

FORMATION of new Cape Town Jewish Male Choir, a project of the Union of Orthodox Synagogues.

The announcement in the Jewish Chronicle (December 1998) that a new choir is to be formed under professional management in Cape Town, has sparked off a great deal of interest among synagogue choristers & other male singers. It is hoped that such a choir will eventually become the pride of our city, performing at major community events. Choral music can revitalize Jewish culture and commitment, thereby fostering unity. We hope this will be the renewal of the Jewish choral movement, as has happened in other parts of the world.

*Aspirant singers who wish to audition for this prestigious choir should contact either Fay Singer **434 3829** or Maurice Katz **434 0583** as soon as possible.*

Preliminary ideas:

MALE CHOIR : PROPOSAL

PRELIMINARY IDEAS on formation of CAPE JEWISH MALE VOICE CHOIR

UNDER WHOSE AUSPICES? United Orthodox Synagogues?

FACTORS ON WHICH TO DECIDE:

Is this a project which could be run jointly by the United Orthodox Synagogues together with the S. African Jewish Music Centre?

What need in the community will such a choir fill? To sing for communal functions? (e.g. Yom H'Shoah, Choir Festival, Yom Ha'Atzmaut, part of the programme at fund-raising functions...?) *Ha'shoah*

Who would be the most suitable choirmaster?

From where would we draw choristers?
(Liaison with all the current choirmasters?)

Artistic direction: necessity of a high standard to be maintained so that the Cape Town Jewish community develops a PRIDE in its 'own' male voice choir.

Other considerations:

Is this proposed choir 'independent' or will it have to function under control of the Chief Rabbi? (as the Jhbg Male Voice Choir does?)

ESSENTIALS:

- * The repertoire – only liturgical, or liturgical-and-secular?
- * Facilities for REHEARSAL – WHERE?
- * Place to 'store' or keep the MUSIC.
- * FILES (for each individual chorister) to keep music.
- * INCENTIVES to promote encouragement & commitment.
- * A central 'office' which handles ph.calls/circulars/ all administration. (Fax, photocopying etc.)
- * A 'deputy' choirmaster / a volunteer 'librarian' / possibly a small committee from the choir itself.
- * 'Procedure' should be set for "accepting" engagements/or/bookings to sing, with the Administrative Director of the choir, the Choirmaster & the Committee's approval. Fee to be set.

A BUSINESS FOOTING:

Running a choir is not a casual informal affair. It has to be organised on a business-like basis, with each chorister feeling a strong link and allegiance to the venture. Only when this is in place, can one begin to enjoy the benefits of first-class SINGING and the eventual building of a superb choir. We have the VOICES. We have the TALENT.

Fay Singer
1 Nov. 1998

copies to Mr Jack Friedman, Chairman
Mr Mickey Glass, Executive Director.