



HaZamir Chicago 5782 Season
2021-2022 Rehearsal Schedule

Rehearsals Sundays, 1:00-3:00 pm

Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster Street, Skokie

Open House Sunday, September 12, 2021, 1:00-3:00 pm

Rehearsal Schedule – Sundays, 1:00-3:00 pm

September 12, 19, 26

October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

November 7*, 14, 21

December 5*, 12

January 9, 23, 30

February 6*, 13, 20, 27

March 6, 13, 20

April 3 – Last rehearsal and celebration

*Mifgash / USA Joint Rehearsal

NO REHEARSAL:

11/28/21 Thanksgiving Weekend

12/19/21 – 1/2/22 Winter Break

Important Dates and Deadlines:

Tuesday, October 6, 2021 – HaZamir Membership Registration Early Bird Deadline

Wednesday, November 10, 2021 – Chamber Choir Application Deadline

Monday, December 13, 2021 – InterVis Registration Deadline

Sunday-Monday, January 16-17, 2022 – Northeast Intervisitation Retreat

Tuesday, February 3, 2022 – HaZamir Concert Solo Audition Deadline

Tuesday, February 14, 2022 – HaZamir Festival Registration Deadline

Thursday-Sunday, March 24-27, 2022 – HaZamir Festival

Sunday, March 27, 2022 – HaZamir Gala Concert, Lincoln Center, NYC

Sunday-Thursday, July 10-14, 2022 – North American Jewish Choral Festival (Chamber Choir only)

2021-2022 HaZamir National Calendar

Sunday, August 15

Sunday, August 29

Sunday-Monday, August 29-30

Monday, September 6

Tuesday-Wednesday, Sept. 7-8

Sunday, September 12

Wednesday, September 15

Thursday, September 16

Sunday, September 19

Monday, September 20

Tuesday-Wednesday, Sept. 21-22

Sunday, September 26

Monday, September 27

Tuesday-Wednesday, Sept. 28-29

Tuesday, October 5

Sunday-Monday, October 10-11

Monday, October 18

Sunday, November 7

Wednesday, November 10

Thursday, November 25

Sunday, November 28

Sunday-Monday, Nov. 28-Dec. 6

Sunday, November 28

Sunday, December 5

Sunday, December 12

Monday, December 13

Thursday, December 23

Saturday, January 1, 2022

Friday-Saturday, Jan. 14-15

Sunday-Monday, Jan. 16-17

Monday, January 17

Sunday, January 23

Monday, January 24

Thursday, February 3

Sunday, February 6

Monday, February 14

Friday-Sunday, Feb. 25-27

Sunday, March 6

Thursday, March 17

Thursday-Sunday, March 24-27

Sunday, March 27

Friday-Saturday, April 15-16

Sunday, April 17

Saturday, April 23

TBD

Thursday, April 28

Wednesday-Thursday, May 4-5

Thursday, May 19

Sunday, May 29

Monday, May 30

Sunday-Monday, June 5-6

Sunday-Thursday, July 10-14

Sunday, July 10

HaZamir Teen Leader Orientation (Israel)

(option 1) Rehearsal #1/Open House/Auditions

HaZamir Teen Leader Virtual Orientation (U.S.)

Labor Day & Erev Rosh Hashanah

Rosh Hashanah

(option 2) Rehearsal #1/Open House/Auditions

Kol Nidre

Yom Kippur

Rehearsal

Erev Sukkot

Sukkot

Rehearsal

Erev Shemini Atzeret

Shmini Atzeret/Simchat Torah

HaZamir Membership Early Bird Deadline

HaZamir Teen Leader Fall Retreat

HaZamir & HaZaPrep Membership Registration Deadline

U.S. Mifgash/Joint Rehearsal

Chamber Choir Application Deadline

Thanksgiving Day

Optional Rehearsal (Thanksgiving Weekend)

Chanukkah

No Rehearsal

U.S. & Israel Mifgash/HaZaCafe

Zamir Chorale & Zamir Noded Hanukkah Concert, Merkin Concert Hall

Northeast Winter Intervisitation Registration Deadline

Kenes HaZamir

New Year's Day

HaZamir Teen Leader Shabbaton

Northeast Intervisitation Retreat

Tu B'Shevat

HaZaCafe is Open!

HaZaPrep Retreat Registration Deadline

HaZamir Gala Concert Solo Audition Deadline

U.S. Mifgash/Joint Rehearsal

HaZamir Festival Registration Deadline

HaZaPrep Retreat

HaZaCafe is Open!

