

CHOL Music Seminars: November - December 2023

Four two-hour sessions each with two presentations of varied musical journeys.

Hosted by the South African Jewish Museum (SAJM).



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Meeting ID: 852 9445 0314 Passcode: 993345

No	Title	Speaker	Abstract /biog	Date and SA time
1	The King of Violinists in the Land of Gold – Heifetz in South Africa, 1932	Dr Michael Brittan (Denver, Colorado)	See below	Nov 14 (6.00pm)
2	How does a girl from Kimberley get to meet the Queen – a journey in Jewish music	Geraldine Auerbach MBE (London)		Nov 14 (7.00pm)
3	At my Wits end and other beginnings – a woman composer of international acclaim.	Professor Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph (Johannesburg)		Nov 21 (12.00pm)
4	The Musical Rabinowitz Family in South Africa – from cantors to the concert stage	Eli Rabinowitz (Perth, Australia)		Nov 21 (1.00pm)
5	Collecting Jewish Music at (DOMUS) Stellenbosch University	Dr Santie de Jongh Special Collections Librarian (Stellenbosch)		Nov 28 (6.00pm)
6	King Kong – the All-black musical and its all-Jewish production team 1959	Mark Wade and Alan Swerdlow, (Johannesburg)		Nov 28 (7.00pm)
7	The story of the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir	Evelyn Green (Johannesburg)		Dec 05 (12.00pm)
8	From Kroonstad to Victor Hugo via Fleet Street the musical Journey of Herbert Kretzmer	Danielle Lockwood (Chichester)		Dec 05 (1.00pm)

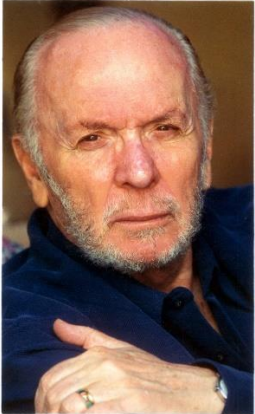
No	Title	Description	Speaker	Date / SA time
1	The King of Violinists in the Land of Gold – Heifetz in South Africa, 1932	Jascha Heifetz was known variously as ‘The Violinist of the Century,’ ‘The King of Violinists’ and ‘God’s Fiddler.’ Despite the 1932 depths of the Great Depression, he remained the most celebrated and highly paid artist of his time. So, in an era when international concertizing relied on the steamship and steam train, how was it that Heifetz spent nearly eight weeks in distant, fledgling South Africa giving 20 concerts far from the hallowed music meccas of New	Dr Michael Brittan (Denver) born in Johannesburg is both a musician and an engineer. In South Africa, he performed as a solo violinist, in chamber groups and as soloist with the Johannesburg and SABC Symphony Orchestras under Edgar Cree. He graduated from Wits in Chemical Engineering. His Masters and PhD degrees were from Yale in Connecticut where he was a member of the Yale Symphony and Waterbury Symphony Orchestras. He has	Nov 14 (6.00pm)

