

UPDATE

2016

JEWISH IDENTITY THROUGH JEWISH CHORAL MUSIC

This year has been a watershed for the Zamir Choral Foundation. We have expanded our reach, becoming an inter-generational, trans-denominational, and international movement. Through our many activities – **HaZamir: The International Jewish High School Choir**, **Zamir Noded** for young adults, the **Zamir Chorale**, the annual **North American Jewish Choral Festival**, and **The Jeanne R. Mandell Fund for New Music**, we are fulfilling our mission by connecting more Jews to our heritage, to our future, and, most importantly, to each other. We are grateful for the support of our generous donors who have enabled us to reach these new milestones.



North American Jewish Choral Festival; Zamir Noded, HaZamir, Zamir Chorale.

HAZAMIR HAS DOUBLED IN SIZE IN JUST THE PAST 6 YEARS, WITH 35 CHAPTERS IN THE US AND ISRAEL.

HaZamir's growth, the recent creation of Zamir Noded, new partnerships, and new opportunities for teens to grow as leaders, all are evidence of the vibrant movement promoting Jewish identity and community that is Zamir.

By offering excellent musical experiences, exploring Jewish text and historical context, and offering fun social interactions at rehearsals, retreats, and performances, we are nurturing generations of Jewish leaders and Israel ambassadors in communities across North America and Israel. At a time when the Jewish people and Israel continue to face significant challenges, our mission is more urgent than ever.

When we think about transmitting our rich heritage to the next generation, we look to one of our teachers, ZCF's honorary chair for a

quarter century, **Elie Wiesel**™. A witness, activist, unique moral voice, Elie was also a lover of Jewish music, a choral conductor after World War II, and a passionate supporter of ZCF. He believed deeply that Jewish music is an irreplaceable vehicle for conveying and perpetuating memory, culture, and tradition. As he wrote, "Thanks to Zamir, young people gather to tell the outside world that, in spite of the convulsions of History, Jews love to sing." With his passing, we rededicate ourselves to increasing our impact, reaching more

young people, and conveying the beauty of Jewish life through song.

In the following pages you'll read about how ZCF is achieving our mission, uniting our diverse Jewish community by singing – together.

Matthew Lazar

Matthew Lazar,
ZCF Founder and Director



THE ZAMIR CHORAL FOUNDATION

Zamir Chorale • North American Jewish Choral Festival • HaZamir
Jeanne R. Mandell Fund for New Music • Zamir Noded

HAZAMIR CHAPTERS

35 HaZamir chapters across the United States and Israel.

HAZAMIR UNITED STATES

Albany, NY
 Baltimore, MD
 Bergen County, NJ
 Boca Raton, FL
 Boston, MA
 Brooklyn, NY
 Central Jersey, NJ
 Chicago, IL
 Cleveland, OH
 Columbus, OH
 Dallas, TX
 Hartford, CT
 Houston, TX
 Jersey Shore, NJ
 Long Island, NY
 Los Angeles, CA
 Manhattan, NY
 Miami, FL
 Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
 North Jersey, NJ
 Orlando, FL
 Philadelphia, PA
 Pittsburgh, PA
 Providence, RI
 Rockland, NY
 Silicon Valley, CA
 South Jersey, NJ
 Washington, D.C.
 Westchester, NY

HAZAMIR ISRAEL

Ashkelon, Israel
 Beit She'an, Israel
 HaSharon, Israel
 Jerusalem, Israel
 Karmiel/Misgav, Israel
 Ofakim/Merchavim, Israel

HAZAMIR: BIGGER, DEEPER, STRONGER

HaZamir, our pluralistic Jewish youth movement, is in the midst of a remarkable growth spurt, **doubling in size** from 17 to 35 chapters in 6 years, reaching over 400 teens per year. We are thrilled to start the 2016–17 season off by adding chapters in Chicago, Jersey Shore, Albany, and Orlando to our community.

HaZamir teens from across the Jewish spectrum experience the joy of making music in a safe, accepting, and fun social environment, while building a pluralistic teen community. HaZamir singers also participate in leadership programs and bonding activities that strengthen their Jewish communal connections.

With the leadership of our talented conductors, teen singers master and perform challenging music at an advanced level, taking great pride in delivering at the highest musical standard.