Purim

Annual HaZamir Festival

HaZamir Gala Concert, Lincoln Center

Passover Begins

No Rehearsal

Passover Ends

Annual Gathering of Remembrance (NYC)

Yom HaShoah

Yom HaZikaron/Yom Ha'atzma'ut

Lag B'Omer

Yom Yerushalayim

Memorial Day

Shavuot

North American Jewish Choral Festival (NAJCF)

HaZamir Chamber Choir Performs at NAJCF



HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir

HaZamir is a musical youth movement. It is more than just a choir...

HaZamir as a choir is distinguished in the following ways:

- HaZamir is committed to excellence. Singers are auditioned and while they don't have to be professional, they do have to have a musicality that allows them to match pitch and hold their own part in a 4-part musical arrangement.
- HaZamir is pluralistic. It is not a religious organization, but it is a "Jewish" organization that embraces all Jews regardless of affiliation, thereby strengthening Jewish identity.
- HaZamir is educational. Choral music uses text, and through the study of these texts Jewish teens learn about their history and culture through music they sing.
- HaZamir facilitates leadership skills so that high school teens can go on to college and beyond and assume leadership roles, both lay and professional.
- HaZamir is an international movement that builds global, Jewish community. Local HaZamir singers make fast friends with teens from all over the country and from Israel.
- With 40 HaZamir chapters around the country and Israel, conducted by some of today's most talented conductors from across America and Israel, all teens get to experience the many, varied talents of each of those conductors.
- HaZamir helps develop strong ties to Israel by creating social situations in which Israeli teens are brought to HaZamir Festival to meet and interact with American HaZamir teens.

Eligibility

HaZamir is open to any Jewish teen entering 9th-12th grade, who is able to match pitch and hold their own voice part in the ensemble. A new policy was established by the national office this summer regarding students in 8th grade. In the past, exceptional students in 8th grade were also allowed to be full members of their HaZamir chapters, attending all events and festivals. As of summer of 2019, the national leadership has decided that students entering 8th grade could participate in their local chapters, as well as attend events such as MidVis (if scheduled) and InterVis. However, students in 8th grade may not attend Festival, or sing in the Gala concert.

HaZamir Prep

A new program called HaZamir Prep, has been established to engage students in 7th and 8th grade. Currently, we are hopeful about the creation of a HaZamir Chicago Prep program. The Prep program will be run by a local music educator, who will teach and inspire the students to grow musically, as well as create a fun and engaging environment. Prep chapters interact with their high school counterpart chapters in social and musical ways throughout the year. Prep Retreat is the culminating event for this program on February 25-27, 2022. We are hoping to re-launch this program soon!

The HaZamir Year

Each HaZamir chapter learns the same repertoire, chosen by the international office, and rehearses weekly. Chapters then rehearse together in regional events, such as MidVis and InterVis. At the end of the season, the entire HaZamir Choir comes together to rehearse for 4 days, and then sings a Gala Concert. **This year our Gala Concert will be Sunday, March 27, 2022, at Lincoln Center in New York.**



Our Chapter: HaZamir Chicago

HaZamir Chicago rehearses on Sundays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at Temple Beth Israel, Skokie. Our chapter was founded by Shawna Rosen in 2016. In 2017, Marla Aviva Bentley joined Shawna as co-conductors. Since 2018, Bentley has continued as the sole conductor of HaZamir Chicago.

Retreats

HaZamir Intervisitation (InterVis) & Chamber Choir Retreat: January 16-17, 2022

All US HaZamir chapters, **all HaZamir Chamber Choir singers** and all Teen Leaders, as well as *all* the conductors across the U.S. gather for this winter retreat to rehearse, socialize and forge new friendships, in preparation for the Gala Concert. Students entering 8th grade may participate in this event and sing in the concluding performance.

HaZamir Festival & Gala Concert: March 24-27, 2022

In March, all HaZamir chapters, including those from Israel, gather in the New York area for a 4-day Festival in preparation for the Gala Concert. During the HaZamir Festival, singers rehearse with a variety of conductors, share Shabbat in a variety of services (Traditional, Egalitarian, Progressive and Women's service) and build an embracing pluralistic Jewish community which respects all levels of observance. This year, the HaZamir Gala Concert will be held at David Geffen Hall (formerly Avery Fisher Hall) at Lincoln Center in New York on March 27, 2022.

Additional HaZamir Opportunities

HaZamir Chamber Choir

The HaZamir Chamber Choir is the Honors Choir of HaZamir. To be eligible, singers must be in grades 9-12 and pass a more demanding audition. The HaZamir Chamber Choir sings even more challenging repertoire than the larger HaZamir ensemble and candidates must receive a recommendation from their conductors to audition. If accepted into Chamber Choir, singers must learn their additional music on their own. Chamber Choir application deadline is Wednesday, November 10, 2021. Application details will be forthcoming.

