

Congregation Emanu El's

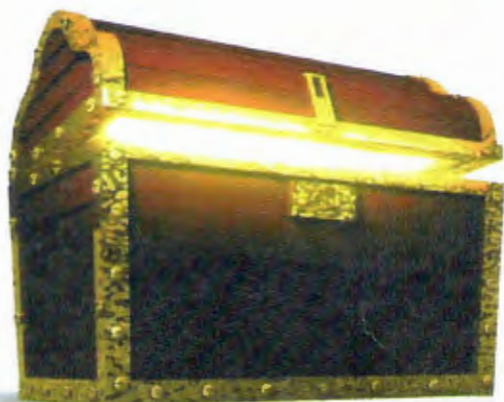
# HIDDEN TREASURES



Sunday, August 30, 2015

4:30 p.m.

Barish Sanctuary





Congregation Emanu El's

# HIDDEN TREASURES REVEALED

**Emanu El's Organist and Choir Director**

Ann Frohbieter, DMA, Organist since 1967  
Choir Director since 1992

**Emanu El's Professional Choir**

**Emanu El's Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ**

Dedicated October 11, 1966

They open our hearts and bring us closer to G-d,  
yet they are hidden from view in the choir loft.  
See, hear and meet them today!



# PROGRAM

Steven Fenberg—Welcome

Ann Frohbieter, DMA

Jewish Worship Music and the Pipe Organ

Demonstration of Emanu El's 1966 Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ

*The Day the World Was Called into Being*, by Herman Berlinski

*Improvisation on Praise to the Living G-d*, by Michael Burkhardt

Congregation Emanu El's Professional Choir

*May the Words*, by Max Helfman

*Even When G-d Is Silent*, by Michael Horvit

Ann Frohbieter and Emanu El's Professional Choir

*Kiddush*, by Kurt Weill

Ann Frohbieter, Emanu El's Professional Choir and Cantor Mark Perman

*Un'tane Tokef*, by Morris Barash

*Chassidic Kaddish*, by Yossele Rosenblatt

Ann Frohbieter, Emanu El's Professional Choir, Cantor Mark Perman  
and the Congregation

*Praise to the Living G-d*, traditional Hebrew melody (page 7)

Steven Fenberg—Conclusion

Please join us at a reception in Feld Hall to greet Ann Frohbieter and  
the members of Congregation Emanu El's professional choir.



## ANN FROHBIETER, DMA

ANN FROHBIETER has been organist at Emanu El since 1967. During its 71 years, Congregation Emanu El has had only two professional organists: Lorraine Whitley, who was hired almost immediately after the congregation was established in 1944, and Ann Frohbieter, who succeeded her in 1967. Renowned composer and University of Houston professor Michael Horvit, who served as Emanu El's director of music, hired Ann after Ms. Whitley retired. Upon Dr. Horvit's 1992 retirement from Emanu El, Ann also became choir director.

Ann earned a Bachelor of Music from Indiana University, a Master of Music from Southern Methodist University and a Doctor of Musical Arts from Rice University. Noted Jewish composer Herman Berlinski (1910-2001) was the subject of her doctoral dissertation, and he became her mentor and dear friend.

Ann has performed and lectured throughout the United States and Europe, and she recently served as the dean of the Houston Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. In addition to her duties at Emanu El, Ann serves as organist at Cypress Creek Christian Church in Spring. She has also been organist at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church, Grace Presbyterian Church and St. Luke's United Methodist Church in Houston; at St. Theresa's Catholic Church in Sugar Land; and at Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas.

Ann says, "Jewish sacred music is one of the most beautiful bodies of music in the world. It is a high privilege and major responsibility to be one of the musicians who provides this sacred music to Congregation Emanu El. I hope that through my performance and understanding of the music and its role in the services, I allow the music to speak to the congregation's minds and hearts in ways the composers intended, and to deepen and enrich the worship of this great congregation. The opportunity to perform the music for Emanu El's services is one of the great miracles and joys of my life."