		<p>York, London and Paris? This epic tour received no mention whatsoever in any of the books on Heifetz. In this presentation on his recent book, Michael Brittan discusses Heifetz the violinist and person. With an underlying Jewish theme playing in the background, Michael brings to light how the South African tour came together, what Heifetz did while in South Africa, and how he was received by local audiences, the press and music critics.</p>	<p>written for <i>Encyclopedia Britannica</i>, <i>violinist.com</i>, <i>American Scientist</i> and numerous other publications. Aside from his book on Heifetz, Southern Africa features in his previous book, <i>Discover Namibia</i>. He lives in Colorado with his wife Elizabeth and family, where he is president of his own engineering consulting company.</p>	
2	<p>How does a girl from Kimberley get to meet the Queen – a journey in Jewish music</p> 	<p>Geraldine will take you through her journey in Jewish music from creating and directing ten, month-long performance festivals with events across the country; through making and distributing recordings; presenting Jewish oratorios in British cathedrals; and partnering with City University. She has been responsible with other key people for establishing a Jewish music lecturership, Yiddish klezmer and liturgical summer schools; developing new dedicated Jewish music ensembles and presenting days of Jewish Culture at the Southbank Centre; the Millennium Dome; Regents Park and Trafalgar Square. Her work in Jewish music culminated in creating the Jewish Music Institute that is based at SOAS University of London and receiving an MBE from the Queen. In 2000.</p>	<p>Geraldine Auerbach MBE (London) Born in Kimberley and with a BA with Fine Arts at Wits, Geraldine Auerbach, became an art teacher at a girls' school in London. Nevertheless, she found herself at the epicentre of the study and performance of Jewish music in the UK which culminated in founding the Jewish Music Institute now based at SOAS University of London. Since retiring from JMI in 2012, she has established the European Cantors Association, created gardens on the platforms of her local tube stations with her grandson, made a website for Kimberley with Eli Rabinowitz and co-created CHOL – Community History On-Line under the auspices of the Kaplan Centre and South African Jewish Museum (SAJM) – as well as other projects.</p>	Nov 14 (7.00pm)
3	<p>At my Wits end and other beginnings – a woman composer of international acclaim.</p>	<p>This presentation reviews nearly 70 years of music-making as pianist, composer, performer and teacher. It elaborates on the enormous value that powerful teachers played in the early life of Zaidel-Rudolph and the profound influence that the music of Africa, particularly South Africa has exercised on the style, genre and nature of her original compositions. She will discuss her role in the</p>	<p>Professor Jeanne Zaidel-Rudolph (Johannesburg) is a renowned South African composer, pianist and teacher. She was the first woman in South Africa to obtain a doctorate in composition. She studied at the University of Pretoria under Sephans Grove and at the Royal College of Music in London and with Ligeti in Hamburg. She has been awarded many prizes and honours in South</p>	Nov 21 (12.00pm)

		<p>current South African National Anthem and the controversy surrounding it. Reference will be made to her intercultural African-Western art music with some examples – particularly referencing her indigenous research work with the Ngqoko amaXhosa women in the Eastern Cape. Examples of her use of <i>kabbalistic</i> numerology in her Jewish-influenced works will be played. Jeanne will elaborate on her life as Professor of Composition at Wits University and the Memoir she is currently writing to be published early next year. Topics therein include the context of being a woman composer in this largely male-dominated realm.</p>	<p>Africa and abroad. Of her over 100 works covering diverse genres some have been performed by the Johannesburg Philharmonic orchestra, by the ensemble iVeneti in Padua, ensembles in Rome and by the United Nations Orchestra in New York. Jeanne was commissioned to arrange the official composite version of the South African National Anthem and also wrote its final verse. Jeanne is Prof Emeritus in the Wits University School of Arts, Music. (Johannesburg)</p>	
4	<p>The Singing and Musical Rabinowitzes of South Africa – from cantors to the concert stage</p> 	<p>Eli will talk about with illustrations and musical excerpts his musical family - the Singing and Musical Rabinowitzes, starting with his grandfather, Reverend N.M. Rabinowitz who was the first and much revered Cantor of the <i>Beth Hamedrash Hachodosh</i> synagogue from the 1920s to the 1950s (alongside the famous Rabbi Mirvish). The congregation was first in Constitution Street District Six and then from 1939 in Vredehoek Cape Town. Eli will also talk about his father, Cantor Harry Rabinowitz, Harry's collaboration with Solly Aronowsky and the Jewish Guild Orchestra, as well as Harry's well known musical family which includes his sisters, Rachel, a concert pianist, Sarah, a piano teacher and brother Leib, also a chazan.</p>	<p>Eli Rabinowitz (Perth, Australia) grew up in Johannesburg and Cape Town before emigrated to Australia with his family in 1986. He comes from a musical family who have excelled on the bimah and the concert stage. He is an active and now Board member of the International Jewish Genealogical Society IAJGS. Eli travels extensively has researched many families, communities, and towns. He writes and circulates a blog and has assembled valuable material for ninety Kehilalinks websites for towns in Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Belarus, Germany, Russia, China, Mauritius, Mozambique, South Africa and Australia. Eli has created IN MY POCKET a project about the Kindertransport for primary school children across the world, and the Partisans' Song Project. Eli is a co-founder of CHOL https://about.me/elirab</p>	Nov 21 (1.00pm)
5	<p>Collecting and caring for Jewish Music at (DOMUS) Stellenbosch University</p>	<p>Santie de Jongh will speak about music collections at the Documentation Centre for Music (DOMUS), Music Library, Stellenbosch University. She will first give an overview of DOMUS and its collections, after which she will focus on the Fay Singer South African Jewish Music Centre (SAJMC) collection and other Jewish music collections. The SAJMC</p>	<p>Dr Santie de Jongh(Stellenbosch) Special Collections Librarian Santie de Jongh is the Special Collections Librarian at the Documentation Centre for Music (DOMUS), Stellenbosch University. In 2009, she obtained an MMus degree (Stellenbosch University), which entails a directory of South</p>	Nov 28 (6.00pm)