Teen Leaders – Our Teen Leader is Rebecca Hurwitz

The HaZamir Teen Leadership Committee consists of HaZamir singers who show potential for leadership positions. TLC candidates must be juniors or seniors and pass a written and personal interview process. Teen Leaders receive leadership training at two overnight retreats and on a weekly basis through an online program. The HaZamir Teen Leadership Committee is a select program that is funded. To be eligible for TLC singers must attend Festival the previous year, and at all times demonstrate leadership qualities such as leading by example. Most importantly, candidates for Leadership must empower the other singers of their chapter. "A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." – John C. Maxwell

HaZamir for College Credit

HaZamir singers who are high school juniors and seniors are eligible to earn 3 college credits through the HaZamir program in association with Gratz College. These credits are accepted at over 70 colleges and universities in the U. S. at fees that are far less than college or university fees. This course is based on the yearly repertoire of each HaZamir season and expands upon it.

HaZamir Parent Council (HPC)

The HaZamir Parent Council consists of a group of parent representatives from each chapter and includes



parents of HaZamir alumni. The HPC meets several times a year in our NY office and through web conferencing. HPC members are ambassadors for HaZamir and help network, offer advice and volunteer services or connect National to funding sources. Membership in the HPC is by invitation.

Fees Associated with HaZamir

HaZamir national dues are \$200 for the year and cover a year of a wide variety of HaZamir programming, musical support and professional development for HaZamir conductors (including conducting master classes) administrative support for local HaZamir coordinators and distribution of all music. National and chapter dues are due at the time of a student's registration.

HaZamir Chicago chapter dues are \$525 for the year. These dues go directly back to benefit the chapter. Local dues help pay the salary of the conductor, the accompanist, any custodial fees associated with the rehearsal venue, and may subsidize chapter T-shirts, or transportation costs if there is sufficient money for the chapter. Local dues are determined by the chapter but are between \$300-\$700 for the year. Parents should understand that we collect these fees at the beginning of the year during registration but that, other than transportation fees and event fees, no other dues are requested for the season. At each rehearsal, teens are getting musical education, vocal coaching, text study and community building experience in a healthy, Jewish environment.

HaZamir Event Fees:

1. HaZamir Intervisitation & Chamber Choir Retreat: Last year the registration fee was about \$180: This fee goes directly to cover room and board in the hosting facility. Travel costs are approximately \$250-300. *This event is for US chapters, Chamber Choir singers and Teen Leaders. Students in 8th grade may also participate and sing in the concluding performance.*
2. Annual HaZamir Festival: Approximately \$500 for the New York venue/hotel. These funds go directly to the hotel (Kosher catering included). Travel costs are approximately \$250-300 for a flight and \$55 for busing to and from the airport.

*Retreat and Festival fees are due at the time of registration for each event. Travel expenses such as flights will need to be **purchased as a group** at least 6-8 weeks prior to each event.*

HaZamir Uniforms

Uniforms are a one-time only cost, assuming a student does not grow out of their original order.

Female Identifying Singers: Floor length black skirts and a black dress shirt will be ordered from Formal Fashions and cost about \$65. Opaque black stockings, and plain black dress shoes are also required. Skirts should be hemmed in a way that allows for them to be let down if needed.

Male Identifying Singers: A white dress shirt will be ordered (cost TBD) for uniformity. Black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes and belt, and a black bow tie are also required.

Chaperones and Parent Involvement

Parent chaperones are required for each event that students attend. Volunteer chaperones are required for our chapter to be able to participate in retreats and or festivals. For every 1-10 students, at least 1 parent chaperone is required. Chaperones pay a reduced registration fee, which pays for hotel and any meals provided. Chaperones are required to pay their own transportation fees, including flights. Chaperones have the opportunity to hear the rehearsals of the larger ensemble, assist in coordination and logistics of the event and engage with the students on a deeper level.



HaZamir Chicago 5782 Season
2021-2022 Informational Packet

Marla Aviva Bentley, Conductor
hazamirchicago@gmail.com

Parents are welcome to observe any rehearsal of HaZamir Chicago, though their presence is not a requirement. Students may be dropped off up to 15 minutes prior to rehearsal and will be supervised until each is picked up.

Debbie Kroopkin is our Parent Coordinator, 224-392-1639 cell, debbiekroopkin@gmail.com. The Parent Coordinator plays a vital role in each chapter. The Coordinator assists with communications between the national office, the conductor, the parents and the students, helps with administrative tasks, and recruits parent chaperones for each event.

