



The London Cantorial Singers

Issue 7 Summer 2026 Newsletter

From the Choir Chair: David Druce

Dear Friends,



A very warm welcome to all our friends and supporters. I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter. During the past nine months, we have been involved in many diverse and high-profile events. We are also delighted to have welcomed the latest intake of the Young Cantorials, who wowed audiences in two concerts during the first half of 2026!

Here are highlights of our events since September 2025:

4 September 2025 The Choir took part in a unique historical event organised by The Jewish Square Mile project in the grounds of the Barbican, which commemorated and publicised the first official Jewish burial ground in London which existed after 1066 until the expulsion in 1290. We also performed the premiere of [Shivisi](#) (from Psalm 16), which was [composed](#) specially for this event by Amanda Dean. The Bishop of London (now Archbishop of Canterbury) and the Chief Rabbi both in attendance.



13 September 2025 Our annual first night Selichot Service took place at the Hendon Adath Yisroel Synagogue. Cantor Netanel Ilovitsky made his UK debut performance at this service. Rabbi Golker gave the introductory sermon and in addition to our resident soloists, Henry Black and David Rome, Rafi Sandford and Gavriel Cowan participated together with three boy soloists.



Our concert on **26 October 2025** at Hammerson House, Wohl Campus, was a great success. We entertained a packed room of over 100 residents and their families for around an hour with a variety of pieces. This was our first outing to this wonderful campus.

This was followed by the Choir participating in the Remembrance Day Service on **9 November 2025** at Romford Shul, supporting David Rome, who led the service. Many dignitaries attended and it was a most moving afternoon of music and speeches.

On **19 November 2025**, the Choir held its annual dinner for choristers, friends and families at a restaurant in NW London. With plenty of singing, food and drink, we had a most enjoyable evening.

30 November 2025 We were once again pleased to take part in the annual Tikva concert held at Kenton Shul. Tickets and a raffle helped raise much needed funds for Tikva UK.

Our final event of the year was on **14 December 2025**, when we entertained the residents and some of their family members at an afternoon concert at Ravenswood Village, which is a residential care facility run by Norwood for adults living with profound and multiple learning disabilities.

28 January 2026 – We took part in the annual Brent Holocaust Memorial Day event alongside the JFS Choir. The packed auditorium heard the moving testimony of survivor, John Hajdu MBE.

On **8 March 2026**, we held a post-Purim concert at Schonfeld Square in Stamford Hill. This was the debut performance of the latest intake of the Young Cantorials. A choir of eight talented boys aged 9 to 15 from different schools came together under Alan Freedman's expert direction and performed some beautiful music, which is available on the Choir's YouTube channel (see links below).

26 April 2026 – The Young Cantorials also helped us to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut by performing at an afternoon concert at Rosetrees Care Home in Friern Barnet. Both performances can be viewed using these links:

<https://youtu.be/8kQsECwKT30?si=Mh2cagvJpM1ax0Sb>

<https://youtu.be/AZrscrN1S4?si=w5VQ5Im0DKEMrHAT>

https://youtu.be/hi83oGjIMmU?si=O_i8ipPOWNiTV1fx

<https://youtu.be/hAcz6Wp9s?si=DaqxwBTFIpAMSwz>

<https://youtu.be/k4Xy4-eRQh0?si=-yOGxkSnRJGsfJa>

13 April 2026 – The Choir took part in the National Yom HaShoah Commemoration event, held in the famous Victoria Tower Gardens next to the Houses of Parliament. The event was compered by Henry Grunwald, our Patron.

On **31 May 2026**, the Choir sang at SAGE care home in Golders Green.

On **14 June 2026**, there was a very special tribute event at Loughton Shul to celebrate the life of Rev Johnny Lorraine z"l, who is the uncle of David Rome. Rev Lorraine was the Minister of Loughton and District Federation Synagogue for many years and many of his friends and family members filled the Shul. The Choir sang some of Johnny's favourite liturgical pieces and there were some speeches from Loughton members and his family. It was a very emotional but enjoyable afternoon. Our Patron, Henry Grunwald, who had just been honoured with a CBE, also compered the event. Monty Goldstein, the longest serving Anglo-Jewish chorister at almost 102, soloed as well.

On **28 June 2026** the Choir made a bit of history: it performed at the first ever cantorial concert at the Northampton Hebrew Congregation with resident soloists, Henry Black and David Rome. The organisers laid on a lovely tea for everyone, after which we performed a concert that included some show tunes. We also gave a presentation to Dr Michael Jolles (who celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in Northampton Shul), in recognition of his outstanding achievement in publishing the:

'ENCYCLOPAEDIA OF BRITISH JEWISH CANTORS, CHAZANIM, MINISTERS AND SYNAGOGUE MUSICIANS: THEIR HISTORY AND CULTURE'

Rev Cantor David Rome presents the Certificate of Appreciation to Dr Michael Jolles.





We honoured both our Patrons, Rabbi Geoffrey Shisler and Henry Grunwald, for their support and guidance over recent years.

Congratulations are also due to Henry for being honoured with a CBE for services to Holocaust Remembrance and Education in His Majesty the King's Birthday Honours List.

Future Events

We are now making plans for the rest of 2026 and next year. Our calendar already includes some events:

5 September 2026 – Our annual first night Selichot Service will be at the prestigious Edgware United Synagogue. We are delighted to be joined by Cantor Aviya Nachshon from Israel who will be making his debut performance in the UK.

18 October 2026 – We are performing in Belmont United Synagogue, as part of their 60th anniversary celebrations.

1 November 2026 and 26 November 2026 – We are performing in concerts at St Albans United Synagogue and Welwyn Garden City Hebrew Congregation respectively.

May 2027 – Rosetrees Care Home in Friern Barnet have invited us back to perform at a Yom Ha'atzmaut concert to residents of the home and their families.

Keeping in touch

In addition to our [website](#) and our [YouTube Channel](#) (don't forget to hit the Subscribe button!), you can also follow news of the Choir on our [Facebook](#) page.

If you'd like to subscribe to our mailing list, it's easy to do so [here](#).

Booking the London Cantorial Singers

With a versatile repertoire, we are the ideal Jewish Choir for Simchas, choral synagogue services, concerts, charity gala evenings, interfaith events, workplace diversity events, heritage events and other commemorations and celebrations.

If you'd like to book the Choir, please email our Chairman, David Druce (chairman@tlcs.org.uk).

Join the London Cantorial Singers

We are always on the lookout for new male voice singers of all ages – including boys who love to sing - to join and be part of our exciting and rewarding Choir experience. You don't have to be able to read music!

If you are interested and want to find out more about the Choir, please contact our Musical Director, Alan Freedman (director@tlcs.org.uk).