

**CONGREGATION BETH HATIKVAH  
BAR/BAT MITZVAH PROGRAM**

**MUSIC IN BAR/BAT MITZVAH SERVICES**

**1. SCHEDULING THE CBH SINGERS FOR A SERVICE**

**a. FRIDAY NIGHTS**

The CBH singers will participate only in the services that are music services, the first Friday night of the month. If your service is the first Friday, please discuss the selection of songs with the Rabbi sufficiently in advance of the service<sup>1</sup>. The Rabbi will decide what goes into the service in consultation with Andy Kaplan.

**b. SHABBAT MORNING**

Upon request and with sufficient advance notice, the CBH singers will do their best to provide musicians/singers to enhance the music in the service, based on the availability of the volunteers.

- You must request the Singers participation at least 8 weeks prior -- but not more than 12 weeks prior.
- The Singers will not be available for a Shabbat morning service that follows a Music Shabbat.
- Once the request has been made, the Singers will try to get at least their minimum group together. The minimum group is five singers plus either a pianist or guitarist.
- If there are enough Singers available, they will participate.
- The Singers will have a repertoire list available (and it will be updated periodically). A few pieces will require more than the minimum group and will be noted on the repertoire list.
- The Singers will consider special requests for new or alternative pieces that aren't on the list if they are approved first by the Rabbi. However, they may not be able to honor all requests.
- Any singers that participate in a service will try to stay for the entire service but some may need to come late or leave early. If this happens, they'll work to make it as inconspicuous as possible.

The bar or bat mitzvah family is not obligated to invite the singers to any other events, receptions, or parties they may have. But a donation to the CBH Singers Fund is suggested<sup>2</sup>.

**2. SELECTION OF MUSIC**

Please discuss the selection of songs with the Rabbi first.<sup>3</sup>

**a. Liturgical Selections**

These selections are typically sung by the Rabbi on Shabbat morning, but may be done by the singers if you choose and if they are available.

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<sup>1</sup> Typically the choices for the service have been decided at least one month before the date of the service.

<sup>2</sup> For guidance on the donation, see Suggested Donation listing on the CBH website.

<sup>3</sup> This conversation should begin at least two months before the service.

Currently the available choices are:

*Mah Tov*  
*Elohai Neshama*  
*Baruch She'amar*  
*Mi Haish*  
*V'ah'eir Eineinu*  
*Oseh Shalom*  
*Shehecheyanu Hatikvah*  
*Siman Tov u'Mazal Tov*

**b. Other songs**

You may consider including other songs (such as Jewish contemporary songs or folk songs with a theme) for your service on the condition that:

1. The song must be a reflection of a theme of the Jewish liturgy.
2. The addition of songs adds length to the service, so they must be chosen with great care. The typical rule of thumb is that one additional song is enough, and anything more needs to be carefully balanced with other choices for readings, in consultation with the Rabbi. <sup>4</sup>
3. The Rabbi approves any outside songs for the service and may decline some requests based on the song's theme and the balance of the service.

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<sup>4</sup> This conversation should begin at least two months before the service.