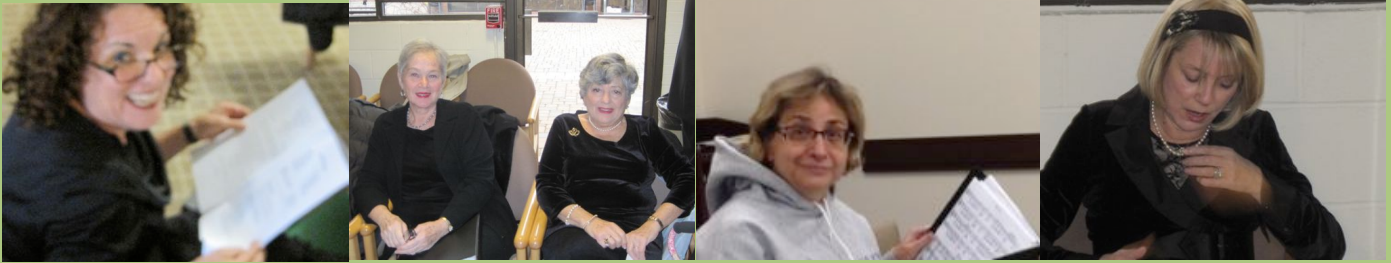


SHIR DELIGHT a not-to-be-taken seriously publication



Photos not by BBN attributed to JCC

Winter 2013/4

The Angels from Heaven in Room 207.

Shirah, the talented, enthusiastic, phenomenal choir directed by Maestro Mati Lazar, is an integral part of the metropolitan area Jewish music scene. Thanks to Bernie Weinflash and Michael Reingold who make this possible. The angels have angels!



Most beloved of all choir activities is rehearsal. We know this because people even come to rehearsals digitally. Attendance at rehearsals can

sometimes be better than at concerts. Also, there is laughter during rehearsals. At concerts there might be only a guffaw or two-from the audience. At rehearsals there is no dress code. Members can wear stained and malodorous clothing if they wish. During rehearsals it is possible to poke a neighbor to correct his error, a very satisfactory activity. At a concert, you might wish to give a push to the owner of that loud and wrong note behind you. This is when a dignified attitude must be maintained. Bodies tumbling from risers can be dangerous. Concerts can, therefore, be a challenging experience, especially in tight shoes. Standing under hot lights is not for the faint hearted and fainters! No water bottles! No coffee, no tea. So, come one and all to Tuesday night rehearsals and join the fun.

No One Sells Tickets as Well as Shirahniks

Kudos to Michael Reingold for his savoir faire during the Great Ticket Escapade. Several members were under the mistaken impression that they had to sell their tickets for this free concert. Others told their families they were on the wait list. (It's easier to get into Princeton from their wait list!) Even Benjamin Netanyahu could not have gotten in unless he had called to reserve. One singing mother shopped around till she found a ticket for her daughter. Another member sneaked in a guest who happened to be wearing black and carrying a notebook. In the end, one of those erroneous nor'easter predictions kept ticket holders home and several seats empty.



IMPORTANT INFO

Altos

Please report to Room 207 next Sunday night for your auditions. Based on the number of low or high notes you are able to produce you will be placed in another section.

Tenors

If you can sing, it's possible someone in your family can too. Bring them to the next rehearsal. Must be at least 2. If someone in your family cannot sing do not bring him and if you can't tell either way please resign.

Sopranos

You will need to attend alto auditions on Sunday night as there have been rumors a few of you have been unable to locate your high notes.

Basses

You are the backbone of the choir. Without you there would be no bass line! Sing out. Sing up! Where the basses go so goes the choir. The altos, particularly, depend upon you. Help them to maneuver those passing minor seconds. You do not have to show up for alto auditions, Kol Hakavod.

Ed's Emails

We have noticed that Ed is not entirely in control of his iPhone, or possibly himself. We received this recently:

Dear Fiends,

Reversals will take place in our usual room. Please make lime to

go over everything. It could be a goof performance if we all bitch in. See you Thendsday at 8 a.m.

