jmi SOAS
newsletter

JEWISH MUSIC INSTITUTE SOAS education performance information

21st Anniversary Commemorative Edition

JMI is 21! Happy Birthday JMI!

The Jewish Music Institute. Doesn't the name suggest a quaint, academic, dusty sort of place where bespectacled ethno-musicologists might bump into each other over fraying scores and flaccid sandwiches?

Let me assure you there is nothing fraying or flaccid about the JMI, a protean, throbbing beast of an organisation, which has taken musical London by its throat and shaken it dizzy with Klezmer beats, Yiddish songs, Sephardi melodies, Cantorial spirals.

Concerts, workshops, seminars, jams – of the highest standards of musical excellence – take place in parks, bandstands, synagogues and concert platforms: the broad arm of JMI brings Jewish Music in every form to just about anybody who is interested, and has created over the years a vast and dedicated following who come together annually from all over the UK and abroad to develop their studies and music-making further.

How Geraldine Auerbach and her dedicated team achieve this is one of life's mysteries. She is a force of nature and a tremendous visionary, a magnificent plate-spinner, darting one minute from a new performance of a Holocaust opera at the Wigmore Hall to a Yiddish cabaret at the Yiddish Hoyz. Commissioning works, creating teenage choirs, sponsoring Ukrainian violinists, bringing over portly Canadian Chazanim, her remit and impact go far beyond the modest resources of her organisation'. So writes journalist and musician Rachel Lasserson at this milestone.

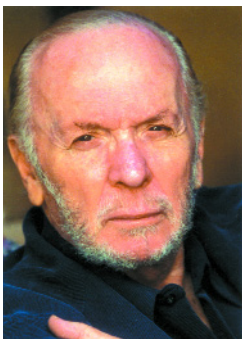
Tania Grinberg; Sao Paulo, Yves Levy; Paris and Madeline Solomon; London resonate with universal Jewish sounds at Regent's Park July 2005 (Vicky Alhadeff)

What of the future?

JMI has plans to extend its educational activities to many more schools in the country providing music resources for understanding the Jewish Way of Life, encouraging more children and teenagers to sing and play – why not have a klezmer band at the Schools Prom and Jewish choirs singing in national Festivals? JMI is excited about collaboration with Central Synagogue in presenting fascinating concert series. We also plan to extend our remit outside of London and are setting up a JMI section in the North West with special projects in Liverpool for the European Capital of Culture year in 2008. JMI is working with European partners in Paris, Weimar and Vilnius to create a Summer Academy in Klezmer and Yiddish next year. We hope to play our part in the 350th anniversary of Jews in Britain in 2006. To join our **JMI 350 Club** see page 12.

Herbert Kretzmer Patron

Introduces Jewish Songwriters Day



Herbert Kretzmer, the English lyricist of *Les Miserables* and who wrote the words to famous songs, *She* for Charles Aznavour and *Goodness Gracious Me* for Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren, will be Patron of the Jewish Culture Day at the South Bank Centre on Sunday 27 November and will introduce the gala concert *I write the songs ... that make the whole world sing* at 7.45pm in the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Four outstanding young West End Stars, Loren Geeting (BBC Radio 2's *Mr Voice of Musical Theatre*) Melinda Hughes (whose singing has taken her to more than thirty countries) Shona White who has starred as Cosette in *Les Miserables* and in *Mamma Mia*, and Steven Leas, lead singer of the very successful band *Moodswing*, take us on a magical journey through the unforgettable music and lyrics from Irving Berlin, though George Gershwin to Bob Dylan and Barry Manilow, in the songs of

(continues on page 2 column 2

Jewish Music Central –

A new musical collaboration

The Jewish Music Institute has now teamed up with the Central Synagogue in 'Jewish Music Central', to present innovative programmes in classical, jazz, klezmer, popular and liturgical Jewish music in the West End.

Steven Leas, Cantor of Central Synagogue, who will also be singing in the QEH I Write the Songs concert on 27 November

For JMI, this is an exciting partnership. The Jewish Culture Day at the South Bank on Sunday 27 November will be the first event of the Autumn/Spring Series. It will be followed by three more concerts also celebrating Jewish Songwriters, at Central Synagogue: *Central in Song* on Wednesday 21 December with songs for cantor and choir; *I Wandered Through Theresienstadt* on Thursday 26 January with popular and classical songs written in the Prague concentration camp (commemorating Holocaust Memorial Day) and Jacinta Sings Sephardi Songs on Sunday 18 March (celebrating the 350th anniversary of Jewish presence in

(continues on page 11 column 2)

This page has been kindly sponsored by: Dr Ralph and Mrs Zahava Kohn

From the Chairman

Our 21st anniversary comes on the eve of the 350th anniversary of Jews returning to Britain at the time of Oliver Cromwell in 1656. Lead by the Board of Deputies of British Jews there will be a number of major events across the community. It will be an opportunity to celebrate the immense contribution made by Jewish people over the last 350 years, and the vibrant impact that immigrant groups can make to a country that welcomes them.

To celebrate this major British anniversary – we want to emphasise the positive role of Jewish culture, and warmly invite you to join our special '**JMI 350 Club**'. Club members will be eligible for exclusive prizes and outings in this anniversary year. They will be included in a draw for a silver rose bowl from the exquisite Bond Street Jewellers Bentley and Skinner valued at £350 and also for 2 best tickets for a Philharmonia concert courtesy of Sir Sydney and Lady Lipworth. For this we are asking for £35 (or £350 if you prefer) or even £3.50 if you are more comfortable with this. This will show that you value and are willing to support our Jewish musical culture at this important anniversary.

In essence what JMI does can be expressed in two elements: We give Jews a pride and understanding of their heritage and culture and we give the wider community the opportunity for understanding Jewish life and culture leading to respect and tolerance between different faiths and communities. Both of these, I am sure you will agree are vital in today's climate of indifference, assimilation, suspicion or even hostility.

My aim, now more than ever, at these anniversaries, is to see that JMI can continue to play its role in our society. We need your help to do this. JMI has no core funding from anywhere and your contribution really makes a difference. See page 12 or the cover letter to join the Club.

I very much look forward to seeing many of you on the South Bank on 27 November for our annual Jewish Culture Day, this year Celebrating Jewish Songwriters, which we are promoting together with Central Synagogue in our new partnership 'Jewish Music Central'.

Here's to our next 21 years. L'Chayim!

Walter Goldsmith, FCA, FRSA
Chairman, Jewish Music Institute

Editorial

Inside this autumn Newsletter are details of the exciting annual Day at the South Bank as well as the Autumn/Winter concert series in association with Central Synagogue and listings of all future events including Sunday Sounds at the Shaw. There are also reviews of books CDs and events.

Starting on page 3 you find the story of 21 years of JMI's evolution from a music festival to a National Institute. We answer your questions about JMI and try to express what we and others see as our achievements. We highlight milestones along the way and give our thanks to the many artists, venues, academics, advisers, workers and financial backers who have worked with us and supported us along the way. Without you all we could not achieve anything. We look forward to the next era and together making our work ever more effective in Britain today.