About the Conductor of HaZamir Chicago

Marla Aviva Bentley is a passionate Educator, Conductor and Voice Teacher, and is deeply committed to fostering a sense of Jewish identity through music. Since 2011 Marla Aviva Bentley has served as Director of Music and Cantorial Soloist of Temple Beth Israel in Skokie, Illinois. Bentley serves on the Executive Board of the Guild of Temple Musicians as the Immediate Past President. She has recorded nearly 30 Operettas with the Comic Opera Guild for the National Library of Congress Archives Collection. Bentley is a member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), the Guild of Temple Musicians, an affiliate of the American Conference of Cantors (GTM), the Chicago Cantors Hub, and is a Lifetime Member of Hadassah. Marla Aviva Bentley has earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Choral Music Education with Honors, from the University of Michigan, and a Master of Music degree in Vocal Pedagogy from Oakland University, she is currently pursuing an Executive Master of Arts degree in Jewish Education from Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. She and her husband, Newell, reside in Deerfield, with their two children, Hannah Jane and Jaret Evan.



HaZamir Chicago 5782 Season 2021-2022 Registration

Congratulations and Welcome to HaZamir Chicago!

Here are the next steps to complete the process:

Next Steps – REGISTRATION FORMS

1. Registration Form for our chapter: <https://forms.gle/Hm2XmQBvUxSuTwQF9>
2. Register with the National Office and Pay Dues Here:
https://zamirchoralfoundation.formstack.com/forms/hazamir_membership_2021_22
The password to get into this form is: HaZa2122
The registration deadline is Tuesday, October 6, after that date national dues will increase from \$200 to \$250
3. Sheet music and part recordings will only be distributed to paid and registered singers

LETTER OF COMMITMENT and CODE OF CONDUCT

- Please review the attached Letter of Commitment, sign one and return it to Marla Aviva Bentley, keep the second copy for yourself
- Both parents and students should review carefully the Code of Conduct

ATTENDANCE

- Review the 2021-2022 HaZamir Chicago Calendar for all rehearsal dates, Regional and National events and festivals. Mark these dates in your calendar.
- InterVis is a required event for all 8th-12th grade singers
- Festival is a required event for all 9th-12th grade singers (no 8th grade participation)
- Attendance at weekly rehearsal is required
- Absences must be reported in advance directly to Marla Aviva Bentley by email, text or phone call: 734-476-3187 cell or HaZamirChicago@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION

- Both students and parents must check their email regularly for important information

SPREAD THE WORD

- Do you know someone who would be a good fit for HaZamir Chicago? Bring them to our next rehearsal or give me their contact information and I will reach out directly.



HAZAMIR CODE OF CONDUCT:

Your child is the most important member of the HaZamir community. HaZamir's responsibility to you and to your child requires that its primary goal be to provide a safe and healthy experience for all. Health and safety are the primary concerns of HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir.

Parents, please review this code of conduct with your child.

All HaZamir participants are required to follow the HaZamir Code of Conduct. Any violations of this code will result in dismissal from the HaZamir program.

1. **Respecting our HaZamir Community:**
 - a. Participants, as representatives of their HaZamir chapters and the HaZamir movement, shall behave at all times in a manner that represents maturity, responsibility and personal integrity.
 - b. HaZamir Participants shall respect the privacy, property and lifestyles of host families, conductors, chaperones, HaZamir staff, their fellow HaZamir participants and all venues in which they meet.
2. **Consumption of Drugs, Alcohol:** Participants shall not use, sell, distribute or be involved with person(s) who use, sell or distribute or have any other contact or involvement with alcohol or drugs (other than those specifically prescribed by the participant's doctor). This includes smoking, juuling and vaping or having such paraphernalia on or with them. Possession of any of these substances will result in immediate dismissal from the HaZamir program with no tuition refund.
3. **Sexual Exploitation & Sexual Acts:** Participants will not engage in any sexual behavior or inappropriate physical behavior. Violation of this rule may result in dismissal for the HaZamir program with no tuition refund.
4. **Bullying:** Bullying of any kind will not be tolerated in the HaZamir community. This includes but is not limited to emotional bullying, cyber-bullying and physical bullying. Bullying individuals based on race, gender, sexual orientation or religious affiliation will also not be tolerated.
5. **Hurtful Behavior:** Participants shall not fight, steal or engage in any behavior that is hurtful to others.
6. **Inappropriate Language:** Poor language will not be tolerated at any point. This includes but is not limited to swearing, using foul language, racist comments, gender specific comments, and sexually explicit comments.
7. **Social Media Postings:**
 - a. HaZamir singers may not post any inappropriate material or use inappropriate language, referencing HaZamir, HaZamir participants, HaZamir conductors or staff on any social media platforms.
 - b. No one may upload any HaZamir videos or soundtracks without express permission from the Zamir Choral Foundation, the sponsor of HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir.
8. **Cell Phone Usage:**
 - a. Cell phones must be turned off during all scheduled activities. One may not text message, IM, play on cell phones or use any social media platforms during rehearsals or concerts.

