



## ZAMIR CHORALE REPRESENTS THE U.S. AT INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL IN TEL AVIV

On October 31, 25 singers from the Zamir Chorale of Boston will represent the United States at a gala 50th anniversary jubilee of Israel's International Choral Festival, to be held at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv. Since 1952 the Israeli government has been sponsoring the "Zimriyah," a triennial gathering of adult choirs from around the world. The Zamir Chorale of Boston participated in the festivals in 1973, 1975, 1979, 1986 and 1988.

"Our return in 2002 sends an important message of solidarity. The American people are not abandoning Israel in this difficult period. The fact that the Israeli government is proceeding with this celebration sends a message about the important role the arts play in the life of a nation, and how music is a language that transcends political borders," says Joshua Jacobson, the Chorale's Founder and Artistic Director.

Esther Herlitz, Director of the Zimriyah, states, "We welcome the Zamir Chorale with open arms and are sure they will enjoy their stay and contribute to the international atmosphere." Herlitz is also Director of Israel's International Harp Contest and is former Israel Consul for New York and Boston.

Zamir joins singers from 18 Israeli choirs in performances of Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* and Alexander's *Vekibatsti Etchem*. The Zamir Chorale of New York is the only other U.S. group participating.

Following the Tel Aviv performance, the Boston Zamir will travel to Hadera for a joint concert with the Na'ama women's choir on November 1, and on November 2 will give a joint performance with the Gitit choir in Haifa, Boston's sister city. The three concerts that form this musical mission to Israel are made possible via sponsorship from Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston and the Israeli government.

The 50-member Zamir Chorale of Boston, dubbed a "virtuoso outfit" by the *Boston Globe* and recognized by *American Record Guide* as "America's foremost Jewish choral ensemble," has been featured in a nationally televised PBS documentary and performs throughout North America, Eastern Europe, Great Britain and Israel. Zamir, which means "nightingale" in Hebrew, currently has 13 recordings on the HaZamir label, ranging from Baroque masterworks to seasonal celebrations. Two new CDs will be released in Fall

2002: *The Songs of Israel and Jewish Composers in America*. In June 2003, the group will travel to Italy, performing in historic synagogues, churches and concert halls in Milan, Florence, and Siena, in the San Marco church in Venice, at the Vatican, and in Mantua's Gonzaga Palace. The Chorale receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, Combined Jewish Philanthropies, and is Choir-in-Residence at Hebrew College.

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