

# Cantor Elizabeth Shammash

221 E. Meade Street, Philadelphia PA 19118  
917-549-0605 • eshammash@gmail.com • www.elizabethshammash.com

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*Dynamic worship leader, accomplished musician, passionate teacher, team-building professional*

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## Professional Profile

- Experienced professional with extensive vocal and musical background, who brings passion, leadership and dedication to the spiritual experience through diverse musical genres
- Team player within a dynamic professional staff who envisions, creates and implements creative programs for all age groups within the community
- Creator and Producer of successful concert series and studio recordings
- Institute for Jewish Spirituality (IJS) faculty member, creator of *Shlemut* adult education worship/programming, teacher of embodied prayer modalities (yoga, meditation)
- Ten years as a professional opera singer, performing in North America, Europe, and Asia

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## Expertise and Strengths

- Superlative vocal and musical skills
- Excellent writing skills
- Pastoral care and life cycle leadership
- Bnai Mitzvah teaching, supervision, and program coordination
- Choir conducting, adult and youth
- Creation and orchestration of diverse worship services with professional and lay musicians
- Creation and development of music series
- Torah Yoga and Jewish Mindfulness instruction
- Adult Education including Omer mindfulness meditation and day-long retreats
- Nurturing and sustaining relationships with all age groups

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## Professional Experience

<i>July 2007- present</i>	Tiferet Bet Israel, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania	<i>Cantor</i>
<i>August 2005 – June 2007</i>	Congregation Mount Sinai, Brooklyn Heights, NY	<i>Cantor</i>
<i>High Holy Days, 2006</i>	Tree of Life Congregation, Pittsburgh, PA	<i>Cantorial Soloist</i>
<i>High Holy Days, 1994-2001</i>	Falmouth Jewish Congregation, Falmouth, MA	<i>Cantorial Soloist</i>

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## Community Outreach and Development

- Served as Cantor for 9/11 five-year memorial service in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York City
- Scholar-in-Residence, Har El Congregation, Vancouver, British Columbia
- Scholar-in-Residence, Beth Tikvah, Toulouse, France
- Upcoming Scholar-in-Residence: Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, and Temple Israel of Great Neck
- Led Cantors Assembly missions to Poland/Israel, Germany, Spain, and Italy (upcoming, June 2020)

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## Administrative Roles

- Synagogue Board of Trustees, Ritual and Music Committees
- Treasurer, Cantors Assembly (Delaware Valley); Executive Council, Cantors Assembly (national)
- Conceived and implemented staff retreats, now an integral part of senior staff culture

## Skills

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- Advanced language skills in German, Yiddish, French, Italian, Ladino, Hebrew
- Violin, viola, guitar
- Fundraising and Development
- Chanting of Torah, Haftarah and all Megillot
- Teaching of Torah Yoga and Jewish Mindfulness Meditation

## Performance – selected accomplishments

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Israel Philharmonic, Los Angeles Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Seattle Symphony, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Berlin Radio Symphony, China National Symphony, Mostly Mozart Festival, Great Performers Series at Lincoln Center, New York City Opera, Sarasota Opera, Fort Worth Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Lyric Opera of Kansas City, Wolf Trap Opera.

Co-creator and performer, *Divas on the Bima*, 2010-present

Yiddish Liederabend (2017), Hebrew Liederabend (2019) at YIVO, New York City

Producer and performer, *Music in the Sanctuary* series, Tiferet Bet Israel

## Recordings

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Milken Archive of Jewish Music: Herman Berlinski, *Avodat Shabbat*; David Stock, *A Little Miracle*; Ernst Toch, *Cantata of the Bitter Herbs*; *Great Songs of the Yiddish Stage*, Vols. I (Ellstein) & III (Rumshinsky & Songwriters of his Circle); Lazar Weiner: *The Art of Yiddish Song*

Leonard Bernstein, *Trouble in Tahiti* (leading role of Dinah)

Handel, *Messiah*, alto soloist

*Yedid Nefesh: Friday Night at Tiferet Bet Israel* (Music Director and Producer)

## Awards and Affiliations

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- Hazzanut Study Award, Cantors Assembly (2007)
- The Rubin Anonymous Prize (2006)
- Hazzan David J. Leon Prize, Jewish Theological Seminary (2005)
- Named one of the annual “Women to Watch” by Jewish Women International (2001)
- Member in good standing of the Cantors Assembly and American Conference of Cantors

## Education

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Clergy Leadership Program, Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training- Institute for Jewish Spirituality

Master of Sacred Music and Diploma of Hazzan, Jewish Theological Seminary, H.L. Miller Cantorial School.  
Thesis: *Israeli Art Song Composers from the Early Pioneers to the Present*

Opera/Vocal Studies and residencies: Aspen, Tanglewood, Marlboro, Ravina festivals. Glimmerglass Opera, Chautauqua Opera, Opera Theatre of St. Louis

Master of Music, Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance, Manhattan School of Music

Artist Diploma, Boston University Opera Institute

Bachelor of Arts in Italian Studies, Brown University

Università di Bologna, Italy, year-long study abroad program, Italian Literature

Yoga teacher certification from Om Yoga, NYC (specializations: pre-natal, restorative, and breathwork)