

ABOUT ZEMER: JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

February 22-27, 2022

Over the past several years, Cantor Mark and I got together regularly to chat about our mutual love of classical music, opera and cantorial singing. One day Cantor asked me if I would be interested in co-sponsoring a Jewish music festival. Little did he know that this had long been a dream of mine. So I jumped at the opportunity. Calling on various figures in the music world that we knew from our respective backgrounds, we have put together a week-long series of events. Jewish music is wonderfully diverse, stretching from the more familiar like klezmer and Yiddish song to the ever growing world of classical, using both European and Mizrahi modes.

Our mission was to showcase and give voice to these various aspects of Jewish music and offer the community—Jewish and non-Jewish—an opportunity to sample this wide variety and also hear music, unfamiliar and new, as well as favorites. In the coming years, we plan to explore these fields even more. Over the week, you will have the opportunity to hear traditional music, classical composers and new commissions. We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful cornucopia of artists and performances in various formats to enjoy what both Cantor and I love—great music by wonderful Jewish composers.



MASHEY BERNSTEIN,
Co-sponsor and curator

Irish-born Mashey Bernstein Ph.D. has long been involved in the cultural life of Santa Barbara. He was awarded an SB Independent Original Award for his work for over twenty years on OUTRAGEOUS: The Santa Barbara Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. He later ran the Santa Barbara Jewish Film Festival and curated the Kolnoa (Israeli) sidebar of the SB International Film Festival. In 2015, Mashey retired from the UCSB Writing Program and Film and Media Studies Dept; he presently teaches a class there for the Religious Studies Dept. on "The Image of the Jew in American Cinema." He serves on the Board of the Santa Barbara Symphony. He also served on several committees of the Music Academy of the West. For the past decade, he has led the Short Story Discussion at CBB and is President of the Mesa Shul, housed at the Jewish Federation. He has published extensively on Jewish aspects of the media and of his friendship with Norman Mailer, the subject of his dissertation.

CBB gratefully acknowledges Daniel and Mandy Hochman for underwriting our Music Program each year; Laurie Harris and Richard Hecht for underwriting our Fund for New Jewish Music; and CBB's Lowden Musician in Residence Fund.

See cbbsb.org/music-festival for a full schedule of events

ZEMER

SANTA BARBARA'S JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL



CONCERT:

Simone Vitucci, cello & Adam McDonald, piano



THURSDAY FEBRUARY 24, 2022
24 ADAR 1 5782
7:00 PM

LIVE AT
CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

1000 San Antonio Creek Road,
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

———— Co-sponsored and co-curated by ————
Mashey Bernstein, Ph.D. and Cantor Mark Childs

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THE PROGRAM

Felix Mendelssohn: *Song without Words*

Max Bruch: *Kol Nidre*

Fritz Kreisler: *Liebesleid*

Leo Ornstein: *Composition 1*

John Williams: *Theme from Schindler's List*

TREE OF LIFE VIDEO

Jacob Offenbach: *Jacqueline's Tears*

Nicola Piovani: *Theme from Life is Beautiful* (arranged by Adam McDonald)

Ernest Bloch: *From Jewish Life*

No. 1 Prayer

No. 2 Supplication

No. 3 Jewish Song

Fritz Kreisler: *Liebesfreud*

Selection of *Yiddish Songs* (arranged by Adam McDonald)

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



SIMONE VITUCCI, grew up hearing her father play Yiddish folk songs on his mandolin, and started making her own music at the age of 10 when she began studying cello, playing solo with the Cape Town Symphony Orchestra by the age of 15. She earned scholarships to several universities in the United States, won the concerto competition at the University of Notre Dame while completing her Masters degree, and went on to study at Yale with the legendary cellist Aldo Parisot. She is now based in Los Angeles with her family, and became a US citizen in 2012. Simone's chamber music work won her a National Endowment for the Arts grant. Her music has allowed her to tour throughout the world, and to

play a diverse range of musical styles ranging from classical to jazz. She has also played cello for rock and pop stars such as Beyoncé, the Eagles, Burt Bacharach, Glen Hansard, Shreya Ghoshal and Rod Stewart, recorded soundtracks for Hollywood movies (including *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Blade Runner 2049* and *Jack Reacher*) and video games, and appeared in commercials, TV and radio shows. Her outreach projects include teaching underprivileged communities through programs like the Harmony Project and Concerts for Hope, an organization that brings music to people in prisons, gang rehabilitation centers and other underserved communities.



ADAM MCDONALD

Pianist/Music Director/Composer

On the national scene, Adam was the music director for the tour of *Wicked* and was the supervisor/music director for the tour of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. In New York, he led the musical *Far From Canterbury* to the Best Overall Musical position at the Fringe Festival. His regional credits include: *Titanic*, *Showboat*, *Footloose*, *Damn Yankees!*, *Cats*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Beauty and the Beast*, all at The Muny, and *Guys and Dolls* and *The Game at Barrington Stage*. Others favorites across America include: *Company*, *Working*, *Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *Cabaret*, *Once on This Island*, *Mamma Mia!*, *A New Brain*, *John and Jen*, *Curtains*, *Hello Again*, *Elegies*; *A Song Cycle*, *First Lady Suite*, *The Rocky Horror Show*. As a composer, his latest work was a commissioned piece by The Associates of the Boston Public Library for the Pierce Performance Series - *ONWARD* - *Votes for Women*, a documentary play honoring the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th amendment. From Minnesota, Adam did his undergraduate work at Iowa State University and then his master's degree at The Boston Conservatory. While at ISU, Adam was the concerto competition winner performing Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 and while at TBC, he was a guest soloist for Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue*.

BRIAN LISUS grew up in South Africa where music was an integral part of his family life, being related to numerous musicians of Jewish heritage from Eastern Europe, including the renowned Cherniavsky Trio. Brian graduated in 1979 from the Newark International School of Violin Making in England and has been making string instruments professionally since then. His commissions have come from around the world; USA, Canada, England, Japan, Hong Kong, Germany, New Zealand, Chile, South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Namibia and South Africa. In 2010 Brian made the string Quartet of Peace dedicated to South Africa's four Nobel Peace Laureates.



The Quartet featured in concerts at King's Place in London, Picasso's studio in Paris and in Leipzig in the church where Bach is buried. The theme of these concerts highlighted and supported music programs run in impoverished African towns. Brian has also worked with patrons where they acquire an instrument and then offer it on loan to talented students from disadvantaged backgrounds - a unique cultural investment. The Peace Quartet was also invited to perform at Archbishop Desmond Tutu's eightieth birthday celebrations. Brian now lives in Ojai, California and besides making instruments he runs classes for hobbyists, who come and learn to make their own violins.