We also give birth to our JMI baby Nu? Musik! - which we introduced last spring – now as a separate but related booklet. Edited by our Communications Director, Laoise Davidson, it demonstrates the exciting developments in Jewish music in the 21st century, in the UK, Europe and North America. Perhaps you could pass it on to any young people or musicians that you know. Please may we have your comments on our JMI Newsletter and its baby Nu? Musik! and tell us what particular kind of Jewish music you are interested in and how you would like to be kept informed. Our e-mail is jewishmusic@jmi.org.uk

This may be the last Newsletter in this format that you will receive from JMI unless you become a 'Friend' or join our **JMI 350 Club** (see the Chairman's letter above) or make some sort of annual contribution.

There are also some special outings exclusively for '**JMI 350 Club**' Members starting on 20 December with a Jazz Brunch at the Royal Opera House. Find out on page 12 how to join and be personally involved with us in the next 21 years, making sure that what has begun will grow and flourish.

Geraldine Auerbach MBE,
Director Jewish Music Institute

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Herbert Kretzmer and Songwriters cont from page 1, col 1

Broadway and the West End, Tin Pan Alley, the Yiddish Theatre and the popular music world.

The show will be directed by Jude Alderson who began her stage life as a trapeze artist before becoming an actress on stage and screen and an acclaimed musical theatre director. Tansy Aked, who has been musical director, or pianist of over 40 West End shows, directs the music and is joined on the other Steinway grand by Dominic Barlow.

At 4.15pm that day you can see an audiovisual biography of Herbert Kretzmer in the Purcell Room presented by Ruth and John Hill and at 6.00 they present the life of the 'Father of the British Musical', Lionel Bart.

Smoked Salmon Bagels will be available from 3.00 and the Jewish Youth Choir will perform in the foyer at 7.00pm.

That same morning you can follow Clive Bettington on a musical walk in the East End of London highlighting the musical stars that were nurtured there. (See listing on page 14 for full details and how to book for the concerts and the walk)

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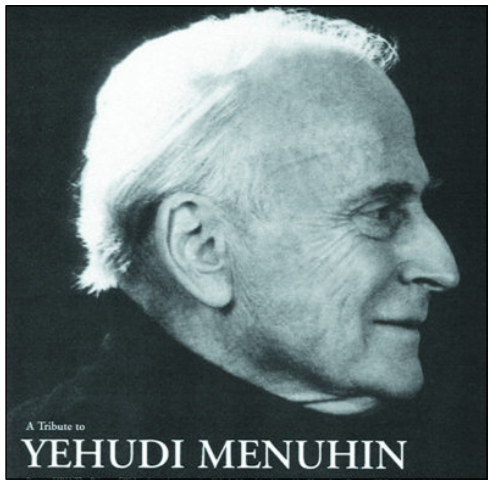
JMI is 21: Anniversary Reflections



Message on the inauguration of Jewish music studies at SOAS from the then President of JMI, Lord Menuhin OM KCB (1916 – 1999)

Lord Menuhin, President of JMI hosted an event at SOAS just three weeks before he died. It was particularly poignant that this Russian Jew who strode the world as a colossus of the music world, spent his last public appearance in London welcoming JMI and Jewish music studies to the University of London. He said:

'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.'

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, Joe Loss Lecturer in Jewish Music, SOAS, University of London, 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)

This page has been kindly sponsored by: Sir Sydney and Lady Lipworth; Susi Bradfield

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 South Bank 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 do you think you have achieved in your 21 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 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 festival's** (since we pioneered this in 1984) each lasting 4 weeks, our annual **JMI South Bank Jewish Culture Days**, and other events, upwards of 70,000 people have attended more than 600 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 this year).

Many concerts were **broadcast by the BBC** making them accessible to a much wider audience. More than a dozen **new works** were commissioned and many more heard for the first time in this country. We 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. Today in the UK many venues, promoters, organisations and musicians now present Jewish music. Our pioneering work in Jewish music performance has born 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 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.

Encouraged research and scholarship

Our **five International Conferences** and many seminars and training days on aspects of Jewish music at London Universities have brought over 250 scholars from around the world to share their research in Jewish music. With Alex we are now establishing a society for academics working in Jewish music in the UK.

This page has been kindly sponsored by: Jennifer Jankel and Mildred Loss

Provided opportunities for practical training

Being based at London University has opened many opportunities for running workshops, evening classes and summer programmes with the worlds 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, 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. Cantorial training has been introduced to fill a void for orthodox and progressive congregations.

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. Nearly 1000 students have been inspired to perform and teach Jewish music in their own environments. Read from page 10 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 will be performing in the foyer of the Queen Elizabeth Hall on 27 November. And the teenage choir, newly created by Stephen Glass performed at the South Bank Centre for the first time in July 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 offers a network of contacts.

'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 conferences and concerts on Schreker and his composition students in ***Thwarted Voices: Music Suppressed by the Third Reich*** and ***Continental Britons - The Émigré Composers***. This revealed how much research and promotion is needed to bring back to the concert hall the music of those who fled to the UK to escape Nazi persecution and how urgently needed is an archive for the effects of these composers and musicians

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'.

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.

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

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

The work of Hans Gál has been described as some of the most beautiful music to emerge from the 20th century. Coming in September is a new 3-CD set presenting his complete works for solo piano, including *eight world premiere recordings*, exquisitely performed by Gramophone Editor's Choice pianist Leon McCawley. Made in cooperation with the new Hans Gál Society, this important release contains music that spans virtually the composer's entire career and is a definitive endorsement of the composer's musical and cultural legacy.

For further information about Hans Gál, visit www.hansgal.com

CD 1
Sonata Op. 28 (1927) *
Suite Op. 24 (1922) *
Sonatina No. 1 Op. 58 (1951) *
Sonatina No. 2 Op. 58 (1949) *
Three Sketches Op. 7 (1910-11) *
Three Small Pieces Op. 64 (1933) *
Three Preludes Op. 65 (1944) *

CD 2
Twenty-four Preludes Op. 83 (1960)

CD 3
Twenty-four Fugues Op. 108 (1980) *

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Baroness Nicholson presenting final certificates to the JMI Millennium Award winners; Jim Marcovitch (London) left, and Rohan Kriwaczek (Brighton) 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)

Vice-Presidents of JMI, Jonathon Lyons and Lady Lipworth with Mike O'Connor, Director of the Millennium Commission at the JMI Award Scheme launch at the Arts Club (Obrart)

Judy Obrart with special guest star and Patron Spike Milligan at the JMI Jewish Culture Day on the South Bank 1999 (Roger Obrart)

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 would not have believed 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 had I not already lived through a similar experience at City! After all, it was there that I had witnessed at first hand the regenerative power of an age-old tradition which in these pluralistic days of 'musics' seemed to incorporate within itself all the attributes of the World Music that our century had been searching for, having in the course of its endless diaspora embraced and contributed to one culture after another, sometimes willingly sometimes under duress, until such hard-won internationalism had become no longer a limitation but rather a badge of honour if not a world mission.' (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 twice-yearly award-winning **Newsletter**, **online journals** and maintains an informative website **www.jmi.org.uk.**

Introduced the music of Israel to the UK

In 2000 JMI created a **Forum for Promotion of Arab-Jewish Dialogue Through Music** and included workshops and concerts of Middle Eastern music by Iraqi, Israeli, Algerian and Lebanese performers. This Forum works with the Department of Music at SOAS to create the Middle Eastern Music Forum.

