

LEIPZIG SYNAGOGAL CHOIR

World-famous choir to perform in Cape Town

This unique 26-member choir will be in visiting the city for two different programmes at the Baxter Concert Hall on Wednesday, 5 August, and Thursday, 6 August, at 8.15 p.m.

The choir was brought to the attention of the Baxter and the South African Jewish Music Centre by Dr Hans Middelman of Cape Town, who attended the Jewish Week in Leipzig in 1997.

The choir, which has not a single Jewish member, is dedicated to maintaining the age-old synagogue choral practice and traditions, mostly of 19th and 20th century Eastern Europe. The choir's activities are also aimed at recognising and redressing the shameful history of the recent past in Germany.

The choir was founded in 1962 as the only European ensemble of its kind. Under the sensitive leadership of Helmut Klotz as conductor, they have developed into an ensemble ranking amongst the best on the continent. They now perform regularly in the famous Leipzig Gewandhaus and Thomaskirche as well as in Berlin. The choir took part in the International Festival of Jewish Music in Odessa and the European Yiddish Festival in Leverkusen, Germany, in 1993, and have sung in Paris and Prague, amongst other cities. They have also performed with great distinction in Israel, where they sang in Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Eilat.

For the Cape Town concerts, Helmut Klotz and the choir will be accompanied by three top soloists from leading German opera houses.

The second half of each evening will consist of Hebrew and Yiddish folk songs from Eastern Europe and Israel.

Book at Computicket.



5 & 6 AUG

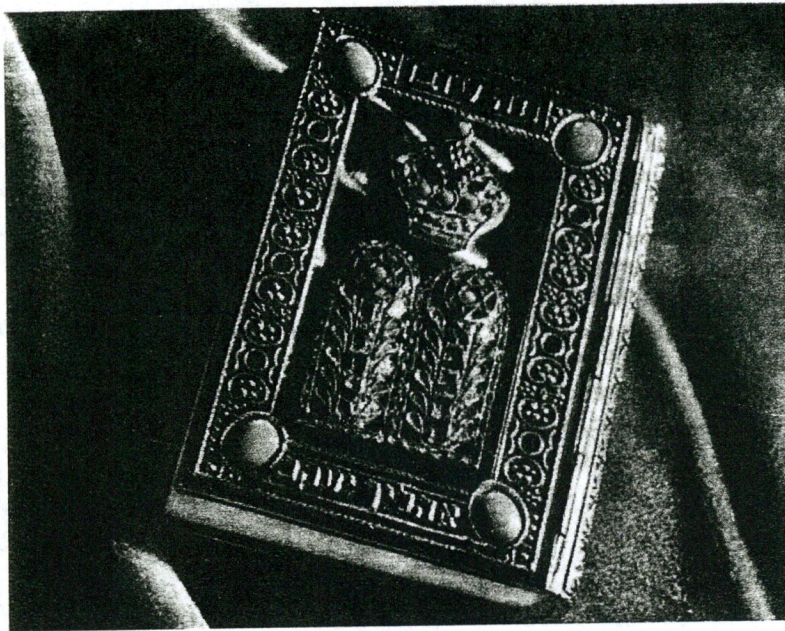
CONCERT HALL

THE LEIPZIG SYNAGOGAL CHOIR

This much travelled and much acclaimed choir has a broad based repertoire largely devoted to composers of the 19th & 20th centuries, mostly Jewish cantors from Eastern Europe, as well as a wide range of Yiddish and Hebrew folk music. Helmut Klotz is the artistic director of the choir and music lovers will appreciate his elegant combination of circumspect conducting, great sensitivity and succinct leadership as cantor.

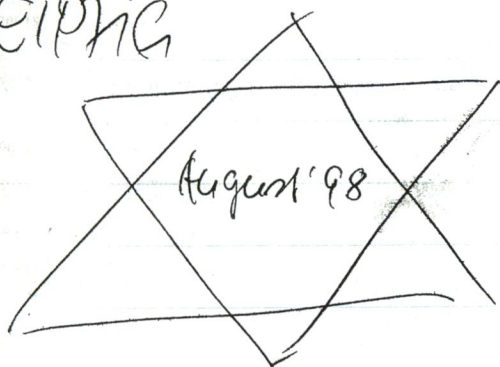
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August 1998



**LEIPZIGER
SYNAGOGALCHOR**
(THE LEIPZIG SYNAGOGAL CHOIR)

LEIPZIG



KAPSTADT

Lieder geben nicht weg,
 sie helfen leben,
 sie helfen und erinnern sich,
 sie weisen immer was sie
 sagen,
 doch sind wir Freunde
 für's Leben geworden.

K.G.

In dankbarer Erinnerung an unvergessliche Tage
 in diesem beautifulen Land.

The Leipziger Synagogenchor
 i. A. Kurt Greminger

Ich bin sehr froh und dankbar
hier, in dieser wunderbaren Stadt
sein zu können.

Ich bedanke mich für die
Herzlichkeit, mit der wir hier
aufgenommen wurden.

Mein gute für die
weitere Arbeit!

Herzlichst Ihre Ulrike
Helzel

Message from Ulrike Helzel - Soloist
(Alt - Deutsche Oper Berlin)

Kapstadt, August 98

Wir danken Ihnen für Ihr herzliches Willkommen,
die freundliche Aufnahme und die perfekte
Organisation. Thank you!