Any cell phone or other electronic device used during the course of a HaZamir rehearsal or concert will be confiscated and returned at the end of the event.

- b. Cell phones and all other electronic devices are not used in any *public spaces* (lobby, dining room, prayer service rooms) during Shabbat retreats, out of respect for the more traditional among us.
9. **Attendance:** HaZamir participants will attend rehearsals regularly. Should a participant miss a rehearsal, they must notify their conductor in advance. Three or more unexcused absences will require a re-audition and may lead to dismissal from the program. During all HaZamir events, including, but not limited to the Regional Intervisitation and the Annual HaZamir Festival, participants shall report to all scheduled workshops, programs, rehearsals, services, performances and special events at the established times and shall remain at these locations until the conclusion of the scheduled event.
10. **Retreat Curfews:** Participants shall be assigned sleeping rooms and roommates for overnight events. Every participant must sleep in the room to which he/she is assigned. Participants must adhere to the curfews established by the HaZamir staff, conductors, chaperones and or host families. **Breaking curfew or visiting a room that is not one's assigned room will result in removal from the event and the HaZamir program.** Participants may request preferred roommates, but they are not guaranteed. HaZamir Intervisitations and Festival are a time to get to know other teens from across the United States and Israel.
11. **Uniforms:** HaZamir performers must be in the required and *complete* HaZamir uniform in order to perform on stage at the Gala concert and any other national event. Any HaZamir singer who is not in approved uniform will not be allowed to perform on stage at the Gala concert.
12. **Eligibility** for HaZamir membership includes the ability to sit through an extended rehearsal (two hours or more) and appear on stage in a professional manner for the duration of a full length Gala concert.

HaZamir conductors, staff, host families and chaperones reserve the right to enforce other rules relating to the integrity of HaZamir, the Zamir Choral Foundation and host organizations and/or the health, safety or welfare of their participants.

HaZamir has a zero tolerance policy. Violations of the HaZamir Code of Conduct will result in immediate dismissal from the HaZamir program.

Parents will be responsible for the cost of all transportation and related expenses should a HaZamir participant be sent home from a national event for any of these violations.

Parents will be responsible for the cost of any damage caused to property by their child.

No refund of fees will be made following any disciplinary actions.



HaZamir Letter of Commitment 2021-2022

As a member of HaZamir Chicago, a registered chapter of HaZamir: The International Jewish Teen Choir, I agree to the following requirements:

1. HaZamir Chicago is a diverse group of Jewish teens, whose members adhere to a broad range of Jewish observances, affiliations, and traditions. Out of respect for the diversity of our group, HaZamir Chicago rehearsals and performances will not conflict with Shabbat observance. All food at HaZamir events will be kosher. I agree to respect this diversity, and to honor the unique contributions of each member to our Jewish dialogue.
2. I will attend rehearsals regularly on Sundays from 1:00-3:00 pm. If I must miss a rehearsal, I will notify either my conductor by phone, text message or email, *in advance*. Conductor Marla Aviva Bentley, 734-476-3187, hazamirchicago@gmail.com.
3. Three or more unexcused absences in one season will require an explanation in writing, a re-audition and may possibly lead to dismissal from the chapter.
4. I will refrain from cell phone use, including texting, during rehearsals.
5. I understand that HaZamir pays royalties for permission to distribute and perform all HaZamir music. This music should not be shared with other groups without proper licensing permissions.
6. I will not post personal recordings or videos of HaZamir performances on social media without receiving permission from the national office.
7. All members of HaZamir must re-audition each season. The conductor will use his/her discretion to accept chapter members based on musicianship, vocal ability, learned repertoire (for veteran members), rehearsal and event conduct and attendance record.
8. Choral singing is a team endeavor! I will do my part to learn the music and contribute to the overall success of the chapter. HaZamir is about the "we" and not the "me" - to that end, my voice makes an important contribution to our unified musical expression. Solo opportunities are NOT the end goal of HaZamir participation. The more I invest in HaZamir, the more rewarding my experience will be.
9. As a "HaZamirnik" I will strive to always be a positive ambassador for our organization.

My signature below indicates that I understand and agree to the above terms of commitment to participate in HaZamir Chicago.

_____ Date _____