Then a JMI **Forum for Israeli Music** (FIM) was formed in 2003 to promote interpretation and appreciation in the UK of the music of Israel in all its guises. Director of the Forum, Dr **Malcolm Miller** says 'While many Israeli performers are internationally recognized, 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 and the assimilation of elements from Jewish traditions, Arab and Middle Eastern musics, with Western approaches'.

'The highlight of FIM's activities to date was the successful 'Musical Dialogues of East and West' at the South Bank Centre on 28 November 2004, a day of concerts and lectures which featured works of ten Israeli composers including several British premieres. **Menachem Wiesenberg**, composer, pianist and arranger, was appointed inaugural 'JMI Visiting Israeli Composer', and delivered lectures and masterclasses at schools, universities and colleges. Wiesenberg's music will be featured in many concerts in the UK and JMI has commissioned a double Violin Concerto for classical and Klezmer soloists from him, scheduled for performance in 2006.

FIM also aims to form a resource library of Israeli music, the first 100 scores of which have, with the help of Cellist **Sagi Hartov**, the Israel Music Institute and the Embassy of Israel, already been placed at the Royal Academy of Music.

Who supports and endorses the work of JMI?

The Jewish Music Institute has received enthusiastic endorsement from **British academic, media and arts** fraternities as well as from the diverse Jewish community. JMI counts amongst its Officers and Patrons **Sir Simon Rattle, Michael Tilson Thomas, Lady Solti, Barry Humphries, Lord Janner of Braunstone QC, Lord Marks of Broughton, Lord and Lady Brittan of Spennithorne, Sir Jeremy Isaacs, Sir Tim Lankester, Baroness Nicholson of Winterbourne, Sir Sigmund Sternberg, Victor and Lillian Hochhauser** as well as the **President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews**, the **Chief Rabbi** and Rabbis, Cantors and members of the Orthodox, Masorti, Reform and Liberal movements.

JMI has also received **endorsement** from the **City University**, and the **University of London**, which both embraced Jewish Music Studies and from **The Worshipful Company of Musicians, the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres**. JMI collaborates with **Swiss, Hungarian, Austrian** and other **European, American** and **Israeli cultural institutes.**

JMI's work was recognised in the year 2000 by the **Millennium Commission** with a Millennium Festival grant and by being enabled to award 58 grants for Jewish music projects to individuals across the country with funds from the National Lottery. In 2002 and

2003 JMI's work was recognised with grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund to preserve and make accessible to the public the contents of its library and to celebrate Yiddish language, music, dance and song.

What is in the Jewish Music Institute Library?

The Jewish Music Institute Library Founded by **Doris and Bertie Black** was officially opened in March 2003 by Dr **Christian Meyer** of the Schoenberg Institute in Vienna in the presence of the Director of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London and JMI Presidents **Lady Solti** and **Leopold de Rothschild CBE**, visitors from the British Library and library of the Royal College of Music and many others. It covers a period from the middle-ages to the 21st Century and genres from folk and ethnic to liturgical and art music, including choral, cantorial, jazz, klezmer, Yiddish, Ashkenazi, Sephardi, Israeli and classical music. **Sally Nathan Whyte** oversees library activities.

The library has many special collections from Cantors and Choirmasters who made a special contribution to the music of Britain. JMI is now, cataloguing its recordings, songbooks and scores on the special database/research tool, 'Keynote', developed in consultation with the British Library Sound Archive. JMI's books on music are already catalogued and can be searched for on the SOAS library catalogue. It is based at SOAS and can be visited by the public by appointment. Ring Laoise Davidson on Tel +44 (0)20 7898 4307.

The Jewish Music Institute Library has connections with Jewish music collections in other parts of the world and looks forward to joint projects and sharing information with libraries in Paris, Pennsylvania, Boca Raton, Haifa, Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and New York.

Do you do everything in London?

As you will see, we have had major events in Canterbury and York, but also in Manchester, Glasgow, Liverpool and Oxford. **Liebe (Lady Klug)** writes about Jewish music in Cambridge:

'Peterhouse is over 700 years old - the oldest and one of the most revered colleges in Cambridge. It is more used to Nobel laureates treading its corridors but undaunted the Cambridge Jewish Residents Association helped and inspired by Geraldine and the JMI KlezFest London programme, hired this hallowed place for a long weekend of '**Klezmer on the Cam**' with exuberant tunes and songs from Jewish Eastern Europe, bringing sounds never heard before in its long history - although in fact the land had originally been owned by a Jew - the deed even has a Jewish star drawn on it. So picture the scene: the large vaulted dining hall with stained glass windows and long wooden tables and benches is lit by the thick half-used candles from the chapel creating a special atmosphere - far from the 21st century. Helped no doubt by the wine, and encouraged by the lively and enthusiastic 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 and celebration 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?

What would you say are the highlights of JMI's past activity?

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

First off is **Sylvia Lewin**, under whose auspices as National President of Bnai Brith, the first **Bnai Brith Jewish Music Festival** was instigated in 1984. She remembers how hard it was to get the first one off the ground and then each of the 10 biennial Jewish Music Festivals from 1984 - 2000 taking Jewish music for the first time into the mainstream British cultural arena. She especially appreciated that 'All events were documented in a programme book brimming with interesting information'.

Sylvia's most touching memories surround the **Canterbury day in June 1986** 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.

On that same day, (also remembered fondly by **Jackie Gryn**) Sylvia mentions the goose bumps 'listening to the late Rabbi **Hugo Gryn** blow the shofar in front of an audience of 900 in Canterbury Cathedral'. This was the Anglican community's heartfelt commemoration of the Shoah. (We had not realised that those fleeing Nazi persecution had been given refuge

Alex Knapp (middle) at the Jewish Music Institute Library founded by Doris (left) and Bertie right) Black, 2001

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

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

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.

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)

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)

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

in the Deanery at Canterbury during the war). **Ronald Senator** says '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'.

Sylvia Lewin 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'.

Sylvia concludes, 'One of the most memorable events was of course the weekend in York for the **Clifford's Tower Commemoration in March 1990**.' This historic long-weekend commemorating the massacre of Jews in Clifford's tower 800 years earlier was organised together with many organisations in York – 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 in Clifford's Tower itself. There was a reception with the Lord Mayor and the weekend culminated on Saturday night in York Minster with Ernest Bloch's Hebrew *Sacred Service* performed by Jewish and Christian choirs conducted by **Malcolm Singer** and concluded on Sunday afternoon with a superbly moving Celebration of Heritage and Hope created by the Canons of York Minster with the Archbishop of York and Rabbis of all persuasions from London, Maidenhead and Leeds.'