## EMANU EL'S PROFESSIONAL CHOIR

In its first days, founding member Amelia Klein volunteered as Congregation Emanu El's organist and music director. Mrs. Arnold Bashier, Edna Leah Frosch and Mildred Sobolewski served as volunteer choir directors. But almost as soon as Emanu El was established in 1944, the congregation hired its first professional musicians: baritone Edward Bing was enlisted to sing and Lorraine Whitley became organist and choir director. In 1967, one year after the pipe organ was installed, Ms. Whitley retired, Michael Horvit was hired as music director, and he hired Ann Frohbieter as organist. Reflecting Emanu El's robust classical music program, the congregation commissioned Dr. Horvit to compose music for Yom Kippur afternoon services. In addition to many other pieces, Dr. Horvit composed *The Red Sea* as a gift to Ann to play during her second doctoral recital. He also composed *Land of Dreams*, a cantata celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of Israel's founding; *The Mystic Flame*, a choral symphony; and *Even When G-d Is Silent*, based on a poem by Israeli poet Yaakov Brazilai, which will be performed today by Congregation Emanu El's devoted and long-standing professional choir.

**KARI PERKINS** has been singing at Emanu El since 1989. Kari is a native Houstonian and received her Bachelor of Music Education degree from Texas Christian University, where she studied choral conducting with Ron Shirey and voice with Ira Schantz and Roger Bryant. She is currently the executive director of CANTARE Houston, a professional choral ensemble, where she has performed since 2005. Kari has performed with the Fort Worth Opera Chorus, Concert Chorale of Houston, Houston Symphony Chorus and Houston Masterworks Chorus. Kari is a staff singer at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church and performs with other area church choirs and choral groups for special events.

**SAMPY WALL** has been singing at Emanu El since 1995. Sampy was born in Rolla, Missouri, and received his Bachelor of Music Education degree from North Texas State University. He taught choral music at junior and senior high schools in Big Spring, McAllen, Edinburg, Lufkin and Houston. Sampy is a member of the Bach Choir Houston, a charter member of CANTARE Houston and a staff singer at Palmer Episcopal Church.

**ALICIA MOORE CHEW** has been singing at Emanu El since 1997. Alicia is a native Houstonian and received her master's degree from the University of Cincinnati-College-Conservatory of Music. She is currently an adjunct professor of music at Lone Star College-North Harris, and has performed with many opera companies throughout the United States and in Texas. For the past six years, Alicia has performed with Houston's 16-member VOX: The Rob Seible Singers.

**ROBERT HOOP** has been singing at Emanu El since 1999. Robert grew up in Deer Park, Texas, and studied voice with Glenn Wester in Houston and Leonard Johnson at the University of Texas. He has served as staff soloist at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church, St. Paul's Methodist Church and St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Houston and at Moody Memorial Methodist Church in Galveston. Robert has performed with the Houston Chamber Choir, Houston Masterworks Chorus and Chamber Choir, Austin Lyric Opera Chorus and Austin Choral Union. He sang in the Houston Ballet's quartet for its production of *Cruel Garden* and has been the featured performer in St. Mary's Episcopal Church Summer Concert Series.

**JEFF RAGSDALE** has been singing at Emanu El since 2001. Jeff is a native Houstonian and received a Bachelor of Music in voice from Houston Baptist University. He is a member of the Houston Chamber Choir and a staff singer at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church. Jeff is a music editor and transcriber, and he performs throughout Houston.

**VALERIE SERICE** has been singing at Emanu El since 2005. Valerie grew up in Louisiana and received her Bachelor of Music in piano and Master of Education from Louisiana State University. Valerie has sung with CANTARE, a Houston professional choral ensemble, since 2007 and has also served as the organization's board secretary. She has performed with Houston Masterworks Chorus and Chamber Choir and at the Victoria Bach Festival. Active for many years as a church cantor and accompanist, she is currently a cantor at St. Michael Catholic Church. Janet Flasch is substituting for Valerie Serice.

