

SHIR DELIGHT

January 2013

Barbara Bar-Nissim Editor

Rehearsals Tuesday nights at the
JCC in Tenafly

CONDUCTOR
MATI LAZAR

AN ACAPELLA
CHOIR EXCEPT
WHEN IT ISN'T

The Year of the Recording

Row row row your
na

SHIRAH MAKES A CD

PREPARATION

How many times in a row can you sing Ronu Na? As many as Mati thinks necessary! This piece got a great deal of attention. Did it pay off? Only the CD will tell.

THE LONG DAY

Merkin Hall was the venue for a 4 hour recording session. There were breaks (thank you, Bernie), there was almost-syncope and real syncope (fainting but not by BBN), there were cramps, numb feet, headaches, some phlegm. Shirah made it through! Kol Hakavod!

THE PITCH

Shirah members agreed that the piano kept going sharp causing them to fall flat here and there. Recording segments was a clever way to overcome this problem. Pitch therapy scheduled for next semester.



Maestro Mati accepting kudos from an audience member



Lookin good



Hot soothing liquid

Shirah members in
their elegant black
concert attire





Happy hour in the Green Room.



Willing to sing but not for the camera

SHIRAH CD EAGERLY AWAITED

The editors of Shir Delight were amongst those invited to the final mix session. They have been collaborating with the engineers on an exciting project. As all Shirah members know Mati is not just a conductor but a stand-up comic, learned talmudist and shul mover and shaker. Shir Delight's humor editor has been collecting the pearls of wisdom Mati drops. These are known to the choir as 'Matisms'.

INNOVATIVE VOICING

Interspersed or interwoven with the music will be Matisms, spoken by Marvin in Mati's original inflections. One piece entitled 'Singus Interruptus' is a masterpiece of chords and comments. Another interesting and ingenious number is the "You Gotta be Kidding Keter!" This piece was recorded section by section so that the voice overs could be inserted. Some people thought this method was used to preserve pitch but they are wrong. Keter opens with a marvelous Matism, "Bflat 7 in 1601! Not too bad!" Several measures later we hear "oh, same chord! He must have run

out". There is an innovative descant mid piece, a sequence of showalims. Beautiful! It ends with an emotional "Poor little guy had only 5 chords to work with".

CD SALES

Because members of Shirah are so successful at distributing and hanging the flyers advertising upcoming performances, the marketing department has decided to give everyone 10 CDs to sell for which each will pay \$1000 which must be made out to the JCC/don't forget the Kaplen. Any profit they make is theirs to keep. This seems fair to all and will most surely bring in enough money to subsidize the retreat that is being planned at the Hudson Valley Resort, the luxurious haven of many Jewish conferences. Save the weekend of Feb. 30.

RESORT FUN

Plans are underway for what promises to be a bonding experience for Shirah. There will be dancing and drinking, shmoozing and snoozing and listening and adjusting. Favors will include a pitch pipe, metronome, and a set of Shirah colored pencils.

THE WRITTEN

You just have to crescendo to pass this year's written!

Forget about all the other rules. Sing louder or fail!





MARVIN AND BARBARA, FELLOW BRIDGE ENTHUSIASTS. MARVIN IS BETTER.



AWWW



IT'S A GRAND AFTERNOON. OUR CLOTHES ARE CLEAN, OUR SPIRITS ARE HIGH-MOSTLY.

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE OK?



Remember these Recipes for Rehearsals

BRING A PENCIL...DON'T WEAR DEODORANT... LOOK UP (EVEN IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE MUSIC MATI WANTS YOU TO LOOK UP)...HIT YOUR NEIGHBOR ON THE HEAD IF S/HE SINGS A WRONG NOTE...ARRIVE ON NON-JEWISH TIME

Section by Section

- ★Altos killed themselves on Masada with that D!
- ★Sopranos, the sirens are singing again.
- ★Altos, too much yud
- ★Sopranos, you're causing accidents on a 4 lane highway! In Florida!
- ★Mezzo cowardlizzo
- ★Alto hydrogenized legato
- ★Altos are the winners, the rest need remedial help
- ★Men - you sound like Milton Berle, no like Jerry van Dyke; no, like Soupy Sales (Editor's comment: that might have been meant for the women.)
- ★Basses, what are you, stevedores?
- ★Come on Luke! (Does anyone know who he is?)
- ★You're like Marranos hiding in the tenor section
- ★Ladies, you'll be held back as angels.

Musically Speaking

- ★The Bar is the Bar! (????)
- ★It was too short even in dog years
- ★Mezzo cowardlizzo
- ★For Jews you have to make a big deal of the relative minor
- ★It's hard to sing, it's hard to stop, it's hard to grow old.
- ★You're not even doing what's wrong, right.
- ★You'd be put to death for putting a third in an open chord.
- ★Be more urgent! Think matzah,
- ★This is Tenafly - not Oklahoma!
- ★You're humming as flat as you sang
- ★You have a short shelf life
- ★Tap your neighbor on his head-only kidding.
- ★There's road kill all over this piece
- ★Pathetic L.I. Hebrew (Editor's comment: this has so scared my 22 month old grandson who lives on L.I! He's not talking, just singing)

Recording Secretary Requests

- ★Choir members! Please stop breathing! Too many comments on that subject. Borrrring!
- ★Altos, be happy, don't worry! Your one positive comment Mati gave you in Nov. outweighs all those negatives.
- ★Mati, please make your comments slower. I can't look up, sing and write at the same time.
- ★Refreshment bringers: I like lemon cake.
- ★ Tenors, please don't sit in the alto section.
- ★ Whoever is singing flat, please stop. If it's me I don't want to know about it.
- ★No more crazy texts! Was it kol oivecha yovedu or kol oivecha Yisrael?
- ★ Mati, can you tell Phyllis all the changes you will make in our already notated music? Will forte become ppp as it did this year?



Sunday afternoon singing! What could be better!



Mazal Tov on son's wedding