Judy Obrart, former Trustee and still closely associated with JMI 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. The weekend of the Clifford's Tower Commemoration in March1990 was full and all events memorable but there was something about *benching* (singing grace after meals) after a hot kosher dinner that Friday night (that only our Trustee **Judith Unikower** could have arranged) in the Merchant Adventurers Hall, that lifted that evening beyond the just memorable'.

Judy says: 'Is it really 21 years since I first met Geraldine and asked if she wanted any help with the fledgling '**B'nai B'rith Jewish Music Festival**'? Of course I didn't know then that asking about helping meant a lifetime involvement. I'm still pleased though that I offered to help – being drawn in has provided lots of excitement and activities to remember. 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 21 years. It's been a great journey!'

We are grateful to all those who have sponsored pages in this commemorative Newsletter and who have sent special memories – too numerous to include in these few pages. We sum up with a few comments that show the impact of JMI.

Josephine Burton of YaD says: 'JMI continues to inspire and excite. I love the international, and cross-generational diversity of your KlezFests and other summer schools. 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.

Victor Tunkel, Jewish music scholar and JMI Library Consultant sums up thus: 'The 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'.

And the message from **Robin and Nitza Spiro** is 'May you as the inspiring leader, together with your capable team steer JMI with endless vitality, imagination and exceptional vision to go from strength to greater strength. And may the Spiro Ark and JMI continue with their joint and successful events. We ourselves, and the Jewish community at large, have much to thank you for.

This page has been kindly sponsored by: Sydney Corob CBE and Elizabeth Corob; Jackie Gryn

What of the future?

Nearly 100 artists, journalists, patrons, trustees and Friends of JMI gathered at Geraldine's home in Harrow on 11 September to celebrate the first 21 years. Organised by JMI stalwarts the party featured tributes, presentations and musical performances. JMI Chairman, Walter Goldsmith reminded visitors of the scope of activities - from intimate workshops and masterclasses to a National Jewish Culture Day at the Millennium Dome. Geraldine thanked all for their tremendous support and contribution to the life of JMI.

Looking to the future Geraldine writes 'I am immensely grateful that JMI has given me the 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 to consciousness that might still be ignored; 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.

'My dearest wish is that this work should continue and become sustainable – that slowly Jews will come to realise the value of their culture and the contribution it has made to civilisation and start to truly support Jewish cultural institutions in an adequate way (alongside the praiseworthy and immense contribution that Jews make to mainstream British culture). I would like to see a professorship in Jewish music endowed; the Jewish Music Institute Library so valiantly founded by Doris and Bertie Black have enough funds to acquire new materials and employ professional librarians; I would like to see the Jewish Music Institute secure and its staff salaries guaranteed. Without investment in people, bricks and mortar are worthless.

'It is also my aim to see that the British Government, (especially in the coming year when we celebrate 350 years of being here) comes to value the contribution of Jewish culture to multicultural Britain and that the Arts Council will **core fund the Jewish Music Institute** in exactly the same way that it supports the Asian Music Circuit and the Afro-Caribbean Music Circuit. In return for the millions that Jews raise and give to the opera houses, orchestras and music academies etc, support of Jewish Music Institute would surely be in order'.

So who are the key figures that have made a difference to JMI?

JMI is immensely grateful to all our **Trustees, Donors** and **Supporters, Patrons, Honorary Development Board members** and **Consultants** who have all helped create and maintain the platform that enables the talented musicians, teachers and students to benefit from and pass on their skills in Jewish music..

Geraldine and JMI pay tribute first to **Rev Reuben Turner** for passing on the baton for a Jewish music month; to **Bnai Brith** and **Sylvia Lewin** for taking it up with tremendous enthusiasm and support from many Bnai Brith lodges; **Malcolm Williamson** for believing that 'Hebraic Spirituality was the rock on which Western civilisation was built; **Malcolm Singer** for delivering programmes and making connections; **Prof Malcolm Troup** for making Jewish music an academic subject; **Alan Marcuson** for believing in it and supporting it; **David Stone** for creating a strong framework, **Keith Howard**, **Richard Brow** and **Sir Tim Lankester** (and the current SOAS Director **Colin Bundy**) for inviting Jewish music studies and JMI to the University of London; **Doris and Bertie Blac**k for making JMI and its library possible; **Jonathon Lyons** for introducing JMI to his friends; **Lady Lipworth** for giving constant warm support and hospitality; **Lady Solti** and **Leo de Rothschild** for seeing to our welfare; **Tom Petzal** for strengthening the organisation; **Martin Savit**t and **Adrian Davis** who chaired the Jewish Music Heritage Trust; **Judith Unikower** who for so many years was the treasurer; **Judy and Roger Obrar**t for taking such wonderful photographs; **Joan Noble** for expertly handing the Millennium Award Scheme; **Trudii Goodrick** for careful financial management; **Anthony Auerbach** for excellent design work; **David Sonin** for writing about us in the JC and elsewhere, **Maureen Philips** for help with press; **Betty Collick** for constant loyalty, good advice and stage management and **Walter Goldsmith** and the present Trustees for carrying all this forward.

Those who head our sections: **Michael Haas** (Suppressed Music) **Stephen Glass** and **Vivienne Bellos**, (Choral and Cantorial) **Malcolm Miller** (Israeli music) **Alex Knapp** (Education) **Laoise Davidson** (Communications) spearhead activity that reaches far and wide.

Special thanks to the **Jewish Chronicle** for being Jewish media sponsor and to all those sponsoring JMI activities and also pages, columns and photographs in this newsletter. We also thank **Jackie Rosenfeld** OBE who heads The Mendelssohn Society that helps students attend JMI summer programmes and aids the Mendelssohn Scholarship Foundation

JMI also thanks the many loyal and devoted individuals who have directly assisted in the Harrow office and in the JMI Library at SOAS, over the years and who, in many cases, continue to do so, **Lloica Czackis, Yvonne Glass, Noa Lachman, Angie Lawrence, Sue Levy, Barbara Rosenberg, Jo Velleman, Sandra Yaron**. Above all supreme thanks to **Ronnie Auerbach** for being what he calls the 'tentpole'.

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)

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

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

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

Frank London, KlezFest 2005 Programme Director, leading KlezFesters and the public (Vicky Alhadeff)

Michael, Emma, Barbara, and others enjoying Yiddish dancing in Regent's Park (Vicky Alhadeff)

Jim Marcovitch, She'koyokh Klezmer Ensemble, (London) and Mark Kovnatzkiy, Berl, Schmerl and Sons (Moscow) (Kristel Richards) (Kristel Richards)

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

Accordion section, KlezFest 2005 (Geraldine Auerbach)

What's it like to be at a JMI Summer School?