Ed

Accompanists

We have advertised on Chaim's List for a kosher pianist who is free on Tuesday nights. So far no good. The administration is trying a new tack. If you play guitar come to alto auditions audition to compete for the role of accompanist. A guitar can always be tuned to match the choir's pitch. The guitar audition piece that night is Villa Lobos Prelude # 1. Kindly tune and breathe at home. With guitar accompaniment Mati can still leap to the piano to find that perfect Shul chord while the guitarist quietly strums.

Repertoire

We have heard through the grapevine that Shirah will be learning a new piece this coming semester. To qualify for receiving a copy there will first be a pop quiz on the old repertoire. Think of it as a form of comprehensive exams. As they say, it is your opportunity to review all that we have sung so far. Relative newcomers (the last 10 years) should consider putting in a few extra hours to master the material once and for all. Warning, there will be at least 3 Hanerot Halalus on this quiz.

Refreshments

A dearth of cookies this year has been an unwelcome development. Either there are budgetary concerns

or there are no simchas being celebrated. The administration has decided to institute a snack list. Most people are familiar with this from their school experiences. You will be assigned a date for your contribution. Please bring paper goods, a flower centerpiece and doilies. Appearances are everything!

Concert Review

Comments from audience and singers

- 1) I liked the concert. I thought the music was beautiful.
- 2) Your conductor is so talented and amusing.
- 3) I learned a lot from the conductor's explanations.
- 4) Too much talking!
- 5) Bernie was looking good and in good spirits and it's an honor to have his enthusiastic support.
- 6) The women looked pretty, jewelry and all, despite Ed's prohibitions, and the men handsome.
- 7) We undertook a couple of challenging sophisticated pieces.
- 8) On the whole it was good, not great.
- 9) Not our finest moment!
- 10) You can't win them all!
- 11) Not our best but not awful with some good moments.
- 12) It lacked a highlight.
- 13) A singular event!
- 14) Save me a seat for your next concert.

What did he say?

If you weren't there to hear these they may seem nonsensical and if you were there it won't make any difference but you enjoyed hearing them and you probably laughed uproariously at least once.

Pop Culture

How is it in Mouse City? Where is Felix when we need him. Next time I'll bring cheese.

Sid Caesar sings Rossi.

You sound like Imogene Coca trying to say her line.

Scary

Basses-the death penalty if you move right there.

You all have to attempt suicide together.

The world of the basses. Scary idea.

Religion and Politics

A little less of the Hardy boys and more of Vladimir Putin.

Men, you sound like a drunken vicar.

Altos, you sound like hand puppets.

Sounds like the Japanese won the war.

You sound like you're calling for a cab over there

It's a counter melody, not a counter.

Creative Ideas

We could make a lot of money renting you out as congregants, a dollar for each conversation. A great fundraiser.

Biology

There's no breath there. Why? Because you want to breathe there.

You are suffering from lingering tsadee.

Don't look at the music. It will make you brain dead.

When first cousins marry this is the note that you get.

I'm addressing the humanoids in front of me.

Basses, soak your feet and then come back.

Too much cholesterol in the E flat.

