



Hinei Ma Tov- Behold How Good!



Koleinu, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus



featuring Cantor Jeri Robins

Sunday, June 14, 2026, 4:00 pm

Beth El Temple Center
2 Concord Avenue, Belmont



www.koleinu.org

Thank you for joining us for *Koleinu's* spring offering, **Hinei Ma Tov - Behold How Good!** In this, *Koleinu's* 24th year, we are excited to perform at Belmont's Beth El Temple Center and to work with Cantor Jeri Robins.

With this program, we offer an afternoon of treasures from the Jewish choral tradition, some familiar and others new. Max Helfman's dramatic and beautiful setting of *Hashkiveinu* often adds to the majesty of High Holiday services, but it is less common in these times to hear it with full chorus. A generation before Helfman, Vienna-born Heinrich Schalit was also steeped in the classical practice but sought to create a musical worship style that broke with the 19th-century German synagogue tradition. His interpretation of Psalm 121, *I Lift Mine Eyes*, is a beautiful example of his efforts.

More contemporary voices on our program include two wonderful and prolific composers whose passing we still mourn: Israeli Yehezkel Braun and American Charles Davidson. Braun's settings of two Passover texts illustrate his skill at arranging simple, even repetitive, melodies in a compelling and dramatic way. Our program is bookended by two examples of Davidson's inventive writing: his sweet *K'doshim Tih'yu* and his energetic *Lo Yisa Goi*. Gerald Cohen's *Libavtini Achoti Chala* follows in Davidson's tradition, wresting the drama from this beautiful Song of Songs text. Bob Applebaum's *Im Ein Ani Li*, a *Koleinu* favorite, is derived from interwoven chants, one for each of Rabbi Hillel's three always relevant questions.

Finally, you'll note that our program includes different settings of well-known texts: Davidson's original *Lo Yisa Goi* is paired with an arrangement of the more traditional melody; and we have three settings of *Hinei Ma Tov*, from which our title is taken. Today's world pushes some of us toward these familiar words with renewed fervor. Their expression of Jewish values of peace and harmony has resonated through time for humans of all stripes. We champion them in song with the hope that they will soon regain the high place in our world from which they have so sadly fallen.

Many thanks are due for today's concert. We are grateful to Cantor Robins for not only performing with us, but for facilitating our appearance here in Belmont along with Lara Riehle and other Beth El Temple staff. Thanks to Streamography for the livestream and sound assistance.

Within *Koleinu*, we so appreciate the skills and generosity of our musical staff, artist/intern Lucy Geller, and accompanist Terry Halco, who supports us tremendously. Thanks to all the *Koleinu* volunteers who have helped with the many details of preparing for a public concert. Kudos once again to our president, Betsy Cohen, for all she does to keep track of all those logistics and graciously corral our efforts!

And as always, thank you for joining us and supporting *Koleinu, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus!*

-- Carol

Program

<i>Hodu</i>	Moshe Kraus, arr. C. Winternitz + I.R. Meisels
<i>K'doshim Tih'yu</i>	Charles Davidson
<i>Im Ein Ani Li</i>	Robert Applebaum
<i>B'tzeit Yisrael</i> <i>Adir Hu</i>	Tunisian folk tune, arr. Yehezkel Braun Romanian folk tune, arr. Yehezkel Braun
<i>Libavtini Achoti Chala</i>	Gerald Cohen

Hinei ma tov u'ma na'im, shevet achim gam yachad.
Hinei ma tov u'ma na'im, shevet achayot gam yachad.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brothers and sisters
to dwell together in unity!

Intermission

<i>Hinei Ma Tov</i> <i>Hinei Ma Tov</i>	Folk tune, arr. Robert J. Dvořák Heinrich Schalit
<i>I Lift Mine Eyes</i>	Heinrich Schalit
<i>May the Words</i>	Max Helfman
<i>Hashkiveinu</i>	Max Helfman
<i>Herman's Nigun</i>	Folk tune, arr. Eleanor Epstein
<i>Lo Yisa Goi</i> <i>Lo Yisa Goi</i>	Charles Davidson Folk tune, arr. Ed Lojeski

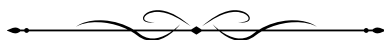
Cantor Jeri Robins, soloist

Stephen Tassone, guitar

Lucy Geller, intern artist-in-residence

Terry Halco, accompanist

Carol Marton, director



Texts and Translations

Traditional texts in Judaism most often refer to the Divine in the masculine form, and Koleinu is faithful to the composer's choice of texts as they are set to the music. However, those texts are not a declaration of Koleinu's religious beliefs or conception of the Divine. Those are surely as varied and nuanced as we are in numbers.

