



Jenna Kramarow

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Philosophical Statement

From the time I was eight years old, I was captivated by the beauty of Hebrew and the power of music. I grew up in the synagogue—listening, learning, and experimenting with ways to blend tradition with creativity. Sometimes that meant introducing new melodies to familiar prayers, other times reshaping liturgical text so it could live within the framework of beloved showtunes. Those playful yet heartfelt experiments helped me discover how music could transform prayer into something both deeply personal and powerfully communal.

As a cantor, I see myself as both a musical and spiritual guide. I strive to create services that are uplifting, participatory, and filled with connection—blending the richness of Hazzanut with fresh, engaging melodies that invite everyone in. Beyond the bimah, I love concertizing, using music in performance settings to inspire, educate, and bring joy while deepening people's relationship to Jewish tradition.

What excites me most is sharing the love I feel for music and prayer and helping others discover their own connection. Whether through teaching Hebrew, exploring Jewish texts, introducing a new melody, or creating a playful reimagining of familiar liturgy, I aim to spark a lifelong love of learning and living Jewishly. For me, the heart of this work is community. I believe in building a congregation that cares for one another, walks hand in hand (*yad b'yad*), and finds joy and meaning in Jewish life together.

Educational Background

H.L. Miller Cantorial School, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY

- Diploma of Hazzan and Master of Sacred Music - 2014

William Davidson Graduate School, Jewish Theological Seminary, New York, NY

- Master of Jewish Education- 2014

Florida State University Tallahassee, FL

- Bachelor of Arts in Classical Voice- 2009 (Music Scholarship Recipient)
- Minor: Religion
- Magna Cum Laude; Member: *Phi Beta Kappa*

Professional Experiences

Cantor, Temple Beth Torah Sha'aray Tzedek, Tamarac, Florida

Spring 2017-Present

- Lead Shabbat, high holy day, festival, and weekday services, creating spiritually engaging and inclusive worship experiences.
- Teach and mentor b'nei mitzvah students in Torah and Haftarah chanting, prayer fluency, and ritual understanding.
- Provide prayer instruction and liturgical education in the Religious School curriculum for all age groups.
- Teach Judaica music and introduce Jewish melodies in the Early Childhood Center to nurture early spiritual development.
- Plan, coordinate, and perform in the annual Cantor's concert, including fundraising, marketing, and community outreach.
- Officiate lifecycle events such as weddings, funerals, brit milah, baby naming, and healing services with compassion and professionalism.
- Maintain and update the synagogue's website and social media channels to promote events, classes,

- and community news.
- Collaborate with rabbis, educators, and lay leaders to design meaningful worship services and creative educational programs.
- Lead special holiday programs and community events that foster inclusion and engagement.
- Utilize technology to enhance worship experiences, including sound systems, livestreaming, and virtual learning platforms
- Mentor students in liturgical skills and leadership development.

ECC Director, Temple Beth Torah Sha'aray Tzedek, Tamarac, Florida

Fall 2025-Present

- Lead daily operations and compliance for licensed early childhood programs.
- Supervise and support staff to ensure high-quality teaching and care.
- Oversee curriculum, enrollment, and program development.
- Manage budgets, resources, and family engagement initiatives.
- Maintain health, safety, and certification requirements (DCF, VPK, CPR/First Aid).

Hazzan Sheni (Assistant Cantor) and Youth & Family Programming Director, Temple Beth El, WPB, FL Fall 2014- Spring 2017

- Led/co-led Shabbat services, high holy day services, and festival services
- Co-officiated b'nei-mitzvah
- Taught children and teens preparing for b'nei-mitzvah
- Created and lead all youth and family services
- Created and lead all youth and family programs and events
- Co-performed cantorial concerts
- Co-officiated lifecycle events such as funerals, baby naming, brit milah, and *aufguf*
- Organized and created activities for community events
- Visited/created and led activities at the local schools
- Started/oversaw/led a Kadima chapter