Encouragement

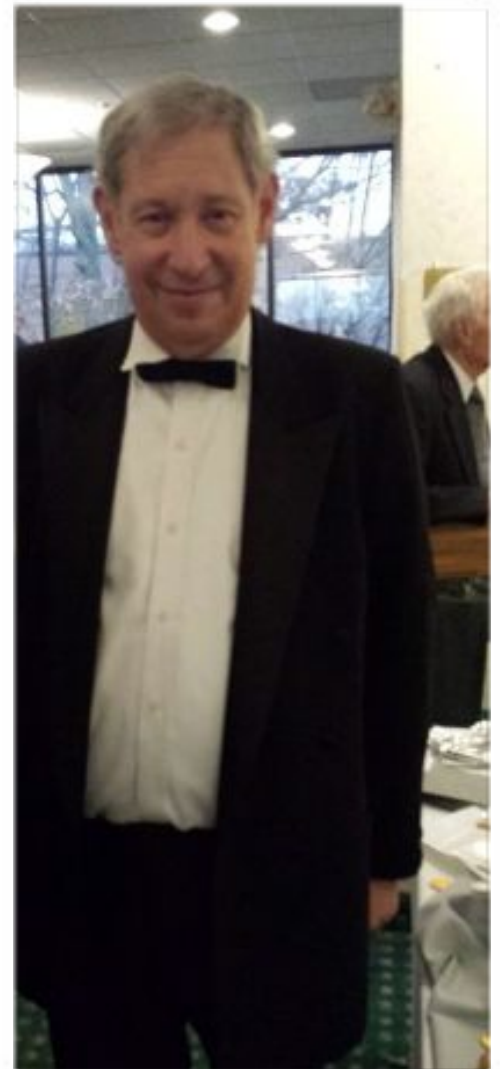
Fellas, you are redeemable.

You finally got it when you stopped singing.

Let's ruin this part of the piece now.

It's exciting!
What you're doing is right!

Chaz-tiv Steve is winning.





Dear Mrs. Plotznik,

I am very worried that I might disappear from the choir as so many others have. Whatever happened to Rick Do and that guy Steve? What about the soprano and alto who were never seen again after attending one rehearsal? What precautions should I take?

Sincerely,
Worried in NJ.



Dear Worried,
The Vanishing Singer Syndrome (VSS) is well-known and can be troublesome, especially when contagious, so your question is not as stupid as it seems.

First, it is important to acknowledge that *some* disappearances can serve a positive function for any choral group. Can I be brutally honest? Let's admit that losing a "Sh'mo" or two, an obnoxious "Steve" or a disrespectful "Adenoid" can be a relief. And Rick Doo? He's history, and frankly nobody "ooooows" or "aaaaaah"s or thinks twice about him.

Now, regarding those people who, like you, actually, fear inadvertent

and unwanted disappearances, the advice is fourfold:

- #1 Pay dues up front. Financial incentives work.
- #2 Make your presence felt. Take up space, move around, poke your neighbor, wear perfume, leave your stuff on your chair, bring yummy cookies and cake all the time. Being obnoxious will get you noticed (which means you can't be invisible), and bringing food will insure that nobody wants to get rid of you.
- #3 Look Up!!!! If you look down you run the risk of Getting Lost in the Music, which is the first step on the slippery

slope of not being able to find your way back, which means you will **Di s a p p e a r**.

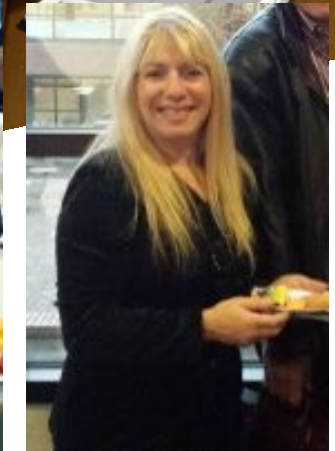
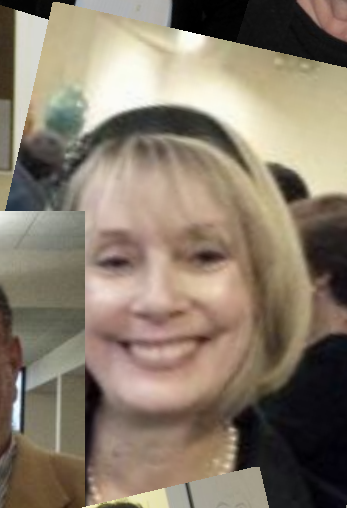
#4 After an hour and a half of not breathing except in the *very few* places where you **MUST** breathe, some people forget to resume regular breathing. This can lead to dire consequences, including...you guessed it...disappearing. So don't forget to **BREATHE AFTER EVERY REHEARSAL**.

Just remember these Arba Midot and you will be fine.

Good luck.

Mrs. P.

WE CAN SHINE



AND WE CAN SNAP