For some teens, HaZamir is their only opportunity to sing in an outstanding musical ensemble. For others, it is their only Jewish affiliation. As an international program, HaZamir bridges the gap between American and Israeli teens, forging special bonds and lifelong friendships.

In addition to many other local appearances, last season saw over 400 HaZamir teens from both sides of the ocean performing in our **sold-out Carnegie Hall concert**. A video of one performance from this concert has been viewed over **56,000 times on Facebook**. (Find us at @hazamir-international on Facebook.) A special highlight:



for the first time, a HaZamir teen composed an original work that was debuted at Carnegie Hall.

This concert was reprised in Israel by the 6 HaZamir Israel chapters, with guest appearances by Israeli alumni, some in IDF uniforms.

Some highlights from the current year:

- HaZamir is piloting its **first pre-HaZamir program** for 7th and 8th graders, reaching t(w)eens at this important stage of their development.
- HaZamir's **Teen Leadership** program continues to expand and grow, with 39 HaZamirniks from across the country and Israel serving as Teen Leaders, where they receive intensive leadership training.
- At this year's gala concert we will celebrate the Jewish connection to **Jerusalem**.

HaZamir is instilling a lifelong commitment to Jewish community, culture, and the State of Israel through Jewish choral music, inspiring the next generation of Jewish and musical leaders.

HAZAMIR ISRAEL

Our six HaZamir Israel chapters learn the same repertoire as their American peers. This common musical language creates instant bonds between Israeli and American teens who exchange ideas and experiences in encounter groups led by HaZamir staff. With the support of the Israel Ministry of Education, our Israeli teens spend a week in the States, acting as ambassadors for Israel as they are exposed to Jewish life in America. Through HaZamir, American teens learn about Israel life, and Israeli teens experience American Jewish pluralism.



NORTH AMERICAN JEWISH CHORAL FESTIVAL

Bringing together hundreds of singers and choirs each year, NAJCF enlivens today's choral community and builds the Jewish choral network of tomorrow with enthusiasm, high standards and joy.

27th annual NAJCF achieves new milestones:

- Record attendance of **young enthusiasts**: a palpable addition, lifting spirits and portending the future.
- **NAJCF Fellows**: seven accomplished young musicians selected through application and audition, were invited to participate. *We are most grateful to the Mazer Family Fund for underwriting the 2016 Fellows Program.*
- **Inaugural Zamir Legacy Society event** featured a presentation by Dr. Eric Goldman, a solid beginning for an important new initiative to secure Zamir's future.
- Second **Maestro, Music and Scotch fundraising event** chaired by Donald Gerber, a long-time NAJCF participant. The program included a gorgeous rendition of George Gershwin's "It Ain't Necessarily So".
- **Special tribute to Elie Wiesel z"l**, honorary chair and longtime friend of the Zamir Choral Foundation.
- **Hallel v'Zimrah Award** was **presented to Zalman Mlotek** for his great contribution to Jewish, and specifically Yiddish, choral music.

ZAMIR CHORALE

Performing Jewish music of all periods with an emphasis on new commissions, the Zamir Chorale continues to set the standard of excellence in Jewish Choral music. On May 21, 2017, Zamir Chorale will headline a special concert at Jazz at Lincoln Center: **Celebrate Jerusalem.**

From its early days as the first Hebrew singing choir in American, until the present day, with self-produced concerts in the U.S. and Israel, recordings, tours and its commissioning program, Zamir has carved a niche for itself in the Jewish musical world which is still unparalleled.

THE JEANNE R. MANDELL FUND FOR NEW MUSIC

2016 saw a first for Zamir's Mandell Fund for New Music, commissioning a work by a 17 year old HaZamir singer with extraordinary musical talent. Samuel Dylan Rosner, a member of HaZamir Westchester, composed a brilliant new work to the text of Psalm 96.

The piece premiered in the majestic setting of Carnegie Hall and was performed by 400 of his HaZamir peers to a sell-out audience. This magnificent piece is the Mandell Fund's 18th new choral commission further enriching Zamir's library of modern choral composition, a gift to singers the world-over.