	 <p>Fay Singer South African Jewish Music Centre collection</p>	<p>aimed to preserve a heritage of Jewish music in its South African context by means of collecting, studying, and performing Jewish music. This is reflected in the contents of the SAJMC collection, which consists of sound recordings, sheet music and various working documents of the Centre. Her presentation will also include aspects on collecting Jewish music and creating a Jewish music archive.</p>	<p>African music collections. She completed her PhD, 'Music and Militarisation during the period of the South African Border War (1966-1989): Perspectives from <i>Paratus</i>' at Stellenbosch University in 2020. She is the Chair of Répertoire International de Littérature Musicale (RILM) South Africa and serves on the Local Organising Committee for the congress of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML), Stellenbosch, 2024.</p>	
6	<p>King Kong – the All-black Jazz Opera and its all-Jewish production team 1959</p> 	<p><i>King Kong: A Jazz Opera</i> was to become an iconic event, and a much-loved musical, in the development of South African theatre. It is a story about triumph – a challenge against overwhelming odds. The director, Leon Gluckman said: “<i>There has been genuine co-operation between black and white and in a small way it has brought understanding, which is much better than the fear which informs the relations between the two sectors.</i>” He also remarked: “<i>I would like to say that the Jewish spirit has to some undefined extent entered into the production of King Kong</i>”. It was presented by the all-Jewish company, United Artists. Most of the production team were Jewish, consisting of: Producer, Ian Bernhardt; book author, Harry Bloom; director, Leon Gluckman; Lyrics, Pat Williams; décor and costumes, Arthur Goldreich; musical direction, Stanley Glasser; choreography, Arnold Glover; musical score, Stanley Glasser and Todd Matshikisa; business executive, Clive Menell.</p>	<p>Mark Wade, (Johannesburg) Art Director and Assistant Director on numerous films, TV series and TV commercials, is the Creator and Executive Producer of ‘Legends & Legacies: A Story of a Community’, an 8-part documentary series on the history and contribution of South African Jews. He studied art and design at the Durban Technikon, and film making at the Art Centre College of Design in Los Angeles, and started his film career in one of Hollywood’s leading independent animation studios in the 1970s. He Mark spent many years as an Account Director in the advertising industry. Alan Swerdlow, actor writer & creative director was the writer and presenter of ‘Legends & Legacies. He, he completed his post-graduate studies at University of Cape Town’s Little Theatre. He is one of the most highly-acclaimed theatre directors in South Africa – and a theatre historian.</p>	Nov 28 (7.00pm)

