

*"Your student evaluations were excellent: They appreciated your comprehensive knowledge and gentle teaching style, the seriousness with which you approached the subject matter, your obvious respect for them as learners, and the stimulating interchanges fostered by your methods of instruction. In a word, outstanding!"*

—**Dr. Peter Malinow**  
Educational Alliance/New York University

### CREDITS (partial listing)

- American Jewish Congress
- American Jewish Historical Society
- New England Conservatory of Music
- New School University (NYC)
- New York Public Library (Jewish Division Lectures) / Brooklyn Public Library
- National Museum of American Jewish History (Philadelphia)
- Cantors Assembly of America
- Hebrew College (Boston)
- Jewish Theological Seminary (NYC)
- 92nd St. Y / Makor (NYC)
- Brooklyn Historical Society
- Mohonk Mountain House
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Queens College, Jewish Lecture Series
- Skidmore College, Summer Seminars in Judaic Studies
- Hillels: Boston University, Brown University, Drexel University, Tufts University

*"Your enthusiasm, inspiration, and knowledge evoked thought and built new bridges of understanding."*

—**William Alexander Middle School**

### PROFILE/Robert L. Cohen

- **Executive Producer**, "OPEN THE GATES! New American-Jewish Music for Prayer" (CD)
- **Writer/Associate Producer**, "One People, Many Voices: American-Jewish Music Comes of Age" (National Public Radio)
- **Producer & Host**, "Yedid Nefesh" [Friend of the Soul] radio program (WEVD, NYC); "The Eternal Light" (NBC Radio)
- **Writer**, *Moment*, *Hadassah*, *B'nai Brith Jewish Monthly*, *New Age Journal* (now *Body + Soul*), *New York Newsday*, *The Jerusalem Post*; American Jewish Press Association Rockower Award, 1994
- **Featured Speaker**, Speakers in the Humanities, New York Council for the Humanities, 2000-2011
- **Curator**, "Klezmer Music in Europe and America: A Visual Display" (Bronx, NYC, 2009)
- **Board of Advisors**, Boston Jewish Music Festival

*"Both those of little musical or Judaic background as well as the most sophisticated listeners were delighted by your obvious love of Jewish music and your scholarly observations about the relationship of our people and our traditions to the nations and cultures in which we have lived."*

—**Rabbi Moshe Pomerantz**  
Hillcrest Jewish Center



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# New Wings for Our Prayers

*American-Jewish Music  
Comes of Age*



**Robert L. Cohen**  
Folk Music Historian

Lectures ♦ Courses ♦ Workshops

for

Adult Education

College & High School Students

Older Adults

What do Jewish liturgical music and Woody Guthrie's songs have in common?



Did Beethoven and Schubert write Jewish music?



Why is today's American-Jewish music sometimes called "neo-Hasidic"?



What impact did Peter, Paul & Mary have on American-Jewish music?



What traditional Jewish wedding dance is only as old as the late 60s?



### When does a Jew sing?

American-Jewish music reflects the joyfulness of Jewish renewal, the eclectic vitality of American musical styles, and the need of many American Jews for healing and spiritual connection.

*"Robert Cohen is one of the most sensitive and eloquent exponents of Jewish music today. I marvel at the depth of his understanding and only wish the whole world would have the honor of listening to him."*

—Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach



*"Robert Cohen brings to his lectures a scholarship based on an unrelenting search for the sources of Jewish music and a sincere love for the essence of the Jewish musical soul."*

—Cantor Sherwood Goffin  
Cantor, Lincoln Square Synagogue

## SPECIAL LECTURES

- Music of the Psalms: From King David's Time to Our Own
- The Music of Intimacy: An Introduction to Hasidic Niggunim
- Women in American-Jewish Music
- Sunrise, Sunset: Music of the Jewish Life-Cycle
- Jerusalem in Song
- Israel & the World: A Musical Conversation
- Klezmer Music: From Old World to New World & Our World
- The American-Jewish Immigrant Experience in Song
- Jewish Music into the Mainstream: Jewish Themes in American Popular, Classical, & Folk Music
- African-American & American-Jewish Music: Shared Visions & Dreams
- Heart Songs: Jewish Music for Healing & Meditation



*"An extraordinarily enlightening lecturer, he frees the listener from narrow musical thinking and engenders the liberation of the musical soul."*

—The Jewish Resources Newsletter

- **Music for the Jewish Calendar:** Musical Responses to the High Holidays / A Celebration of Light: Old & New Music for Chanukah / Shabbat Shirah: Sabbath of Song for a People of Song / Songs of Liberation: Old & New Music for Passover / Shavuot: Music for Marriages in Heaven & Earth
- **Lecture or Workshop:** We're Playing Their Song: Borrowing Melodies for Jewish Prayer
- **Workshops:** "If You Pray, Choose a Tune You Like" / What Is Jewish Music?
- **Yiddish Music Lectures:** When Does a Jew Sing?

In workshops, mini-courses, and institutes, participants share their responses to old and new musical settings of familiar prayers and hymns—and experiment with new melodies for traditional (and non-traditional) liturgy as well.

*"Your depth of knowledge about the sources of our music was simply outstanding, and your talent for creating an environment where people couldn't wait to "pick your brains" was most evident. To a seasoned observer, your program, and your delivery, rank among the finest I have witnessed."*

—David Posner, D.C. JCC



*"Your love for the material shone forth throughout your presentation, which you handled with expertise and intellectual grace."*

—Dr. Carol Diament

National Jewish Education Director, Hadassah



*"You moved and informed all of us in a most engaging way, leaving everyone present with a sense of being both taught and entertained."*

—Dr. Gladys Rosen  
American Jewish Committee