ZAMIR NODED

ZCF's newest initiative, Zamir Noded was created to provide a high-level musical opportunity for young adults ages 18–30 to sing in a Jewish choir with like-minded peers. Conducted by Maestro Matthew Lazar, Zamir Noded has drawn singers from throughout the New York Metro-area and includes alumni of HaZamir. Since its debut at Merkin Concert Hall in 2013, Zamir Noded has earned rave reviews in its performances in and around New York City and at the North American Jewish Choral Festival.

Zamir Noded is a vital outlet for young adults to express their Jewish identity. At a time of life when so many in their 20's turn away from the Jewish community, Zamir Noded is a vehicle that strengthens ties and continues active involvement.

Singers interested in joining Zamir Noded can arrange an audition by contacting ZamirNoded@ZamirChoralFoundation.org.

HAVING BEEN A PART OF HAZAMIR, I ENTERED COLLEGE READY FOR ADVANCED MUSICAL STUDIES. AND, I WAS PROUD OF ISRAEL AND READY TO DEFEND HER. AFTER ALL, I HAD MET, SUNG AND BECAME FRIENDS WITH ISRAELIS.



MIRA DAVIS

HAZAMIR ALUMNI
ZAMIR NODED SOPRANO,
STUDENT AT
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

SPOTLIGHT

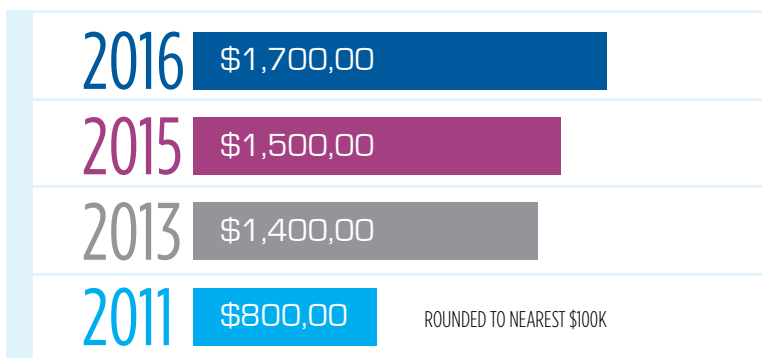
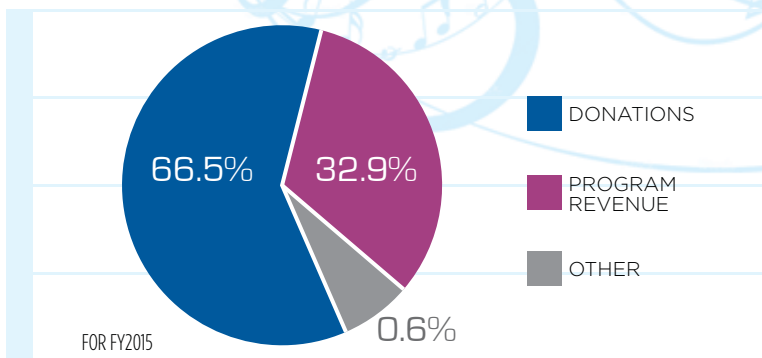


April 2016 – Honoring Rabbi Haskel Lookstein at HaZamir Gala Concert at Carnegie Hall with Concert Chairs Elena & Jay Lefkowitz and Dr. Ruth Westheimer



Training a New Generation of Musical Leaders – 2016 Choral Festival Fellows

FINANCE AT A GLANCE



ZCF Revenue to nearest \$100K.

SAVE THE DATES

MARCH 26, 2017
HAZAMIR INTERNATIONAL
GALA CONCERT
Lincoln Center

MAY 21, 2017
CELEBRATE JERUSALEM
WITH THE ZAMIR CHORALE
ZAMIR NODER & HAZAMIR
Lincoln Center

JUNE 1, 2017
HAZAMIR ISRAEL
IN CONCERT
Jerusalem

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SUPPORT THE ZAMIR CHORAL FOUNDATION

Your generous donation will allow ZCF to reach across denominations, generations, geography and politics to connect the Jewish People through text study and the joy of song.

MAKE MUSIC YOUR LEGACY

Include ZCF in your estate plans and help ensure that our rich musical traditions will inspire the generations to come, strengthening our community and identity.

Donate and learn more today at www.ZamirChoralFoundation.org.

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