

HONORING CANTORIAL SOLOIST

Dr. Charles Cohen

Birkat Hamazon

Leader

Cha - vel - rai

ne - va - reichi

JUNE 22, 2020

All, the repeated by Leader

hi - sheim - do - nai me - vo

Charles (Chuck) Cohen, Baritone

Chuck's first singing engagement was at age four when he sang Al Jolson songs for his parents and their friends. He began singing at age 10 in the Children's Choir at B'nai Israel Congregation in East Liberty. He and his wife Barbara were members of the quartet at Tree of Life Congregation for a number of years until he became the Cantorial Soloist at Temple B'nai Israel, McKeesport PA. He served as the Cantorial Soloist at Temple Emanuel since 1978 with Barbara singing with him, for the High Holidays, for many years.

Chuck studied voice privately and at Carnegie Tech. He is a Pittsburgh Concert Society audition winner.

Chuck performed roles for 10 seasons with the Pittsburgh Opera and 3 seasons with the Pittsburgh Civic Light Opera. He was a soloist with the Pittsburgh and Youngstown Symphony Orchestras. He has been a soloist with the Mendelssohn Choir, Pittsburgh Concert Chorale in New York City and the Allentown Symphonic Band on the French Riviera.

Chuck earned a Ph.D in 1970 from the University of Pittsburgh and continues to be in private practice as a Psychologist and Vocational Consultant.

Words of Tribute and Gratitude

Rabbi Mark Joel Mahler

Today, as I write, is April 29th.

Today is Yom HaAtzmaut, Israel Independence Day. The historic Jewish homeland marks the seventy-second year of its rebirth.

Today is also the day that Temple Emanuel planned to honor and thank Dr. Charles Cohen for the many years that he added immeasurable beauty to Temple Emanuel's sacred moments.

Both erstwhile celebrations have been muted by Covid-19. Their muting is symbolized by the masks that must now be worn here, there and everywhere.

Yet both celebrations converge in a way that, to begin, surely stirs my heart and soul. Surely yours too.

Many were the moments that Chuck's magnificent voice brought tears to my eyes ... unique and incomparable tears, tears of joy, tears expressing life's beauty, life's meaning and majesty, and life's sublime sanctity.

One such moment, oft repeated, was Chuck's exquisite rendition of *Im Eshkachech Yerushalayim*, taken from Psalm 137:

"If I forget thee, O Jerusalem,
Let my right hand wither,
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth,
If I do not place thee as my utmost joy."

What did Chuck sing that moved you as Chuck moved me? Perhaps it was during the High Holy Days: the solemnity of *Kol Nidrei*, the humbling lyrics and melodies of *Avinu Malkeinu* and *U'Nitaneh Takef*, or the duets that he and his lovely wife Barbara performed together over the years. Perhaps it was at your son or daughter's bar or bat mitzvah, when your child carried the Torah through the congregation, with Chuck's voice highlighting this incomparable moment in your life. Or perhaps it was your bar or bat mitzvah. Or your wedding. Or the tears for your loved ones that Chuck drew from your heart as he softly intoned the *El Malei Rachamim*, the traditional prayer for the dead.

Countless are the cherished moments over the years, the decades, that Chuck elevated and sanctified with song.

And to think, all this might not have happened altogether. A week or so before Chuck became a bar mitzvah, he learned that he had been given the wrong Torah portion! Young Chuck had to learn an entire new Torah portion in a matter of days. A lesser adolescent might have had it with synagogue life then and there. Not young Chuck. Chuck summoned utter determination to match his God-given talent and mastered the Torah portion, the entire Torah portion!

Temple Emanuel has been the great beneficiary. We are grateful beyond words, but words must somehow suffice.

Thank you, Chuck.

Todah Rabbah, Chuck.

Yashar Koach, Chuck.

Rabbi Mark and Alice Mahler

With deep
appreciation for
Dr. Cohen and his
many years of
musical leadership at
Temple Emanuel.

*Rabbis Aaron and
Emily Meyer*

Thank you for leading us
in song and being part of
the Temple Emanuel
tradition for so many years!

Rabbi Jessica Locketz and
Larry Schwartz

We *loved*
listening to and
singing with you
for all 42 years.
Thank you.
Laryn & Moses
Finder

Todah Rabah for
your service to
the
Temple Emanuel
community.
Yesher Koach!
Dan and Nancy
Garfinkel

Thank you
Chuck
for 42 years
of music!
The Pollon
Family

Thank you for sharing your beautiful, rich, expressive voice, enhancing our prayer experience beyond words.

You've inspired, uplifted and touched us, brought us comfort and joy, truly impacting our lives.

We will miss you greatly!

