involved a lot of effort from many good people! This is very important for Jewish music not to be forgotten in the future.'

What did they say of the Choral Festival?

'It was thrilling. I very much enjoyed being part of it - as did everyone else. Yes, Stephen is a remarkable young man. Such extraordinary talent. We were very lucky to experience him'. (Ruth Sontagg)

Simply put for now... thank you and well done. It was brilliant! (Simon Appleman, Head of Music, Jewish Free School)

Malcolm Miller wrote in the Jewish Chronicle:

'Seldom does the UK experience Jewish choral singing of **such excellence**, tonal appeal and discipline as at the performance of modern Jewish choral music at St John's Smith Square on 26 June (2003). This exceptionally fine choral singing was the result of ten days of choir leaders' masterclasses, schools workshops and massed choir rehearsals conducted by the acclaimed choral conductor and arranger Stephen Glass.

Book a Band with JMI

Yvonne Glass, Events Coordinator has looked after band bookings for JMI for over 10 years. She is continually surprised and challenged by the requests received. Barmitzvahs and weddings make up only a small part of her work!

This year, we have satisfied requests from a shofar blower for a burial for a high-ranking Nigerian Christian, (where Paul Tkachenko obliged - and added a shofar to his list of instruments) to music for Holocaust Memorial Day in locations such as Dudley Education College and Foston Hall, one of Her Majesty's prisons. Guy Schalom gave a darabuka workshop to a corporate group in a Birmingham hotel while the Merlin Shepherd Quartet entertained the International Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists in a smart London hotel. Klezmer was brought to the stage of the International Music Festival in Llangollen in July for thousands of folk music enthusiasts and will again reach into the wilds of Norfolk when She'koyokh Klezmer Ensemble perform to the Jewish community in Norwich in November. All this goes to show how Jewish music, especially klezmer, is in the wind and people are **starting to sniff it** and want it. Long may JMI continue to provide it!

What difference does JMI make?

An Ambassador for the Jewish People

'The past twenty-five years have witnessed the phenomenal growth of the Jewish Music Institute into one of the leading organisations in the world promoting Jewish music. The reputation of JMI has spread far and wide in national and international circles, introducing Jewish music to people from all walks of life. In fact, in addition to opening up Jewish culture, it has played an ambassadorial role on behalf of the Jewish people'

Valerie Bello, B'nai B'rith UK

Inspires Many Generations

'JMI continues to inspire and excite. I love the international and cross-generational diversity of your KlezFests and other summer programmes. It is a terribly exciting and moving experience; singing, dancing and learning with so many enthusiastic people of all ages and backgrounds all sharing and enjoying Jewish culture.'

Josephine Burton, YaD

Gives Jews an Awareness of their Own Culture

'JMI's achievement has been twofold: It has helped to raise Jewish awareness and pride in our musical heritage, which by many cultivated Jews in this country was long considered a marginal thing of negligible worth; It has won a hearing for Jewish music within the wider British culture, and most opportunely in these multi-cultural times. For these achievements you deserve the highest praise and gratitude'.

Victor Tunkel, Jewish music scholar and JMI Library Consultant

A Milestone in Jewish-Christian Relations

'I am sure that the event [in York] will have been not only a cultural and religious success but you have created another milestone in Jewish-Christian relations'.

Stewart S Cohen, National President, Bnai Brith (1990)

JMI Changed my Life ....

Laoise Davidson, JMI Head of Communications and Event Organiser from 2003 – 2008 says: 'I can honestly say that being part of JMI changed my life and made me incredibly proud of my Jewish roots and heritage. It opened up a world of music that I had been unaware of growing up, but felt connected to as soon as I heard it.

The Silver Jubilee Appeal. We invite -

2,500	Silver Jubilee **Friends** to contribute annually	£25
250	Silver Jubilee **Donors** to contribute annually	£250
25	Silver Jubilee **Members** to contribute annually	£2,500

You could change someone's life too

by subscribing to the JMI Silver Jubilee Appeal

Laoise adds: 'It is so wonderful to know that an organisation exists which heralds and shouts out about Jewish music, drawing in people from all backgrounds and walks of life and securing a bright future for an incredible wealth of culture'. Please help towards the next 25 years!'

Win a pair of silver plated candlesticks simply by subscribing to the JMI Silver Jubilee Appeal. Private draw will be made March 2011

I would like to change someone's life for the better and be one of the

25 People who will donate £2500 a year to JMI to become a **Silver Jubilee Member** [ ] £2500

250 people to donate £250 a year to become a **Silver Jubilee Donor** [ ] £250

2500 people to donate £25 a year to become a **Silver Jubilee Friend** [ ] £25

I would like to make a donation of (other amount) [ ] £

Please enter my name for the draw for the pair of silver plated candlesticks [ ]

Payment: I enclose a cheque made out to 'JMI' [ ]

or please debit my card *(not Amex)* No: [ ]

Expiry Date: ( ) Issue no *(where appropriate)*: ( ) Last 3 numbers of the security code *(on back of card)*: ( )

Title and Name: Tel

Address

Email Signature Date

I am a UK Tax Payer, you may treat my donation as Gift Aid: yes [ ] JMI is a registered charity No. 328228

Please send with cheque to : **Silver Jubilee Appeal, JMI, PO Box 232, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2NN**

Or email **jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk** with cc details. You can also pay via the JMI Website **www.jmi.org.uk** at the 'donate or pay' button.

Office use: Received: ch/cc Date acknowledged

Sally Nathan Whyte and Judith Unikower

It is with great sadness that we mourn the recent passing of two JMI Trustees:

Both were admirers and supporters of JMI from its earliest days. Sally and husband George particularly valued important musical commemorations of Jewish historical catastrophes such as JMI presented in York in 1990. In fact, George himself has written significant musical works on such subjects as Cabaret in Terezin and the Dreyfus affair which have been published and performed in prestigious venues worldwide. Sally's special interest in JMI was our library. She invited Dr Christian Meyer of the Schoenberg Institute in Vienna to open the Jewish Music Institute Library at SOAS in 2003.

It was around Judith's dining table that the first Bnai Brith Jewish Music Festival was created. As a representative of the Leo Baeck Lodge, Judith who died in October aged 89 became the Treasurer of JMI for many years, carefully looking after the funds and being central to all aspects of the organisation. She was also a superb catering manager for JMI events, arranging a reception in the Chapter House of Canterbury Cathedral and miraculously finding a supplier for a hot kosher Shabbat meal for 150 in York!

They will both be sorely missed.

Sunday 21 November 2010

A tribute to Joe Loss

STILL 'IN THE MOOD'

Featuring **Todd Miller and The Joe Loss Orchestra** and singers with special guest

Doors 7.00pm, 7.45 Start (ends 10.30)
Hampton School, Hanworth Road, Hampton, TW12 3HD
£25 and £35
Book on the internet
http://hamptonschool.org.uk

Presented by North West Surrey Synagogue and JMI

THE JEWISH MUSIC INSTITUTE

SOAS University of London

informing teaching performing inspiring

The Jewish Music Institute (JMI) is an international focus for bringing the rich culture of secular and sacred Jewish music from its ancient historical past, right up to its contemporary practice within reach of everyone in multicultural Britain. Based at SOAS University of London, it supports a full time lectureship in Jewish music and provides programmes of education, performance and information as well as a library of recordings, manuscripts and scores for scholars, musicians, the media and the public. JMI is an independent, cultural organisation with charitable status which embraces Jewish music, of communities east and west, ancient and modern, reflecting the geography of the Jewish diaspora, the cross-currents of migration and the range and depth of Jewish imagination.

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