7	<p>The Story of the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir</p> 	<p>Evelyn will talk about the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir of which she has been an integral part since its foundation in 1986. She has been the choir's accompanist and secretary from its inception. She has toured the USA, Israel, United Kingdom, Australia and Berlin, with the choir. Since 2005, Evelyn has been their Musical Director. One of the highlights of her career was to lead the JJMC in the First International Louis Lewandowsky Choral Festival in Berlin in December 2011. As part of the program, she co-presented with Professor Lurie, a lecture titled, <i>An Overview of Cantors and Choirs in South Africa genesis, current state and the future.</i></p>	<p>Evelyn Green (Johannesburg) is one of South Africa's foremost Accompanists and Repetiteurs, examiners and musical directors. She has accompanied leading instrumentalists, singers and many world renowned cantors in the world. She has received many awards for career achievements; contributions to society; to liturgical music; and for her teaching. Evelyn's passion has been the training of the Johannesburg Jewish Male Choir and a number of Synagogue Choirs and Cantors in Johannesburg and touring with them in concert.</p>	Dec 05 (12.00pm)
8	<p>From Kroonstad to Victor Hugo via Fleet Street – the musical journey of Herbert Kretzmer OBE.</p> 	<p>My father, the journalist and lyricist Herbert Kretzmer OBE, was born into a Jewish family in South Africa, but was a British citizen for over seventy years, based in London until his death in 2020. Early in his career he contributed to the legendary 1960s BBC programme <i>That Was the Week that Was</i>, while later in his career working with Bjorn Ulveas and Benny Anderson on the musical <i>Kristina</i>. He was also a respected award-winning Fleet Street journalist, having worked as a television critic for <i>The Daily Mail</i> and as a theatre reviewer, for <i>The Daily Express</i>, attending over 2,500 first nights in this capacity. He is, however, best known for writing the lyrics for the musical phenomenon <i>Les Miserables</i>, and the chart-topping collaboration with Charles Aznavour, <i>She</i>. This talk encompasses his life, both professional and personal through the eyes of his daughter Danielle.</p>	<p>Danielle Lockwood (Chichester) Danielle's professional career in the film industry culminated in the position of Head of Publicity for Warner Bros. Film Distributors, where she compiled and supervised the UK press and publicity campaigns for amongst others, Clint Eastwood, Warren Beatty, Robert de Niro and Oliver Stone. Relocating from London to the south coast to bring up her young family, Danielle focused on her own education, completing a BA Hons in History at the University of Chichester, and, as a recipient of the Karten Scholarship, a Masters in Jewish History & Culture at the Parkes Institute, University of Southampton. Danielle's MA Dissertation, on Sir Ronald Harwood was entitled "Without the Past I could Not Have Become the Writer I am: Jewish Identity and the Holocaust in the Life of Ronald Harwood". Starting her PhD on South African Jews in British Entertainment (which allowed her to look at her own Lithuanian Jewish heritage), Danielle also fulfilled the role of Cohen Outreach Fellow, organising Southampton's annual Holocaust Memorial Day commemorations. Danielle</p>	Dec 05 (1.00pm)

			<p>was Associate Lecturer in the History Department at the University of Chichester where she delivered a module on history through American and French film. She is also a Programming Consultant for London's annual Jewish Film Festival.</p>	
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CHOL Music Seminar Zoom Links

You can use the same link to join all the sessions – so please save it somewhere safe.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85294450314?pwd=L2F2TnU3V3BXOVZhOHlvV0tKRIV5Zz09>

Meeting ID: 852 9445 0314 Passcode: 993345

Topic: Community History Online Seminars - SA Jews in Music

Time: Nov 14, 2023 06:00 PM Harare, Pretoria

Nov 14, 2023 06:00 PM

Nov 21, 2023 12:00 PM

Nov 28, 2023 06:00 PM

Dec 5, 2023 12:00 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEvfU2sqzspG9BumQomkSNLI169KnBwFThv/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtrDIuHtGVsxiDRpwMAIr4LOjwmGJeJfp_iRLUDC1YUS3aH7MUa5lxMs_2