Cantorial Intern and Educator, Temple Beth Rishon, Wyckoff, NJ

Fall 2012-Spring 2014

- Led/co-led Shabbat services
- Taught and co-officiated b'nei-mitzvah
- Created and led family services that resulted in meaningful conversations about *tefillah*
- Taught trope class and prayer class for pre-b'nei-mitzvah students
- Taught Jewish music to Hebrew school students from kindergarten-6th grade
- Conducted, arranged, and teach music to teen choir.
- Created and performed Solo concert

Education Intern Park Avenue Synagogue, Manhattan, NY

Fall 2013–Spring 2014

- Observed Director of Congregational School Rabbi Eve Rudin
- Participated in meetings between staff, administrators, teachers, and parents
- Assisted Hebrew school teachers
- Worked on programs, wrote curriculum for Adult Learning Shabbat, and observed/collected data for a new Hebrew program called "Hebrew Through Movement"

Student Cantor-Educator, Ahavath Achim Hebrew Congregation, Wichita, KS

High Holidays 2011-2013

- First female hazzan
- Led the following services: Rosh Hashanah Maariv (day 1 and day 2), Rosh Hashanah Musaf (day 1 and day 2), Kol Nidrei, and Yom Kippur Musaf
- Created and taught High Holiday lessons for 6–12-year-old children

Jewish Home Lifecare, New York, NY

Fall 2012

- Pastoral Care Intern: provided comfort and companionship to elders once a week.

Religious School Teacher, Ansche Chesed, Manhattan, NY

Fall 2011- Spring 2012

- Taught Judaica and Hebrew (*Mitkadem*) to 5th graders twice a week

Religious School Teacher, Congregation Shomrei Torah, Tallahassee, FL

Fall 2009 - Fall 2010

- Taught 1st and 5th graders Hebrew.

Music Director, Temple Israel, Tallahassee, FL

Summer 2009

- Music Director- Taught Jewish music to students from kindergarten through 6th grade

Koach Intern, Hillel Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

Fall 2006 - Spring 2007

- Created programs once a month through Hillel, which provided young students a connection to Conservative Judaism; created and organized Iron Chef Latkes (which resulted in FSU dining hall providing kosher style food); and Israel @ 60.

Certifications

- Director Credential Certification with VPK Endorsement
- Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential – [Preschool]
- Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF) – 45-Hour Introductory Child Care Training
- Certified in Pediatric CPR and First Aid

Special Skills

- Chant Torah, Haftarah, and Megillot
- Classical voice training (26 years)
- Cantorial vocal training in *nusach* with Hazzanim: Faith Steinsnyder, Robert Kieval, Richard Nadel, Lawrence Avery, and Raphael Frieder.
- Studied piano
- Proficient in Hebrew
- Choir Skills: Arrange music; and conduct choirs

Leadership

Cantorial School Student Organization President, New York, NY

Spring 2013-Fall 2013

- Worked on/coordinated/organized the following Cantorial School events: JTS Shira B'tzibur (community power sing), social events, and annual Tzedakah Concert (Cafe Shira)

Temple Beth EL Volunteer, West Palm Beach, FL

Fall 2005- Spring 2013

- Helped lead services

Florida State University Hillel President, Tallahassee, FL

Fall 2007-Fall 2008

- Oversaw the Hillel board, created/participated/assisted with Hillel programs, attended events at the capital as the FSU Jewish Students' Representative, and amended the FSU Hillel constitution.

Florida State University Hillel Music Chair, Tallahassee, FL

Fall 2006- Spring 2007

- Created music programs for Shabbat services.
- Founded and organized leaders for different *tefillah* services

Academic Awards and Honors

- Sang for Israeli Consul General of Florida and Puerto Rico, on Yom Ha'Atzmaut
- 2010 CA Hazzanut Study Award, co-recipient
- 2011 Amy B. Putterman Memorial Prize
- 2012 Amy B. Putterman Memorial Prize
- 2012 CA Sidney Q. Janus Award
- 2012 CA Alumni Award in Memory of Hazzan Max Wohlberg

References upon request.