Nearly 250 instrumentalists and singers of all ages and backgrounds, from all over the UK and Europe and as far afield as Australia and Brazil, converged in London this summer for **six intensive weeks** of Jewish music study. The **Yiddish** and **Klezmer** courses were hosted at West London Synagogue in a warm and welcoming atmosphere. **Cantorial Summer Schools** took place at Central Synagogue and Leo Baeck College. The **Choral Festival** was hosted by local choirs and schools and another 200 participated in this.

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

What did 'KlezFesters' 2005 say?

'This is the **friendliest, most open and lively summer school** I have attended. I have learnt so much about the music but also about the culture and the people. A very magical experience all round'. (Sarah Moody, Bristol)

'Being able to be in an environment where one is surrounded by musicians was fantastic. I learnt so much from that alone. The classes I attended were excellent and have had a tremendously positive **impact on my own playing**. Frank is obviously a trumpet genius, and in his class he was able to give some great insights into how music can be arranged and presented. What he taught went beyond music'. (Nathan Moore – Cambridge)

'Fascinating and very intense – both musically and as a way of **re-connecting with my family history**. I can already see benefits to my playing and have been inspired to build on this. Also, humbling to be working with people of such a high level of competence – but this can be a good thing!' (Ros Hudis – Aberystwith)

'All of us (**Klezmorim from the Former Soviet Union**) have received huge pleasure from Klezfest in London – 2005. It was very important, interesting and it is useful for all of us. It was fantastic! (Mark Kovnatskiy – Moscow via Hamburg)

What did the 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 years 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 did the 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!

Thanks again for the opportunity of teaching at KlezFest. Helping to create such a wonderful singing community was a **particular thrill for me** and I would gladly do it again - any time.

'This year was really inspiring. One of the best we've had. Smooth running – no problems. Facilities super – the hotel, use of synagogue, neighbourhood all gave a nice feeling. I particularly loved having the Russians – **it was just fantastic!**'

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:

'Total immersion in Yiddish – being able to **appreciate the rhythms of the language**.' (Heather Glasstone London)

'**Extremely stimulating**. I thought it would focus more just on the language; so delighted

This page has been kindly sponsored by: Lady Rayne; Jackie Rosenfeld OBE

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).

'**Insane! Brain overloaded** with info! beautiful, fascinating, disturbing, depressing, Yiddish culture and history described and explained by interesting and knowledgeable people!' – Sally Russell aged 18 (Glasgow)

What of Cantorial Summer School Students?

This second year of Cantorial Summer Schools saw 30 students, all prayer leaders in synagogues working intensively on the preparation for the music for the High Holidays. The Orthodox and Progressive worked separately this time in different locations, as their needs were very different.

All students on the progressive course expressed great appreciation for the teaching and **inspiration of Josée Wolff**. Describing the experience they had had they said:

'It was a great experience. I am taking both information as well as a**pproaches back home** with me which many people in my community in Munich are interested in learning as well. I want to try and bring some others to a future course as well'. (Beth Gahbler, Munich, Germany).

'A well prepared and **excellently taught course** that will profoundly enhance the musical experience at our synagogue – in touch with progressive and traditional Judaism. I was impressed with the professionalism of Josée Wolff's approach and her sensitivity to the UK synagogue situation' (Rabbi Mark Goldsmith, Finchley UK)

And the orthodox cantorial students?

'It was fantastic – **rejuvenating, enriching and inspiring**. Lots to think about and a huge amount to put into my davening.' (Traditional Orthodox Background)

'Very stimulating. I davened the Friday night service on the day after the course, and it was probably **the most spiritually uplifting davening** I have ever done. (Intensely orthodox background - traditional/progressive in practice).

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. This glorious and memorable 10 days created a **community singing together**, brought **musical values of the highest calibre** and made the children and adults aspire to and achieve them all rejoicing in our most spiritual of pursuits – putting music to our sacred words. Audiences and performers went away enriched and hoping for more'.

JMI summer schools – Dates for 2006

Cantorial Summer School 18 – 22 June
Teenage Choral Festival Summer
Ot Azoy! Yiddish Crash Course 6 – 11 August
KlezFest London 13 – 18 August
Jewish Song Summer School 13 – 18 August
Part of the European Klezmer and Yiddish Academy 2006
Watch for details and registration forms on Website www.jmi.org.uk

Jewish Music Central cont from page 1, col 2

Britain). Jewish Music Central will also present a pre-Hanukah 'Hopkele' (Yiddish music and dance party) for families on Sunday 4 December 7.30 – 11pm, complete with live Klezmer bands and world class Yiddish dance teachers.

The energy behind a concert promotion programme at Central is their cantor, the dynamic young South African, Steven Leas who recently completed a course at the English National Opera. Steven says, 'There are so many talented young artists, ensembles and bands, and I would like to see the synagogue become a Jewish musical magnet in the West End. The experience and expertise of JMI combined with the energy of our team and the tremendous support of members of the synagogue, augurs well for an exciting and successful programme of Jewish music for tiny tots, teenagers and adults'.

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 Arie Subar and JMI Cantorial and Choral Director, Stephen Glass, both of Montreal, Cantorial Summer School 2005 (Geraldine Auerbach)

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)

This page has been kindly sponsored by: Barbara and Billy Sharron; Maurice Summerfield

The JMI 350 Club

To mark the 350th anniversary of British Jewry

2006 sees the 350th Anniversary of the return of Jews to Britain. For this anniversary JMI is planning special activities reaching Jewish and non-Jewish children and teenagers and providing a teaching pack for schools with recordings and sheet music illustrating the Jewish Way of Life. We are also creating more activities with partners in the North West - in Liverpool and Manchester.

You can help us achieve these goals by becoming a member of the '**JMI 350 Club**'. Club members will immediately go in for a draw for an exquisite silver rose bowl from the prestigious Bond Street jewellers Bentley and Skinner valued at £350. Club members will also go into a draw for 2 best tickets for a Philharmonia concert of your choice, courtesy of Sir Sydney and Lady Lipworth.

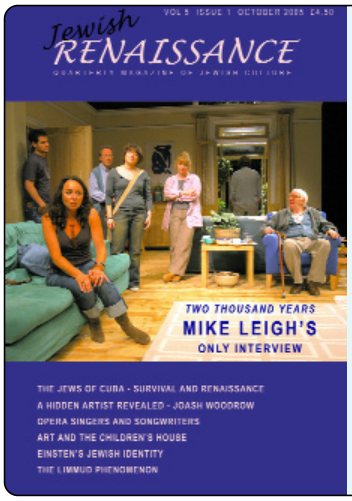
All those joining the club before the end of November will receive a cassette of specially selected Jewish music. Exclusive events will be arranged for Club members starting with a Jazz Brunch at the Royal Opera House on 20 December.

To join we ask you for a contribution of 350 – you can put the decimal point where you will - £3.50, £35, £350 – or indeed any other permutation.

We hope you will want to join this exciting and special '**JMI 350 Club**'. Paid up 'Friends' of JMI can join the '**JMI 350 Club**' for an extra £10 and Club Members paying £35 or more will also benefit from Friends Membership – receiving regular information and being eligible for discounts on some tickets.