**CHRISTINE MAHAFFEY** has been singing at Emanu El since 2006. Christine is a native Houstonian, who studied at Texas Tech University and the University of St. Thomas. She has performed in opera and musical theater productions at Texas Tech, the Cedar Rapids Opera Theatre and the University of St. Thomas, and she has sung in master classes with performing artists Judy Collins and The King's Singers. Christine is a staff singer at St. Martin's Episcopal Church and performs with VOX: The Rob Seible Singers and CANTARE Houston, a professional choral ensemble.

**PATRICK PEREZ** has been singing at Emanu El since 2008. Patrick is a native Houstonian. He graduated from the High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and won first place in the Houston Grand Opera High School Voice Studio scholarship competition. He studied vocal performance with William McGraw at the University of Cincinnati-College-Conservatory of Music and performed professionally in Cincinnati with the Choir of St. Peter in Chains Cathedral, the Vocal Arts Ensemble and the May Festival Chorus. In Houston, Patrick has been a featured soloist with the Houston Chamber Choir, Mercury Baroque, the Texas Master Chorale and CANTARE Houston, a professional choral ensemble. He currently sings with the Houston Grand Opera Chorus, Bach Society Houston and St. Martin's Episcopal Church.



## EMANU EL'S 1966 AEOLIAN-SKINNER PIPE ORGAN

During its first two decades, Congregation Emanu El used a small electronic organ to accompany the choir. In the early 1960s, Rabbi Robert I. Kahn and the congregation's music committee spent countless hours hearing and comparing electronic and pipe organs at churches and synagogues around Texas as they consulted with experts about improving the "musical experience" during services.

At the March 12, 1964, board meeting, Ben Blum moved to approve the committee's recommendation to buy and install a pipe organ in the sanctuary, and the board approved the motion. Three days later, at Emanu El's 20th anniversary celebration, Nathan and Amelia Klein pledged \$20,000 while Lenore Fenberg, representing the Sisterhood as its president, presented a check for \$3,000 toward the organ's purchase.

The next month, at the April 1964 board meeting, the following members were appointed to oversee the selection and the installation of the organ:

Sid Atlas	Rabbi Robert I. Kahn
Fredell Lack Eichhorn	Amelia Klein
Leonard Gabert	Dean Meyers, chairman
Louis Green	Alfred Neuman
Isabel Herzstein	Michael Spolane

Karl Kamrath, Emanu El's architect, was hired as a consultant for the organ's installation; Dr. Earl V. Moore, head of the University of Houston's music department, advised the committee; and Roy Perry, a skilled musician and technician, directed the instrument's tonal finishing. A front-page article in Emanu El's April 1964 bulletin reported, "A pipe organ, long a dream, now is definitely in our future."

Congregation Emanu El's Aeolian-Skinner pipe organ was dedicated on October 11, 1966, in a recital by Robert Clark, associate professor of organ at the University of Michigan. The organ cost \$40,000 (about \$300,000 in 2015 dollars) and its installation cost \$16,000 (\$119,000) for a total of \$56,000 (\$419,000). Comparatively, the congregation's annual budget for 1964-65 was \$177,122 (\$1.3 million). The benefits of the wise investment made by our predecessors more than fifty years ago endure today, and the pipe organ's beauty will enrich the "musical experience" at Emanu El for generations to come.

Special thanks to Emanu El's archivist Maxine Reingold for her research assistance.

# 1966 AEOLIAN-SKINNER ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS

Opus 1464

2 Manuals  
27 Stops  
21 Ranks  
1,241 Pipes

## Great

8' Principal  
8' Flute Harmonique  
8' Flauto Dolce (Swell)  
4' Octave  
4' Spillflote  
2' Fifteenth Mixture III-V  
Trumpet (Swell)  
Chimes

## Swell

16' Flute Conique  
8' Viola Pomposa  
8' Viola Celeste  
8' Rohrflote  
8' Flauto Dolce  
4' Gemshorn  
2' Waldflote  
Plein Jeu III  
8' Trumpet

## Pedal

16' Principal  
16' Flute Conique (Swell)  
8' Octave  
8' Rohrflote (Swell)  
4' Super Octave  
4' Choralflote  
4' Rohrflote (Swell)  
16' Trumpet (Swell)  
8' Trumpet  
4' Trumpet



