

High Holy Days 5771 Update



Meet Cantor Pavel Roytman who will be our Cantor for the upcoming High Holy Days and will also be part of our BHCBE Community during the coming year.

Cantor Pavel Roytman is a native of Nikolaev, Ukraine. At the age of seven he was accepted as a piano student in a specialized music school for gifted children. He continued his studies in piano and conducting at the Kaliningrad Music College (Russia) and later at Petrozavodsk State Conservatory.

While in Petrozavodsk, Pavel joined the Klezmer Shpil Orchestra as a soloist. Between 1991 and 1994, Pavel and the Klezmer Shpil Orchestra performed extensively throughout Russia, Finland, Norway and Sweden. In 1993, the orchestra made its first recording.

In 1994, Cantor Roytman immigrated to the United States where he obtained his Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance from DePaul University and Master of Music in Musicology from Northwestern University. Throughout this time he also studied chazzanut with such well-known masters of cantorial art as Hazzan Shlomo Shuster, Hazzan Henry Rosenbloom, Hazzan Cory Winter, and Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi. In 2006 Cantor Roytman was certified as a cantor through Hebrew Union College - Jewish Institute of Religion.

In Chicago, Cantor Roytman has performed as a conductor and a soloist with Kol Zimrah Jewish Community Singers and Queen of All Saints Basilica Choir. He has served as a conductor for Milwaukee Jewish Community Chorale and as an executive director and conductor for Zemer Am, the Chicago's Annual Festival of Jewish Choral Music. In 2004, Cantor Roytman received a 1st prize in the category of Voice/Cantorial Singing in the 2nd Annual Golden Hanukiah Competition of Jewry Arts, sponsored by the World Congress of Russian Jewry held in Berlin.

He has also made multiple appearances at the Greater Chicago Jewish Folk Arts Festival, Chicago YIVO Society, Illinois State Fair, the International Klezmer Gala in Stockholm, and the International Jewish Music Festival in Tsfat, Israel.

Cantor Roytman has recently served as cantor for Temple Beth Israel in Skokie. We look forward to welcoming him to BHCBE.