The Rothaus Family
Joan, Ronnie, Rod, Elijah,
Sadie, Merryl

Thank you so much for your beautiful inspiring music for over 4 decades and your wonderful contribution to so many of our family milestones. Wishing you our best,
The Alt Family

*With appreciation and respect
for your many years of service.
Nancy & Bill Berkowitz*

Thank you for the many years of your beautiful music. It has been so wonderful having you at Temple Emanuel. We wish you and Barbara our very best.
Much love,
Margie & Joel Caplan

Thank you to you and Barbara for sharing your beautiful voices with us for so many years!! You have made every holiday and simcha extra special. Mere words cannot express how much we will miss you Chuckie!!!
Love,
Shelley & Bob Cohn

KOL HAKAVOD AND
A HEARTY THANK YOU!

Best wishes for health
and happiness.

Carol & Ted Goldberg

With deepest appreciation.

From Iris & Chris Harlan

Thank you for sharing your
beautiful voice with our Temple
Emanuel community from
generation to generation.

Leslie Hoffman

Wishing our friends,
Chuck & Barbara,
good health and
happiness always.

David Katz & Elaine Levenson

We wish you good health &
good luck! We will miss you
& your beautiful voice.

The Lebowitz Family
Larry, Lynn & Sally,
Amy, Alyssa & Ben

Mazel Tov - With Appreciation!
Rick and Robin Minutello

Our sincere thanks and
very best wishes.

The Naft Family

Best wishes and thanks
from the Shure Family.

Dear Chuck,

How many years have we known each other? A long long time! Listening to you and Barbara sing at Temple has been such a moving experience. You have certainly enriched our services through your beautiful voices! At this time in your life, I wish you much happiness and good health in your retirement years.

Fondly,

Barbara Trachtenberg

Congratulations Dr. Cohen! Thank you for your 42 years that filled our hearts with your music.

Yours truly,

David Weisberg & family

Thanks for the many years of friendship we have shared and the beautiful music you have given us.

Best wishes in the future.

Barbara & Milton Wolf

**Thank you for your
service to our
Temple.**

Ruben Abramovitz

Thanks, Dr. Cohen — your soaring tenor enhanced the congregation's prayers at High Holy Day services, and at Lauren's, Isabelle's and Paul's (and others') B'nai Mitzvah services. We marveled at the strength & clarity of your voice through the years.

Meg & Keith Abrams
& Family

In honor of your
many years of
service to Temple.
We will miss you.

The Bahm Family

**Thank you for many
years of service to
Temple Emanuel.**

**Tracy & Michael Bar-
nett**

**You made all 3 of my
children's B'nai
Mitzvahs special by
singing a cappella
so beautifully.**

**With thanks,
The Bernson Family**

Best wishes and
thanks for your and
Barbara's beautiful
voice for so many
years.

Carol & Michael
Bleier

Thanks for mak-
ing so many of
our services so
special over the
years!!

David &
Meredith Cohen
& Family

Thank you for
enriching our
religious
experiences with
your
beautiful voice.

Debbie & Ken Cook

With our gratitude
for your wonderful
voice enriching our
services for so
many years!

Janet & Gerald
Cooper & Family

Thank you for
your many years
of service to
Temple Emanuel!
Best wishes,
The Dvorin
Family

Best wishes and
thank you from
Amy Cohen &
Sidney Metzger

**Byron & Carol
Rose**

Thank you
for lifting up our
services with your
rich resonant voice
for so many years.

Robin & Steve

All our
best wishes &
appreciation

Naomi & Paul
Herman

Thank you for
many years of
wonderful music.

Harvey & Lynn
Rubin

Dr. Cohen, you
have given our
family the joy of
your voice.

Judi Rudoy

" Music is the strongest form of magic".
Thank you Chuck for the spiritual engagement you brought to us over many years.
We are grateful.
Barb & Eric Udren

Thanks to you and Barbara for years of uplifting and inspiring music.

Claire & Mel Vatz

Our appreciation to you and Barbara for your many years of beautiful Music.

Enjoy your retirement!

Cheri & Joel Schwartz

Mazel Tov and thank you from Andrea & Norm Sobel and family.

**Mazel Tov!
Enjoy your retirement.**

The Zolot Family

Dear Chuck:
I always enjoyed your singing on the high holidays. I enjoyed it even more when Barbara joined you.

The musical programs that you orchestrated were always entertaining, but I remember once when you and Barbara presented opera, and I actually heard every word!

Thank You,
Lee Feldman

Thank you for 40+ years of wonderful cantorial music.

Mitchell Taback
& Family

Best wishes & thanks from the Tachna Family!

With Thanks and Appreciation

Barbara & Gerald Chotiner

Selma Furst

Kirk & Renee Godin

Roz Goorin

Susan & Richard Hommel

The Iskoe Family

Janice Keilly

Edward Leefer and Ilene Cohen Leefer

Barbara & Airen Lowenstein

Irene Luchinsky and Allen Beitman

The Markowitz Family

Ruth Novice

Allan & Judy Press

Linda & Paul Richardson & Family

Alan & Phyllis Ross

Marty & Linda Sloan

Pam & Paul Volz

Gerry Wallace

Anne & Ron Watzman

Lisa and Morton Wintner & Amy Wintner Pollack

Steven and Rachel Zoffer

Presented to Dr. Charles Cohen

June 22, 2020

By

Temple Emanuel of South Hills