



Mitzi Schwarz

Email: mitzismusic@gmail.com

www.mitzismusic.com

“To uplift, inspire, energize, encourage, and spread joy to people through the power of sacred music, teaching, performance and song.”

Cantorial:

- 2020-Present: **Shabbat Service Leader** for various Senior Independent Living Communities, including Sunrise of Santa Monica, Sunrise of Studio City, Watermark of Beverly Hills and City View Senior Living.
- 2020-Present: **Shelichat Tzibburah/Cantorial Soloist** for Jewish Federation of the Desert. Officiates Shabbat and Chaggim services with Rabbi Faith Tessler via Zoom to the community. Also prepares and officiates services, including preparing and delivery of drashot.
- 2016-Present: **Officiant** for Major Life Cycle Events, including Funerals, Weddings and B’nei Mitzvot. Works as part of Clergy team, and as sole officiant.
- 2015-Present: **Shelichat Tzibburah**: Congregation Am HaYam, Ventura, CA, Rabbi J.B. Sacks-Rosen, Senior Rabbi. Co-officiates all Yamim Nora’im services, including Selichot services.
- 2010 – 2015: **Cantorial Soloist** for Congregation Makom Ohr Shalom, Encino, CA. Served alongside Rabbis Zalman Schacter-Shalomi, z”l; J.B. Sacks-Rosen; Toba August; Anne Brener; Yael Saidoff. Lead Sabbath services, High Holy Days, Shalosh Regalim. Worked alongside Choir Director to prepare choir for all High Holyday services. Worked with the MOS Board to create fund raisers, community outreach programs, as well as social programs for the community.
- 2005 – Present: **Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tutor**. Supports students in their preparation for their Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony. Works with students to craft drashot related to their parasha. Helps students identify B'nai Mitzvah project(s). Officiates Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremonies for synagogue-unaffiliated families.
- 2005-2006: Guest **Cantorial Soloist** for Valley Outreach Synagogue, Las Vegas, NV, Rabbi Yocheved Mintz, senior Rabbi.
- 2005-2007: **Hazzanit** for Congregation Beth Israel in Chico, CA, a Conservative/Jewish Renewal Community, Rabbi Julie Hilton Danan. Shaliach Tz’burah/Cantorial Soloist for Rosh Hashana, Shabbat T’Shuvah, Kol Nidre and Yom Kippur.

- 2003-2005: **Junior Congregation Leader**, Adat Ari El, North Hollywood, CA. Prepared discussion/experiential activities for children ages 7-12, revolving around weekly Torah par'shiot, leading children and families through Shacharit, Torah and Musaf service.
- 2000-2003: **Cantorial Substitute** for Cantor Evan Kent of Temple Isaiah, Los Angeles, CA.
- 1995 – Present: **Guest Soloist** at Unity, Universalist-Unitarian, and Center for Spiritual Living congregations throughout California. Also hired as a **Guest Speaker**, preparing sermons and teachings appropriate to interfaith communities.

Chaplaincy:

2016 – June, 2020: Employed by Skirball Hospice and Palliative Care, Los Angeles Jewish Home. Served families of all faiths and traditions as end of life Hospice Chaplain, worked with all interdisciplinary team members, including RN's, LVN's, Social Workers and other Chaplains and Rabbis. Provided prayer and ritual, active listening and reflection to all patients and families. Officiates at funeral services, both as sole officiant and as a member of clergy team.

2014 – 2016: Cedars-Sinai Hospital. Served as Chaplain Intern in Spiritual Care Dept. throughout hospital, Rabbi Jason Weiner, Director, Rabbi Rochelle Robins, Supervisor to Mitzi Schwarz. Facilitated rehabilitation groups for patients under supervision; provided song leadership for weekly "Shabbat On the Go" services to patients, family and staff at hospital; created and delivered sermons/Divrei Torah.

Education:

- Academy of Jewish Religion, CA. May 2017, Masters in Jewish Studies; Certificate in Chaplaincy.
- California State University, Northridge. B.A. Psychology, June, 1994
- Santa Monica Sr. High School, June 1984.
- Vocal Training with Cantor Perryne Anker, Robert Edwards and Rebecca Somberg.
- Suicide Assessment, Prevention and Management: continuing education training to learn to assess and work with proper agencies and professionals in offering support to those at risk for suicide.
- Disaster Spiritual Care, 2020. 30-hour online continuing education course. Created and taught by Rabbi Stephen Roberts, BCC. Targeted training to prepare clergy and chaplains of all denominations to respond with competency, professionalism, and compassion to people of all faiths, including atheist and agnostic, who are impacted by disaster. Emphasis given to learning to work within team settings and environments.