



THE JACOB RADER MARCUS CENTER OF THE
AMERICAN JEWISH ARCHIVES

**A Finding Aid to the
American Conference of Cantors Records**

Manuscript Collection No. 764



AMERICAN CONFERENCE *of* CANTORS

Sacred music. Spiritual leadership. Jewish life.

Collection Summary

Title	American Conference of Cantors Records
Dates	1951-2013
Collection Number	MS-764
Repository	The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives
Creator	American Conference of Cantors
Extent	3.2 linear feet (8 Hollinger boxes)
Language of the Material	English

Administrative Information

Biographical Sketch Chartered in 1951, the American Conference of Cantors became an affiliate of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, now the Union for Reform Judaism, in 1968. The American Conference of Cantors represents the Cantorate in the Reform Movement throughout the world, with a membership of over 450 cantors.

Cantors have been a part of Jewish worship since ancient Israel. In the United States, cantors have played an important role in synagogue life since colonial times, when they were regarded as a "minister of the congregation." During the first half of the twentieth century, many European-born cantors found their way to American shores. The most talented among them achieved a level of fame usually reserved for opera singers. Today, their vocal artistry is only one aspect of an expanding role in the synagogue.

Cantors serve as leaders of worship and officiants in life-cycle ceremonies such as weddings, funerals, and b'nai mitzvah. In addition, they are frequently called upon to visit the sick and comfort the bereaved. Cantors also play an important part in reaching out to intermarried families. Lastly, they are responsible for developing and implementing multi-generational education programs.

Many of today's cantors come to the cantorate as a second career. Their congregations reap the benefits of experience that frequently runs the gamut. Former engineers, molecular biologists, computer analysts, teachers, musicians and others now serve congregations from coast to coast. Their job is to find new modes of musical worship while, at the same time, acting as guardians of time-honored traditions..

In 1987, the ACC established its own affiliate organization, the Guild of Temple Musicians (GTM), which represents other synagogue musicians. Members of the GTM participate in the annual convention of the ACC and serve on the Commission on Synagogue Music.

Scope and Content Contains board meeting minutes, membership directories, convention planning documents, records of convention activities, photographs, placement guides, various handbooks, and publicity materials. There is also a small amount of correspondence. The audiocassettes, CDs, and LP in Series E of ACC members and events have been cataloged separately. Convention notebooks include email correspondence about the conventions.

Arrangement The collection has been arranged into five (5) series: A. Executive Board Meeting Minutes; B. Annual Conventions; C. Subject Files; D. Photographs; E. Audiovisual.

Terms of Access The collection is open for use; no restrictions apply.

Preferred Citation Footnotes and bibliographic references should refer to the American Conference of Cantors Records and the American Jewish Archives. A suggestion for at least the first citation is as follows:
[Description], [Date], Box #, Folder #. MS-764. American Conference of Cantors Records. American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Provenance Received from the American Conference of Cantors, Chicago, Ill., 28 December 2007. Additional material received in July 2013.

Processing Information Processed by Vicki Lipski, November 2008.

Index Terms

Subjects Cantors (Judaism)
Corporate Names American Conference of Cantors (Chicago, Ill.)
Media Photographs / Sound recordings

Series A. Executive Board Meeting Minutes, 1992-1998

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Consists of the Executive Board meeting minutes; committee reports are sometimes included.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1. Folder 1. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1998 March 22-23
Box 1. Folder 2. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1997 November 23-24
Box 1. Folder 3. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1996 October 13-14
Box 1. Folder 4. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1996 June 23
Box 1. Folder 5. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1996 March 17-18
Box 1. Folder 6. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1995 October 23-23
Box 1. Folder 7. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1995 June 25
Box 1. Folder 8. Presidential speech. Cantor Judith Rowland, 1995
Box 1. Folder 9. Executive Board meeting minutes summary, 1995 March 26-27
Box 1. Folder 10. Pre-convention and post-convention Board meeting minutes, 1995
Box 1. Folder 11. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1994 December 11
Box 1. Folder 12. Executive Board meeting minutes summaries, 1994 June 26-29
Box 1. Folder 13. Executive Board meeting minutes, 1993 May 23-24
Box 1. Folder 14. Plenary session, 1993
Box 1. Folder 15. Various, 1992
Box 1. Folder 16. Membership directories, 1995-2004

Series B. Annual Conventions, 1993-2013

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Documents the 50th Anniversary Convention, held in 2003; the other conventions are documented to varying degrees. The most complete information about the ACC annual conventions can be found in the convention notebooks, which are extant for the 2002-2005 conventions.