Friends and 'JMI 350 Club' members can also have £2 off an annual subscription to Jewish Renaissance, the wonderful quarterly culture magazine.

You could also contribute to the scholarship fund to allow musicians from the former Soviet Union to attend JMI music courses or the library fund to acquire new materials and make them accessible on the web. There are also opportunities to join us in the busy office and if you can offer your expertise or time, we would be grateful. Please fill in the form below (or on the back of the covering letter.



Friends of JMI Subscription offer for Jewish Renaissance:

If you are not already a subscriber to this vital quarterly magazine of Jewish culture, please consider becoming one now. The current issue is better than ever including exclusive interviews with Mike Leigh and the cast of his new play. A popular feature is the profile of Jewish communities around the world and this issue looks at the Jews of Cuba. In the music section Rodney Greenberg explores why so many songwriters have been Jewish – an article related to the JMI 'Celebration of Jewish Songwriters' at the South Bank on 27 November.

Paid-up Friends of JMI for 2005/6 or members of the '**JMI 350 Club**' are offered £2 off the annual subscription price. See the JMI Friend's enrolment form to take out your Friends of JMI subscription. Those subscribing will also be sent the last issue featuring the Jews of Lithuania, free of charge.

You can also subscribe at www.jewishrenaissance.org.uk or by telephone: 020 8876 1891.

JMI 350 Club: ENROLMENT and Donation FORM 2006

I/we would like to join the **JMI 350 Club** and enclose a min donation of £3.50/ £35/ £350/ other £

As I am donating £35 or more I would also like to be a Friend of JMI for 2005/6 [ ]

As we are already paid JMI Friends for 2006 we enclose £10 (or more) to join the JMI £350 Club £

I/we would also like to donate £ for scholarships to enable musicians to study Jewish Music £

I/we would also like to donate £ for books[ ] or CDs[ ] for the JMI Library £

I would like a Subscription to Jewish Renaissance [ ] at the reduced annual rate of £16 £

I/we would like to pay annually by Direct Debit [ ] Please send me forms

I/we am a UK tax payer and would like my gift to be considered under the Gift Aid Scheme [ ]

Please include me/us in the Rose Bowl and Philharmonia draws [ ]

Please send me a free Cassette of:

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I/We enclose cheque made out to "JMI"/please debit my Visa or Access card TOTAL £

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To: Jewish Music Institute SOAS, c/o PO Box 232, Harrow, HA1 2NN Fax:020-8909 1030
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This page has been kindly sponsored by: Jewish Renaissance

Event Review:

Joy of Life ~ a JMI Tribute event to Sir Georg Solti

Roger Obrart

Lady Solti in Sir Georg's studio showing guests (including Sir John Tusa, centre) the red markings her husband made in his scores

14 April 2005

An account by Malcolm Miller

Many students were granted scholarships for Jewish Music Institute (JMI) music courses this year thanks to the success of a memorable event last April, 'Joy of Life, A Tribute to Sir Georg Solti'. An invited audience of music lovers, friends of JMI and distinguished entrepreneurs in the Arts, were treated to an inspiring visit to the home of the great conductor, guided by the hostess Lady Valerie Solti, JMI Joint President, followed by a video presentation at the home of Sir Sydney and Lady Lipworth, JMI Vice President, presented by the eminent TV film personalities Humphrey Burton and Rodney Greenberg.

To read the whole of this fine essay on Sir Georg Solti, and the JMI event 'Joy of Life' hosted by Lady Solti, and Lady Lipworth please see the JMI Website www.jmi.org.uk or telephone JMI on Tel 020 8909 2445 Fax 020 8909 1030 for a copy.

Book Review:

Shirei Teshuvah –

A book of High Holiday music

'Shirei Teshuvah- Songs of Repentance' is the ultimate resource for synagogue musicians looking for High Holiday repertoire. The anthology presents musical selections for all of the most commonly sung prayer texts of the High Holiday Machzor. The settings range from unaccompanied traditional nusach (chant), and congregational melodies, to settings for solo voice and keyboard. The volume is especially helpful for those leading services in smaller congregations without a choir. Many of the choices in this collection encourage congregational participation, while at the same time being true to the melodies traditionally associated with the Days of Awe. I highly recommend every synagogue acquire this publication as part of their basic music library.

Cantor Josee Wolff www.cantorwolff.com

CD review

The First S'lihot'

Milken Archive of American Jewish Music

One of the new releases

Introduction by Malcolm Miller

Amongst the many highlights of the 1998 JMI Festival 'The World of Jewish Music' were concert performances by the renowned American cantor Ben Zion Miller, including a spectacular 'Broadway to Hollywood' programme with orchestra and a more liturgical evening 'With Heart and Soul', together with The London Synagogue Singers conducted by Neil Levin, with the pianist Daniel Gildar. This remarkable performance included cantorial gems by Pinchik, Secunda, Machtenburg and Koussvitsky and were recorded. Those superb recordings now feature in one of the latest CD releases of the monumental Milken Archive of American Jewish Music, entitled 'The First S'Lihot' (Naxos 8.559428).

The Milken Archive, the brainchild of its dynamic Artistic Director Dr. Neil Levin, the American musicologist and conductor, is a monumental project running to some 100 CDs to preserve and disseminate the rich treasury of music of all genres related to the American Jewish experience. Since 2002 the CDs have flowed with regular monthly releases on the Naxos label of works which have either been newly composed, revived or reconstructed from sketches and recordings. The music spreads across synagogue, stage, and concert hall, with settings of Biblical and later Hebrew texts by composers, and CDs of major Jewish works by composers such as Kurt Weill, Castelnuovo-Tedesco, Bernstein, Samuel Adler, Herman Berlinski (who visited for the JMI York Commemoration in 1989), the list goes on and on. There are cantatas on Masada, Passover, Naomi and Ruth, a Dave Brubeck composition and several CDs devoted to cantorial music and complete liturgical services, including the latest, 'The First S'lihot.'

For full details of the current releases, and to purchase the CDs please visit the Jewish Music Distribution website www.jewishmusic-jmd.co.uk email orders@jewishmusic-jmd.co.uk or telephone free on 0800 7811 686.

Free Giora Feidman DVD

For the first 3 JMI 350 Club Members:

New superb DVD 'Giora Feidman' one of the great Jewish musicians of our time

The award winning director Uwe Scheffler, followed Feidman (who is immensely popular in Germany) and his amazing clarinet from the Jewish synagogue in Cracow, through Auschwitz and Birkenau. Feidman, known internationally for his achievements in reviving the Jewish tradition of Klezmer, plays solo and with a large number of amazing musicians. The Jewish artist Dan Rubinstein created drawings to enrich the musical-visual reconstruction of the Jewish German past and to illuminate the complex spirit of Klezmer music.

Released on 26th September 2005, This DVD includes some of Feidman's most celebrated music such as Kiddush, Tanz, Summertime (Gershwin), Schindler's list, Ave Maria (Schubert), and many other fascinating tunes.

