



T&V Choir Handbook

Singing great Jewish choral music and inspiring each other and our community is one of life's most rewarding endeavors! When we come together as a choir, we make a commitment to each other, to members of our choir and our community to work together as a group, as efficiently as possible in the limited rehearsal time that we have. Also, we keep in mind that any time the choir is singing in a concert or a service; we are both serving and representing our community.

In an effort to aspire for excellence each time we come together,
please note the following expectations of each choir member:

Attendance

- **Mark your calendars** with all rehearsal dates.¹
- **Do not schedule** any other activities for Tuesday nights for the duration of the choir season.
- Be present in body and in spirit at every rehearsal² (please do not text during rehearsals unless related to rehearsal, and listen even while other parts are rehearsing)
- Be ready to sing, music in hand (in black binder by concert time) at 7 PM sharp.

Preparation

- Working on your part(s) in between rehearsals means less time reviewing what we've already learned.
- Keep your music organized so you can find it when you need it, and so you do not need a new copy at each rehearsal.
- Bring your music with you to each rehearsal.³

Synagogue Etiquette

- **Talking is prohibited when** the rabbi is speaking, during the amidah (silent prayer), and during the Mourners' Kaddish. Otherwise, please keep any quiet talking to a bare minimum.
- **Use the restrooms downstairs** - unless you have an emergency or an issue with mobility, in which case, you may use the upstairs bathroom **as long as you:**
 - Open and close the bimah door as **quickly and quietly/gently** as possible, and **do not let the door slam.**
 - **Do not carry** your handbag, water or anything else across the bimah.
- **Do not walk around or cross the bimah for any reason (barring emergency):**
 - When the ark is open.
 - When the rabbi or the cantor is speaking (unless s/he is inviting the choir up).
 - When the congregation is standing.
 - When the Torah or haftarah is being read.
 - During the mourners' kaddish.
 - During the amidah (silent prayer), even if you are done, unless you are absolutely sure you will not disturb anyone who is still praying.

¹ You can access rehearsal dates from Cantor Postman or on the T&V website, www.tandv.org.

² Unless you have an emergency or you are subject to other circumstances that make it impossible and I have expressly excused you.

³ If you can't find your music, you can print out music for yourself from the T&V website's "Choir Members Area" prior to rehearsal. The password is choir18.

Shul Attire /Accessories (what to wear when the choir sings at Shabbat or Holiday services)

- In keeping with our communal efforts to generally dress for services in what some call "business attire" and with a sense of modesty:
 - Do not wear jeans or shorts.
 - Women: wear/show modest necklines, covered shoulders, no exposed midriffs.
 - Men: wear shirts that are buttoned to the top.
 - All: wear a choir kippah.
- Yom Kippur: It is traditional to wear non-leather shoes (e.g., canvas sneakers), and some wear a kittel or white clothing.
- **Do not carry any electronics** on Shabbat or holidays. (This means **no cell phones**.)

Rosh HaShanah, Yom Kippur Day and Shabbatot (when the choir participates in services)

- Arrive by 10:30 AM, and sit with choir members in the front (at least when musaf starts).

Cantor Moss Concert Attire

- Women: wear a long black skirt, long-sleeved black blouse, pearls, dark stockings and shoes.
- Men: wear a dark suit, white shirt, tie, dark socks and shoes.
- All: wear a choir kippah.

Performances

- To sing at/in High Holiday services, you must:
 - Be a member of T&V (or a paying guest of a T&V member).
 - Attend all rehearsals (see footnote 2 on first page for exceptions)
 - This includes at least one full on-bimah rehearsal (on time, with all music in a binder in the proper order).
- To sing in the Cantor Moss concert, you must:
 - Attend all rehearsals. (See footnote 2.)
 - Attend all on-bimah rehearsals, on time, with your music in a binder in the proper order. (See footnote 2.)
- **IMPORTANT MISCELLANEOUS:**
 - Wear **no perfume** of any kind, but definitely use deodorant and toothpaste.
 - Have your music in order in a **black binder as soon as possible, and certainly in time for any performances or participation in services.**

Thank you! Looking forward to a joyous and rewarding choir season together!