Arrangement The series is arranged chronologically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 2. Folder 1. Convention, 1992
Box 2. Folder 2. Convention, 1993
Box 2. Folder 3. Convention, 1994

Box 2. Folder 4. Convention, 1995
Box 2. Folder 5. Convention, 1996
Box 2. Folder 6. Convention, 1997
Box 2. Folder 7. Convention, 2000
Box 2. Folder 8. Convention, 2001
Box 2. Folder 9. Convention. 50th anniversary, 2003
Box 2. Folder 10. Convention, 2004
Box 2. Folder 11. Convention, 2005
Box 2. Folder 12. Convention. 60th anniversary, 2013
Box 3. Folder 1. Convention notebook, 2002
Box 3. Folder 2. 50th anniversary notebook, 2003
Box 3. Folder 3. Convention notebook, 2003
Box 4. Folder 1. Convention notebook, 2004
Box 4. Folder 2. Convention notebook, 2005

Series C. Subject Files, 1981-2005

Extent 1.2 linear feet (3 Hollinger boxes)

Scope and Content Note Includes the ACC's constitution, by-laws, and code of ethics, as well as publicity, which is thoroughly covered.

Arrangement The series is arranged alphabetically.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 5. Folder 1. ACC Educational Endowment Fund journals, 1994-1996
Box 5. Folder 2. ACC history.
Box 5. Folder 3. ACC service of installation, 2001
Box 5. Folder 4. Applications for Associate Cantors, 1985-1986
Box 5. Folder 5. Archives Committee includes individual photos of cantors.
Box 5. Folder 6. Articles/programs.
Box 5. Folder 7. Associate applicants.
Box 5. Folder 8. Cantor/composer biographies.
Box 5. Folder 9. The Cantor: A Calling for Today. Film by Michael A. Shochet, 1994
Box 5. Folder 10. Commemorative ad journal, 1997
Box 5. Folder 11. Commemorative ad journal, 1999
Box 5. Folder 12. Commemorative ad journal, 2002
Box 5. Folder 13. Commemorative ad journal, 2004
Box 6. Folder 1. Constitution, by-laws, code of ethics.
Box 6. Folder 2. Correspondence, 1994
Box 6. Folder 3. Emerging Worship and Music Trends in UAHC Congregations. Finding a Cantor for your Congregation, 1994, undated

Box 6. Folder 4. Guidebooks, handbooks, etc.

Box 6. Folder 5. Guild of Temple Musicians, 1994

Box 6. Folder 6. Joint Cantorial Placement Commission, 1995

Box 6. Folder 7. Koleinu newsletter, 1992, undated

Box 6. Folder 8. Koleinua B'Yachad: Our Voices As One, 1999

Box 6. Folder 9. Nishmat Tzedek: A Righteous Soul. Musical score and readings, 2003

Box 7. Folder 1. Lists of congregations and media in CT, 1994

Box 7. Folder 2. Local news, 1990s

Box 7. Folder 3. Mission to Israel, 2006

Box 7. Folder 4. Music/liturgy, undated

Box 7. Folder 5. "The New Cantor," Reform Judaism, 2003 Winter

Box 7. Folder 6. Newspaper articles, 1990s

Box 7. Folder 7. Press list - New York Publicity Guide, 1994, undated

Box 7. Folder 8. Press release reports and correspondence, 1992-1994

Box 7. Folder 9. Publicity, 1994

Box 7. Folder 10. Publicity [floppy disks], 1994, undated

Box 7. Folder 11. Publicity and correspondence, 1994

Box 7. Folder 12. Publicity and correspondence, 1993

Box 7. Folder 13. Sacred Partnership: A Joint Project of the Reform Leadership Task Force on the Shortage of Jewish Professionals, 2000

Box 7. Folder 14. Survey, 1985

Box 7. Folder 15. Transcontinental Music publications, 1994-1995

Box 7. Folder 16. The Vocation of the Cantor. An essay by Abraham Joshua Heschel.

Box 7. Folder 17. Women cantors, Articles about, 1980-1990s

Series D. Photographs, 1951, 1980s, undated

Extent 0.4 linear feet (1 Hollinger box)

Scope and Content Note Includes mainly images of conventions; few photographs are identified.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 8. Folder 1. Graduation Day, School of Sacred Music, New York, 1951 June

Box 8. Folder 2. ACC Board, 1980s

Box 8. Folder 3. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 4. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 5. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 6. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 7. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 8. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 9. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 10. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 11. Conventions, undated

Box 8. Folder 12. Conventions, undated

Series E. Audiovisual, 1971, 1997-2004

Scope and Content Note Consists of an LP and a large number of audiocassettes and CDs, mostly having to do with ACC conventions. The LP is a recording of President Alfred Gottschalk's installation as President of HUC-JIR in 1971, and includes the original musical score.

Box and Folder Listing

Item Tefillah Limsirat Torah. A Service on the Receiving and Transmission of the Torah On the Occasion of the Inauguration of President Alfred Gottschalk. Composed and Arranged by Cantor William Sharlin.

Item C-4502 to C-4505. ACC/GTM convention, 1999

Item C-4514 to C-4515. Cantor Merkel. Acts One and Two. Convention, 2003

Item C-4516 to C-4527. Convention, 2002 June 23-27

Item C-4528 to C-4532. Sparks of Light: Revealing the Secrets of Kabbalah, 1997

Item CD-479. New Jewish music sampler, 2002

Item CD-480 to C-489. ACC/GTM convention, 2004

Item CD-490 to C-499. Convention, 2003 July 2-6

Item CD-500. Nishmat Tzedek: A Righteous Soul, 1998

Item CD-501 to C-506. Convention, 2003 July 2-6