Sylvia Lewin instigator of the festival that became JMI remembers 'Our joy in learning about Klezmer music has to centre around Giora Feidman - the King of Klezmer. He visited our home for a meal and our clarinet playing daughter Karen's expression when he used her clarinet to show her how 'easy' it was to play that instrument is unforgettable. What a showman he is'.

This DVD can also be purchased from Jewish Music Distribution at £17.50 per copy including Postage & Packing. Email **orders@jewishmusic-jmd.co.uk** or telephone free on **0800 7811 686.** Website **www.jewishmusic-jmd.co.uk**

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JMI Autumn Season 2005 Jewish Music performances and events

JMI www.jmi.org.uk 020 8909 2445

Saturday 12 November, 2005, 7.30pm
The Swiss Church in London, 79 Endell Street London WC2H 9DY

Baith Jaffe Klezmer Orchestra, Basle, Switzerland

Basle's most exciting musicians, Sascha and David Schönhaus, sons of Holocaust refugees and band, explore and develop music of Eastern European Jewish culture through traditional repertoire and new compositions.
£7 concessions £5
020 7836 1418
Presented by The Swiss Church in London in association with JMI
www.swisschurchlondon.org.uk

Sunday 13 November, 7.30pm
Shaw Theatre, 100-110 Euston Road NW1

From Argentina to The Middle East

Duo Ladino: Guitar Recital by Liat Cohen from Israel and Argentinian–born Ricardo Moyano from Spain
internationally acclaimed classical guitarists, play Falla, Troiani, Albeniz, Granados, Villa Lobos and Nahum Heiman
'Sunday Sounds at the Shaw', Patron Dame Fanny Waterman
Presented by The Shaw Theatre and Sagi Hartov In association with LJCC and JMI
£15, concessions £10
0870 033 2600

Sunday 20 November 2005, 7.30pm
St John's, Smith Square.

The Zemel Choir - 50th Anniversary Concert

The UK's leading mixed-voice Jewish choir celebrates its 50th anniversary with new works and old favorites. Conducted by Benjamin Wolf as well as former Musical Directors Dudley Cohen, Geoffrey Simon, Antony Saunders, Malcolm Singer, Robert Max and Vivienne Bellos with soloist Robert Brody.
£18, £15, £12, £9 (concessions 10% discount)
020 7222 1061 www.sjss.org.uk

Sunday 27 November, 10.30am – 1.30pm
Meet at Liverpool Street Station, Liverpool Street entrance, next to Kindertransport Statue

Jewish Musical walk of the East End

Walk leader Clive Bettington,
The walk honours Jewish musicians including Bud Flanagan, Marc Bolan, Joe Loss, Lionel Bart, Solomon, Alma Cogan. Music CDs will be played.
Jewish East End Celebration Society and JMI
£8 (£7concessions £5 members of JEECS and Friends of JMI).
Booking essential as numbers will be limited
07941 367 882 or e-mail.clive.bettington@lineone.net

Sunday 27 November, 2005 (4 Events 4.15pm – 10pm)

A Celebration of Jewish Songwriters

JMI Jewish Culture Day on the South Bank 2005
Herbert Kretzmer, Patron of the Day
Presented by Jewish Music Central
(a collaboration between JMI and Central Synagogue Music Society)
Supported by the Jewish Chronicle
Smoked Salmon Bagels on sale in the foyer from 3.00pm
The Jewish Youth Choir, conductor Vivienne Bellos perform in the Foyer at 7.00pm

Queen Elizabeth Hall 7.45pm

'I Write the Songs - That Make the Whole World Sing ...'

Introduced by Herbert Kretzmer, English Lyricist of *Les Miserables*, *She* and other famous songs
Outstanding young singers Loren Geeting, Steven Leas, Melinda Hughes and Shona White Children of the Sylvia Young Theatre School
and two Steinway Grands played by Dominic Barlow and Musical Director Tansy Aked
Production Director Jude Alderson
take you on a journey through some of the 20th Century's most unforgettable music and lyrics from Broadway, the West End, Tin Pan Alley, the Yiddish Theatre and the worlds of folk and pop. Songs by Irving Berlin, to Billy Joel, Paul Simon and Barry Manilow (who made the title song famous).

Purcell Room 4.15 – 5.15pm

Herbert Kretzmer - A Man of Words

Journalist, critic and lyricist who wrote the English words to *Les Misèrables*; *Goodness Gracious Me* for Peter Sellers and Sophia Loren and *She*, made famous by Charles Aznavour.
Audio-visual biography devised and presented by Ruth and John Hill.

Purcell Room 6.00 – 7.00pm

Tribute to Lionel Bart

Acclaimed as 'the father of the modern British musical', **Bart** wrote such classic hits as *Oliver*, *Blitz* and *Fings Ain't Wot They Used T'be*.
Audio-visual biography devised and presented by Ruth and John Hill.
Presented in association with Jewish East End Celebration Society

Purcell Room 8.00pm

Miracle in Cracow

Feature film introduced by the young Hungarian director Diana Groó,
Award winning 2004 film shot in beautiful old Jewish quarters of Budapest and Crakow. A mystical young love story of Hungarian art historian, and a Polish man. With English, Hungarian, Yiddish and Polish languages.
Presented in association with the Hungarian Cultural Centre

Purcell Room £7.50 for each show
Queen Elizabeth Hall £25, £20, £15
(£2 off each ticket if attending more than one event and for groups of 10 or more)
08703 800 400 www.rfh.org.uk

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Sunday 4 December 7.30-11pm
Wix Hall Central Synagogue, 36 Hallam Street, London W1

Pre-Hanuke Hopkele

Klezmer Klub with **Vivi Lachs**
and **FDT Klezmorim** with **Andreas Schmitges**
The klezmer way to get into the seasonal party spirit.
Live klezmer bands all evening with top UK artists, professional klezmer dance callers. Bring yourself, your children and their granny to join in the all-round fun.
Presented by Hopkele Productions - Ilana Cravitz and Guy Schalom in Association with Jewish Music Central, a collaboration between the Central Synagogue Music Society and the Jewish Music Institute SOAS, University of London Website www.jmi.org.uk
£12.50 (£7 concessions for students and children and Seniors) £1 off tickets purchased in advance (also find out about Klezmer classes on these numbers)
020 8985 3724 or 07714 945 971

Wednesday 21 December, 7.30pm
Wix Hall Central Synagogue, 36 Hallam Street W1

Central in Song

Cantor **Steven Leas** with the **Augmented Choir of Central Synagogue**
Accompanied and introduced by **Stephen Glass** of Montreal
Traditional and new prayers and psalms to be recorded on the inaugural Central Synagogue CD. Includes Israeli and Yiddish songs and works written and arranged by Meir Finkelstein and Stephen Glass the most innovative composers and arrangers of cantorial and choral music in the world today, (both British, but living and working in North America) many of whose works are performed regularly by the synagogue choir.
Jewish Music Central Autumn-Spring season celebrating Jewish songwriters
A collaboration between the Central Synagogue Music Society and the Jewish Music Institute SOAS, University of London
www.jmi.org.uk
Supported by the Jewish Chronicle
£15 concessions £12.50
Season ticket for 3 concerts at Wix Hall, Central Synagogue (21 December, 26 January, 19 March) £30 (save £15)
020 7580 1355 (Central Synagogue)

Sunday, 15 January 2006, 7.30pm
Shaw Theatre, 100-110 Euston Road NW1

Poulenc, Chopin and Kapustin

Sagi Hartov cello, **Benjamin Frith** piano, **Yossi Arenheim** flute
Prize-winning British and Israeli artists play Poulenc, Chopin And Kapustin. Sagi performs on a liftetime gift of a Macatel cello donated by a benefactor.
'Sunday Sounds at the Shaw', Patron Dame Fanny Waterman
Presented by The Shaw Theatre and Sagi Hartov In association with LJCC and JMI
£15, concessions £10
0870 033 2600

Thursday, 26 January 2006, 7.30pm
Wix Hall, Central Synagogue, 36 Hallam Street W1

'I wandered through Theresienstadt...'

