

ROBERT BENDER

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SUMMARY

Gifted, energetic Rabbi with 26 years experience participating in the fields of religious and music education. Conduct religious worship and other spiritual functions associated with the beliefs and practices of Judaism. Successful at connecting meaningful educational programs with religious services. Maintain excellent rapport with children and adults, create educational programs that are tailored to individual and group needs. Direct choirs as a Cantor as well as serving as a Chair of Jewish music. As a talented, creative singer, performer, and renowned composer, write and perform operas and symphonies celebrating themes of religious freedom. Receive awards for outstanding contributions to Jewish music. Serve as a guest lecturer at the Smithsonian during an exhibition of ancient bibles. Author of many newspaper and magazine articles on Jewish issues as well as a four volume music curriculum for Hebrew schools.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- At Israel Congregation, was honored as Chazzan Emeritus, the first composer in residence to receive this designation in the history of the Synagogue
- Skilled musician with a 26 years career working as a Cantor. Also produced creative works of voice and music heard in concert via television and radio throughout the world.
- As a composer wrote operas and symphonies. Made over 12 recordings and received numerous awards in music and the performing arts.

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Rabbinical Experience

- Currently serve as an Associate Rabbi and Educational Director at Shalom in Gaithersburg and as a Rabbi and Director of Religious Education at Beit in Maryland.
- Administer religious rites. Study and interpret religious laws doctrines and traditions.
- Counsel individuals and groups concerning their spiritual, emotional and personal needs. Provided spiritual leadership at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington during a clinical pastoral educational program. Counseled and designed programs to help adults grow. .
- Conduct special ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, and confirmations. Prepared and deliver sermons and other talks.
- Planned and lead religious education programs for congregations. As a member of senior staff, worked closely with the Rabbis, Executive Director, and officers.
- Trained students for B'nai Mitzvah that is affiliated with adult program at Adas Isreal.
- Visited people in homes, hospital and prisons to provide them with comfort and support. Participate in community events as representative.

- As a teacher or Hazzanim, mentored numerous Hazzanim...
 - Founder of the Adas Isreal Youth Choir and served as Director for 26 years.
 - In charge of hiring singers, an organist and other personnel for Friday evening services and holy days. Prepared budget, payroll and special projects.
 - Organized people who want to participate in demonstrations for Darfor and other causes. Carried on a dialog between churches and Synagogues.
 - Served as an liaison coordinating programs among 30 seminaries in New York as well as coordinating programs hosted by the Academy for Jewish Religion.
- Executive/ Administrative experience**
- Served as a Cantor for 25 years at the following congregations: El, Plainfield, NJ; Isreal Congregation, Washington, DC; and Chair in Jewish Music at Isreal Congregation
 - Taught chanting in the Isreal religious school. Directed the Adas Israel Quartet that accompanied professional musicians who play during services. Prepared 24 classes for confirmation.
- Cantorial Experience**
- Composed the opera for Denmark Symphony that was performed at the at the University of Maryland.
 - Appeared as the “Reader” for the performance of the ‘Service Sacred’ of Darius Mihaud as well as performing other voice over roles.
 - Served as an advisor for documentary films shown at the United States Holocaust museum. Produced video, DVD’s and earned television credits for several films.
- Musical Activities**
- Work History**
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| Associate Rabbi and Educational Director , Gaithersburg, MD | 2007 - Present |
| Rabbi and Director of Religious Education , Prince Frederick, MD | 2005 - Present |
| Rabbi Counselor
Worked with elderly through the Chaplaincy program at the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington | 2006-2007 |
| Served as a Cantor at the following:
Beth Plainfield, NJ; | 1977-1981 |
| Israel Congregation, Washington, DC; | 1981-2005 |
| Chair in Jewish Music at Israel Congregation | 2005-2008 |
- Education**
- Academy for Jewish Religion Rabbinic Program** , MD, 2005-2007
 - Rabbinical Seminary International**, 2008
 - Diploma of Hazzanut and Bachelor of Sacred Music** from the Jewish Religion , B.A, Piano, M.A., **Columbia University, Teacher’s College**, Music.
- Awards**
- Received ten Solomon Awards: nine in music and the performing arts from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for Music and the Performing Arts.
 - Award in Hazzanut and the Einstein Award in Musical Composition
 - Yitzhak Rabin Cantorial Award