Hodu - Psalm 118:1-4

*O give thanks to the Lord, for God is good,
For God's mercy endures forever.
Let Israel say now: God's loving kindness endures forever.
Let the house of Aaron say: God's loving kindness endures forever.
Let them that revere the Lord say: God's loving kindness endures forever.*



K'doshim Tihyu - Leviticus 19:2

*And you will be holy
For I am holy.*

Im Ein Ani Li - from Pirkei Avot

*If I am not for myself
Who will be for me?
And if I'm only for myself, what am I?
And if not now, when?*



B'tzeit Yisrael - Psalm 114

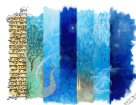
*When Yisrael went from Egypt, the house of Ya'akov from a people of foreign language;
Yehudah was His sanctuary, and Yisrael His dominion.
The sea saw it, and fled; the Jordan was driven back.
The mountains skipped like rams, and the hills like lambs.
What has come upon you, the sea, that you flee; the Jordan, that you turn back?
The mountains, that you skip like rams; the hills like lambs?
Tremble, earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Ya'akov;
Who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of waters.*



Adir Hu - Passover piyut

Mighty is He!

*May He soon rebuild his house,
Speedily, speedily, and in our days, soon.
God, rebuild, rebuild your house soon!
Distinguished is He..., Great ..., Exalted...,
Glorious ..., Faithful..., Faultless*



Libavtini Achoti Chala - Song of Songs: 4: 9-10, 16

*You have captured my heart, my own, my bride,
You have captured my heart with one glance of your eyes,
With one coil of your necklace.
How sweet is your love, my own, my bride,
How much more delightful your love than wine,
Your ointments, more fragrant than any spice.
Awake, O north wind, come, O south wind!
Blow upon my garden, that its perfume may spread.
Let my beloved come to his garden and enjoy its luscious fruits*



Hinei Ma Tov - Psalm 133:1

*Behold, how good and pleasant
For brothers to dwell together.*



I Lift Mine Eyes - Psalm 121

*I lift mine eyes unto the hills;
From whence doth my help come?
My help cometh from the Lord who made heaven and
earth.
He will not let thy foot be moved.
He who keepeth thee will not slumber.
Behold, He who keepeth Israel will neither slumber nor
sleep.
The Lord is thy keeper; the Lord is thy shade on thy right
hand.
The sun shall not smite thee by day nor the moon at night.
The Lord will keep thee from all evil; He will keep thy soul.
The Lord will keep thy going out and thy coming in.
From this time forth and forever more.*



May the Words, Psalm 19

*O, May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be
acceptable in Thy sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.*

Hashkiveinu - Evening Liturgy

*Cause us to lie down, O Lord our God, in peace; and raise us up,
O our King, to life.*

*O spread thy pavilion of peace over us, and direct us with good
counsel from thy presence,
and save us speedily, for the sake of thy name.*

*O shield us, and remove from us enemies, pestilence, the sword,
hunger, and sorrow.*

*And remove the evil from before us and behind us, and shelter
us in thy wings' shadow.*

*For thou art our protector and savior, for thou art a gracious and
merciful king.*

*Guard us in our goings and comings, for life, and peace, for
now and forever more.*

*And spread thy pavilion of peace over us. Blessed art thou, O
Lord,*

*who spreadest thy pavilion of peace over us, and over thy
people Israel and Jerusalem. Amen.*



Lo Yisa Goi - Michah 4:3-4 English lyrics by Cynthia Porter

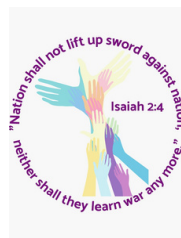
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

Neither shall they learn war anymore.

But every man will be seated under his grapevine and fig tree.

Let there be peace throughout the land,
Brothers and sisters hand in hand.

Lay down your arms and sing your song,
And soon the world will sing along.



