

Introducing Visiting Cantor and Scholar Jonathan Kohan

*Co-sponsored by Temple Emanuel Sinai
and the Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University*

We are so pleased to announce that **Cantor Jonathan Kohan** will be joining Temple Emanuel Sinai as our Visiting Cantor and Scholar from **August 18 – November 3, 2021**. Cantor Jonathan will be coming to us from Argentina; currently he lives in Rosario, although he grew up in Buenos Aires. It's a long story how we stumbled upon a cantor from Argentina, and we are so lucky to have found him! Cantor Jonathan is not only musically talented, he is also an educator, a composer, an intellectual and spiritual at the same time. If that weren't enough, Cantor Jonathan is also personable and authentic; he can find something to talk about with anyone!

During his time at TES, Cantor Jonathan will work with the High Holy Day quartet and Rabbi Valerie to prepare for our High Holy Day season. Along with leading the music for those services through Sukkot and Simchat Torah, he will also help with the B'nai Mitzvah program and co-officiate at our fall B'nai Mitzvah services. Cantor Jonathan will also lead Shabbat Services with Rabbi Valerie and participate in Religious School T'filah and our Pray and Play program. As part of his Visiting Scholar role, Cantor Jonathan will also be planning a few programs for Clark, TES, and the greater Jewish community around the themes of Holocaust Music; Holocaust Survivors in Argentina; The Jewish Community in Argentina; and a Ladino/Spanish Jewish Musical Event.

Cantor Jonathan currently serves at a synagogue in Rosario, Asociación Israelita de Beneficencia. His congregation is excited that he has the opportunity to be exposed to American Judaism and learn from us. They anticipate that he will return with new experiences and knowledge that will greatly benefit their synagogue.

We know you will give a warm welcome to Cantor Jonathan when he arrives.

Below, you will find a message from Cantor Jonathan and links to music and an article he wrote about the changing role of the Cantor.

Cantor's Message

Dear TES friends,

My name is Jonathan Kohan. I live in Argentina, and from very early I discovered in my local Synagogue the perfect mix between music, spirituality and Jewish identity.

After finishing my bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of Buenos Aires, I studied at the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary "Marshall T. Meyer" and graduated as Cantor and Jewish Studies Professor. Currently, I'm both a Rabbinical Student and a professor in charge of the Cantorial Institute of the Seminary.

For three months, I'll have the blessing of serving as your Visiting Cantor, and I can't wait to share this meaningful time with you. Helping Rabbi Valerie lead the congregation through the intellectual, emotional and spiritual journey of the beginning of the Jewish year and life cycle – especially the High Holy Days – is a great honor and responsibility. I feel privileged to have this opportunity.

Along with my Cantorial position at TES, I'll also be a Visiting Scholar at Clark University's Strassler Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. My music background and my studies at Yad Vashem led me to research Holocaust music, and I look forward to sharing what I have learned with the Clark University community and the Central Massachusetts Jewish Community.

I'm over 5,000 miles away as I write this message, but I already feel part of the TES family. I'm looking forward to meeting all of you in person, and together we will open the door to a 5782 full of blessings and goodness.

See you soon,

Cantor Jonathan Kohan

Music Links:

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgeFT_IbHCnw-NYeVsMWIKxrv2QUQQXe5

https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLgeFT_IbHCnysgCq8zIJ3Z0qj8GEuCkiu

Article: https://masortiolami.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/12-jazanim_diciembre_eng.pdf