Dr. Ch. Brown

CAPE TIMES

Monday, July 20, 1998

THE LEIPZIG SYNAGOGAL CHOIR

Will perform Jewish
Liturgical Music plus
Hebrew and Yiddish
Folk Songs at The
Baxter Concert Hall
on Wednesday 5 &
Thursday 6 August
at 8.15 pm. Book @
Computicket.

BAXTER CONCERT HALL
TWO PERFORMANCES ONLY
Wed 5 & Thurs 6 August: 8.15

THE LEIPZIG SYNAGOGAL CHOIR

Two different programmes of Jewish Liturgical
Music plus Hebrew and Yiddish Folk Songs
Featuring the world-renowned 26-strong mixed
choir and international soloists

BOOKING: COMPUTICKET

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W. Katzger

2 Cambridge Court 38 Bay

NEIL EPSTEIN

HARVEY CITRON

[Signature]

Claude & Joyce REITSTEIN

pt. R20 —

ARKIE BRAND

BACKGROUND

The Leipzig Synagogal Choir was established in 1962 by Senior Cantor Werner Sander. As the only European ensemble of its kind, it has remained a secular concert choir whose members belong to non-Jewish religions.

From the outset the choir earned itself a very good reputation for the high quality of its performances of synagogue and Jewish music. In 1972 Kammersänger Helmut Klotz took over direction of the ensemble and under his sensitive guidance it has earned a European-level status. The fact that its musical director was awarded the Arts Prize of the GDR shows that the East German state, despite attempts to ignore it, could not in fact overlook the ensemble.

The choir's repertoire is largely devoted to composers of the 19th and 20th centuries, mostly Jewish cantors from Eastern Europe. The focus is the synagogal music of Louis Lewandowski, Salomon Sulzer, Samuel Alman, Abraham Dunajewski, David Nowakowski, Mordechai Zeira and Samuel Naumbourg. The Hebrew texts of the songs are psalms and prayers from the prayer book or religious texts from the Talmud. The repertoire further includes Yiddish and Hebrew folksongs and works by Israeli composers. The tradition of antiphonal singing between choir and cantor is maintained by Helmut Klotz singing the cantor's part from the conducting podium.

The choir performs the majority of the traditional pieces in arrangements by Werner Sander and Friedbert Gross. The songs have been enriched with a virtuoso piano part or chamber music orchestral accompaniment for the concert hall, and well-known singers and orchestras have given concerts together with the choir.

The Leipzig Synagogal Choir regularly gives concerts in Leipzig and in Berlin. It has also taken part in the International Festival of Jewish Art Music in Odessa and the European Yiddish Festival in Leverkusen, both in 1993. It has made guest appearances in numerous other European concert venues, including Paris, Prague, Cracow and Wroclaw (Breslau).

A highlight was a concert tour of Israel in January 1993 which took the choir to places like Jerusalem, Haifa, Tel Aviv and Eilat.

In November 1994 the choir undertook a concert tour to the USA, which included appearances in New York, Washington and Boston.

DIRECTOR

Helmut Klotz was born in Oederan, Saxony. Following a basic musical training he studied singing and violoncello at the Carl Maria von Weber College of Music in Dresden. During his studies he worked as deputy manager at the Dresdner Staatskapelle.

In 1961 he was employed as a lyric and dramatic tenor at Leipzig Opera, of which he is still a leading member. His repertoire of over 100 parts includes Belmonte (The Abduction from the Seraglio), Count Almaviva (The Barber of Seville), Raoul (The Huguenots), Captain (Wozzeck) and David (The Mastersingers of Nuremberg). He has made guest appearances at major opera houses in Eastern and Western Europe and overseas. As a concert singer he has excelled above all as the Evangelist in the Passions and oratorios of Johann Sebastian Bach. In 1972 Helmut Klotz was appointed artistic director of the Leipzig Synagogal Choir by the Association of Jewish Communities of the GDR.

LEIPZIG SYNAGOGAL CHOIR

Ulrike Helzel, alto (Deutsche Oper, Berlin)

Helmut Klotz, tenor (Oper Leipzig)

Jürgen Kurth, baritone (Oper Leipzig)

Clemens Posselt, organ / piano (Oper Leipzig)

Almuth Baumgart, Werner Baumgart, Ronald Bessler, Petra Böhm,
Wolfram Böhme, Helga Butzke, Michael Fuchs, Barbara Grimmer,
Kurt Grünhagen, Alexander Hemman, Mathias Nitzsche,
Inya-Tinko Rabold, Helga Richter, Gabriele Riedeberger,
Barbara Riedel, Reinhard Riedel, Constanze Rostig, Irene Rotzsch,
Andreas Schneider, Cornelia Schneider, Beatrice Schwartner,
Gundolf Weber, Elisabeth Weidauer, Anne Weiss,
Caroline Weiss, Klaus Ziesenhenn.

SPONSORS

The South Africa Concert Tour of the Leipzig Synagogal Choir has been made possible by the generous sponsorship of the following:

Deutsche Musikrat e.V.

Kulturamt Leipzig

Siemens Park South Africa

Stadt und Kreissparkasse Leipzig

Leipziger Brauhaus zu Reudnitz

Lufthansa

American Express

THE BAXTER THEATRE CENTRE THANKS

- The Maisel Trust: for sponsoring the performance on 5 Aug •
- An anonymous well-wisher for sponsoring the performance on 6 Aug •
- The Consulate General of Germany •
- Dr Hans Middelman •

Programme and Publicity • Ieteke Oggel