About Koleinu

Now in its 24th season, Koleinu, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus, a 60-member non-audition chorus, performs a wide range of sacred, secular, traditional, and contemporary Jewish choral works. Under the inspired direction of Carol Marton and with expert support from accompanist Terry Halco, Koleinu is proud to bring the joy and richness of Jewish music and culture to local concerts, interfaith programs, and senior residences. Koleinu has also appeared several times at the North American Jewish Choral Festival and collaborated with numerous Boston-area groups, including Ezekiel's Wheels Klezmer Ensemble, the Boston City Singers, and many of the talented Cantors in the greater Boston area.

In November 2025, Koleinu organized a free community concert, Tikkun Olam~ Together in Song, Embracing Community through Jewish Music, featuring A Besere Velt Yiddish Chorus and musician Yoni Battat. Playing to a full house at Congregation Kehillath Israel in Brookline, the uplifting program delivered a message of hope during challenging times.



We celebrate David Stollar for his many years as a dedicated member of the bass section and as an invaluable advisor whose meaningful contributions were an indelible gift to the Koleinu community.

Thank you, David, for your enduring voice and exemplary service. You have our deepest respect, appreciation, affection, and best wishes!

~Koleinu

Koleinu, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus



SOPRANO

Rachel Adler-Golden
Joanne Borg
Betsy Cohen
Lucy Geller
Ronda Goodale
Suzanne Hanser
Laurie Kahalas
Janet Kolodner
Nancy Krieger
Joyce Lazarus
Ruthie Liberman
Marilyn Newman
Gayle Pinshaw
Elaine Pollack
Emma Savitz
Susan Schoenberg
Deb Smigel
Peggy Sunshine
Judith Tracy
Sara Zaidspinner

BASS

Alan Alpert
Henry Carrey
David Fillingham
Larry Kozinn
Daniel Milewich
Eric Pell
Michael Savitz
Alan Shepro
Alan Shotkin
Alan Teperow
Michael Zimmer

ALTO

Karla Allan
Debbie Benador
Jill Feblowitz
Louise Gessel
Lena Gorelik
Sherry Israel
Michele Koppelman
Elizabeth Lieberman
Katherine McDaniel
Robie Myers
Eva Radding
Penny Roberts
Elizabeth Rose
Sharon Sevransky
Ronnie Sugarman
Leslie Tannenwald
Amy Westebbe
Esme Yarvis

TENOR

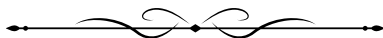
David Carlen
Joan Friedman
Stephen Tassone
Alan Weiss
Jim Winston
Jacob Yarvis



Carol Marton, Koleinu's founding Artistic Director, is a singer and choral conductor who has recently returned to playing the French horn with the Concord Orchestra and the Brookline Community Band. She directed several area synagogue choirs, including the Temple Sinai Choir in Sharon, for over 25 years. She was the founding director of Pandora's Vox, a contemporary music ensemble for women's voices, from 2001–2011, and more recently a guest conductor for Cantilena, A Women's Chorale. Carol has sung with many area choral ensembles, especially focusing on contemporary music. She has been on the faculty of the School of Jewish Music at Hebrew College, and in other Boston locations, teaching conducting, vocal technique, voice, and piano. Carol is also the longtime business manager for GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders (GLAD Law) in Boston.

Cantor Jeri Robins is the Cantor at Beth El Temple Center in Belmont, Massachusetts, and the Director of Education at Temple Chayai Shalom in Easton. A graduate of Hebrew College, where she earned cantorial ordination and a Master's degree in Jewish Education, Jeri is passionate about sharing the richness of Jewish music and tradition through prayer, teaching, and performance. She has served communities in both the Reform and Conservative movements and loves helping people connect to Jewish liturgy, worship, and community through music.

Terry Halco is an active accompanist, organist, and singer in the Boston area. He received his musical training at Baldwin Wallace University in Ohio and the New England Conservatory. Terry is the accompanist for Chorus pro Musica (Boston), Musica Sacra (Cambridge), the Westford Chorus (Westford), and the choruses of the University of Massachusetts in Boston. He is also the Music Director at Harvard-Epworth Church in Cambridge, where he plays for worship services and leads a volunteer choir. He has been the accompanist for the Simmons College Chorale, the Emerson College Chorale, and the Polymnia Choral Society. As a singer, he has performed with the Tanglewood Festival Chorus and the vocal ensemble Capella Alamire.