To honour Holocaust Memorial Day
Svetlana Kundish and **Maya Kasir** soprano
Sagi Hartov cello, **Marc Verter** and **David Bloch** piano
Israeli artists from Israel and the UK with introductions by Professor David Bloch, Founder-Director of the Terezin Memorial Music Project, Tel Aviv, present the amazing, poignant and beautiful amusing cabaret and classical songs and music written and performed in Terezin Concentration Camp outside Prague. **Steven Leas** with **Central Synagogue choir** conducted by **Michael Etherton** sing the memorial prayer *El Male Rahamim*, that they performed in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen at Westminster Hall at Holocaust Memorial Day 2005 and which was broadcast on BBC TV.
Jewish Music Central Autumn Spring season celebrating Jewish songwriters
A collaboration between the Central Synagogue Music Society and the Jewish Music Institute SOAS, University of London
www.jmi.org.uk
In association with the Terezín Music Memorial Project, Tel Aviv under the patronage of Václav Havel former President of the Czech Republic
£15 concessions £12.50
Season ticket for 3 concerts at Wix Hall, Central Synagogue (21 December, 26 January, 19 March) £30 (save £15)
020 7580 1355 (Central Synagogue)

Sunday, March 19, 2006
Wix Hall Central Synagogue, 36 Hallam Street W1

Jacinta sings Sephardi Songs

Born in Buenos Aires, now living in Paris, the diva of the Sephardi Repertoire gives us the opportunity to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the time that the Sephardi Jews re-established communities in Britain in 1656. With her especially warm and engaging personality, Jacinta has performed Judeo-Spanish romances at the Festival d'Avignon, in Paris and on tour in Europe, Canada and Argentina. (Jacinta will give a workshop in Sephardi Song earlier in the week)
Jewish Music Central Autumn Spring season celebrating Jewish songwriters
A collaboration between the Central Synagogue Music Society and the Jewish Music Institute SOAS, University of London
www.jmi.org.uk
£15 concessions £12.50
Season ticket for 3 concerts at Wix Hall, Central Synagogue (21 December, 26 January, 19 March) £30 (save £15)
020 7580 1355 (Central Synagogue)

Sunday, March 26, 2006
Shaw Theatre, 100-110 Euston Road NW1

Melody in Time and Space

The **Benny Sluchin Trio** (trombone, piano and voice)
play Fauré, Chopin and Jonathan Harvey's: Melody in Time and Space
Israeli-born trombonist, Benny Sluchin, based in Paris, is a prolific brass performer with the influential Ensemble Intercontemporain, directed by Pierre Boulez. He is also a mathematician-philosopher! Benny plays with award-winning pianist, Jeff Cohen, who currently teaches at the Paris Conservatoire.
'Sunday Sounds at the Shaw', Patron Dame Fanny Waterman
£15, concessions £10
0870 033 2600
Presented by The Shaw Theatre and Sagi Hartov In association with LJCC and JMI

Sunday Sounds at the Shaw

JMI is also supporting a series of concerts featuring outstanding British and Israeli artists introducing music of Israel together with music from Argentina, France, Italy, Russia and Britain from Baroque to modern and from classical to folk and jazz. Under the Patronage of Dame Fanny Waterman, founder of the Leeds Piano Competition and Dr Curtis Price, Principal of the Royal Academy of Music, this exciting Sunday evening series, features an outstanding classical guitar duo (13 November); a recital for cello flute and piano (January 15); trombone piano and voice (26 March), and are promoted by The Shaw Theatre together with classical cellist Sagi Hartov, and take place at the beautiful and comfortable Shaw Theatre, 100-110 Euston Road. Details can be seen on our listings pages. Friends of JMI are eligible for the Concession price ticket. Telephone 0870 033 2600

This page has been kindly sponsored by: Bernard and Batia Asher; Valerie and Ernest Bello; Yvonne Behar

Majer Bogdanski 1912-2005

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Majer Bogdanski the irrepressible and adorable Yiddish singer, composer and master tailor. His extraordinary life spanning most of the shattering 20th century in Europe, culminated in a flowering of his musical talents in London where he studied music only in his fifties. He touched everyone when he sang Yiddish songs at the inauguration of the Jewish Music Institute at the University of London and performed and lectured at many JMI and other events. Those who worked with him share with us some of their special memories. JMI and his friends hope to create something in his memory to perpetuate his goals. (Contact JMI with ideas and if you want to be involved).

Majer Bogdanski with Joan Levin of Chicago, who helped organise a JMI concert of Majer singing his own music (Geraldine Auerbach)

Merlin Shepherd, Klezmer Clarinettist and teacher writes: 'I had the pleasure of working with Majer on the recording of Wedding Without a Bride by Budowitz. He always had a sparkle in his eyes, a laugh waiting to spring forth. He had a unique talent not just for singing, story telling and sharing but also for listening. Hopefully his vast knowledge, his teaching and of his love of life will be passed on to all those who met him and loved him'.

Joan D Levin of Chicago, who has created opportunities to record, duplicate and distribute Majer's wonderful compositions writes: 'I met Majer in 2001 in London at Friends of Yiddish – those folk who have been meeting every Shabbes afternoon at Toynbee Hall in the East End since 1937 to enjoy a Yiddish poem or song. Majer was 89 then, but when he sang, I could hardly believe the strong and melodious tenor voice that emerged. Even more remarkable was that he had composed that lush musical setting for a Yiddish poem.

'This turned out to be but a small sample of the out-pouring of music that emerged from Majer's pen. I learned how he had, in earlier days, captured on manuscript scores of nigunim of a threatened world and lodged these renderings at YIVO so that they would not be lost forever. He had produced literally hundreds of original musical settings for the works of countless Yiddish poets and had, similarly, donated these manuscripts to YIVO, as well as publishing some in his bound anthologies. Majer's kindness, generosity of spirit, and devotion to Yiddishkayt throughout his long and productive life have earned him a secure place in our hearts'.

You can purchase Majer's CD Yidishe Lider from Jewish Music Distribution: orders@jewishmusic-jmd.co.uk

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