



Zamir Chorale of Boston to Launch "Heritage Mission to Italy" with Gala Concert

Reclaiming lost musical treasure; building cultural links between Christians and Jews

The Zamir Chorale of Boston begins its most ambitious effort to date with a gala concert on Sunday, June 8, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. Led by Artistic Director Joshua Jacobson, the renowned Chorale will present *Italia! The Renaissance of Jewish Music*, a concert highlighting 400 years of vocal music written by the Jews of Italy, Europe's oldest Diaspora community. In addition to performing lively madrigals and motets by Salamone Rossi Hebreo (c.1570-c.1630), who composed the first, and perhaps greatest, collection of choral music for the synagogue, the Chorale will also present choral music from the rich liturgical traditions of Venice, Casale Monferrato, and Livorno. Featured on the program is the Boston premiere of excerpts from the recently discovered Hebrew oratorio *Esther* by Christiano Giuseppe Lidarti, and a joyous wedding processional by 20th-century composer Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco.

This concert launches the Chorale's upcoming heritage mission to Italy, which aims to bring Jewish art music back to its birthplace and to foster an appreciation of Jewish identity and Jewish culture among Christian communities. The two-week tour, beginning June 29, will highlight the long-forgotten repertoire of Italian Jewry in performances at historic synagogues, churches, and concert halls in Milan, Mantua, Venice, Florence, Siena, Rome, and the Vatican. For more information about the Zamir Chorale's "Heritage Mission to Italy," contact Marilyn Jaye at italytour@zamir.org.

The June 8 program will also feature selections from Zamir's recent performances in Israel; repertoire from the Chorale's *Sacred Bridges* program, which explores historical musical links between Judaism and Catholicism; and a selection of American Jewish music.

The program takes place at Casey Theatre on the campus of Regis College in Weston. Tickets are \$36, \$25, and \$12. Discounts for seniors, students, and groups are available. There is ample free parking. For information or to order tickets, please call 866-ZAMIR-20 (866-926-4720) or visit www.zamir.org.

The Zamir Chorale of Boston, now in its 34th season, has been dubbed a "virtuoso outfit" by the *Boston Globe* and recognized by *American Record Guide* as "America's foremost Jewish choral ensemble." This 50-member adult chorale is committed to the highest quality performance of music spanning

thousands of years, four continents, and a variety of styles, both popular and classical. The Chorale's repertoire includes Jewish liturgical pieces, major classical works, music of the Holocaust, newly commissioned compositions by contemporary Jewish composers, and Israeli, Yiddish, and Ladino folksongs. Zamir currently has thirteen recordings on the HaZamir label, ranging from Baroque masterworks to seasonal celebrations. The Chorale's 1999 tour to Eastern Europe is the subject of the PBS documentary *Zamir: Jewish Voices Return to Poland*, broadcast on public television stations throughout the United States and shown at several film festivals around the country.

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Zamir is in residence at **Hebrew College**.