Greetings & Ads

In memory of my mom, Rose, my
brother Barry, and my husband,
Ben, remembering their
love of music.
~Ronda Goodale



**To my wonderful wife, Karla, and all of Koleinu, congrats
on another year of beautiful Jewish music! Jeff**


**For Sherry Israel, with love from all your children
and grandchildren** 

**Greetings from The Raddings! Eva and Alan, Lisa &
David, Amy & Sylvan**

Welcome Elyse Tova Tannenwald! Love, "La La"



**In memory of Koleinu fan, Barry Andelman &
our musical family. Henry Carrey**

 **THE BASS SECTION
SUPPORTS THE ENTIRE CHORUS!
WITHOUT US, YOU'D BE
BASE-LESS!**

Koleinu, Boston's Jewish Community Chorus, thanks our generous supporters (August 1, 2025 - May 28, 2026)

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Elizabeth Rose

Lynn Rosenberg

Dorothee Rozenberg

Allan Sadun

Emma Savitz

Henry Seider

Sharon Severansky

Jerry Sherman

Molly Silver

Dean Solomon

David Stern

Janet Stotsky

Leslie Tannenwald

Jane Tenenbaum

Joyce The Voice

Mark Venet

Susan Walton

Rochelle Weill

Brent Whelan

Carol and Richard Winston

Jennifer Winston

Becca Wolfson

Beth Worell

Sheila and Richard Wulf

Glenda Yoder





Another year of the joy of
singing and musical growth!



Thank you, Carol, for always
expecting more and showing
us how to get there.

*Much love and gratitude
from the Alto Section*



Dearest Carol 🎵

📌 **HIGH** Do We Sing Your Praise,
for you have given us so much ❤️

🎵 We appreciate your purposeful
warm-ups that guide us to reach
for our best vocal selves 🎵

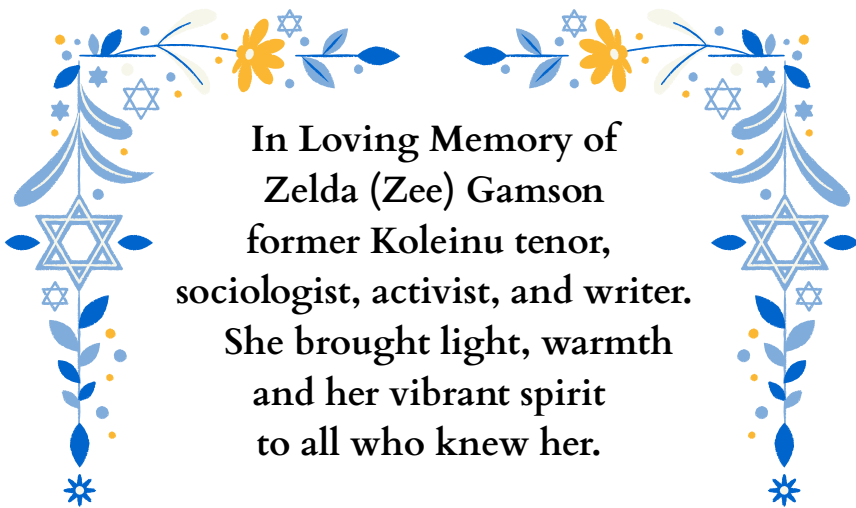
🎵 We treasure your teaching,
while you lead us with rigor and with humor 😊

We are so grateful for all that you give to

❤️ **KOLEINU** ❤️

🎵 **IN SONG, AND WITH LOVE** 💕 **YOUR SOPRANOS**





In Loving Memory of
Zelda (Zee) Gamson
former Koleinu tenor,
sociologist, activist, and writer.
She brought light, warmth
and her vibrant spirit
to all who knew her.



MAY HER MEMORY BE A BLESSING



תיקון עולם
Tikkun Olam



In Loving Memory of Jim Ball,
former Koleinu bass and board member,
Zamir Choral Foundation Board member,
co-founder of the Boston Jewish Musical Festival,
JARTS contributor,
devoted singer and all-around Mensch.
He dedicated his many skills to his belief in the power of music
to build community,



MAY HIS MEMORY BE A BLESSING



**TO THE ALTOS~ WE MAKE A
GREAT SECTION!**

ALTO-GETHER NOW!



~an alto