

Kol Zimrah, which means “Voice of Song,” began in 1996 as a community choir. Today, the group includes members from over a dozen Chicago-area synagogues as well as several unaffiliated singers. The choir provides a common forum for singers from many backgrounds in the pursuit of musical excellence.

In recent years, Kol Zimrah had the distinction of performing with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Riccardo Muti; in the Siamsa na nGael Celtic Celebration at Orchestra Hall, joining the choir of Old St. Patrick’s Church with conductor Stephen Alltop and narrator Martin Sheen; and with Hershey Felder, Ars Viva Symphony Orchestra, and Chicago Master Singers. Kol Zimrah performed at the Max Janowski Centennial at KAM Isaiah Israel in Chicago’s historic Hyde Park neighborhood. Kol Zimrah also had the honor of performing concerts commemorating Kristallnacht that were streamed live nationwide as well as two oratorios: *Ruth* by Aminadav Aloni and selections from Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* with the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra under conductor Philip Simmons. The choir has performed at esteemed functions such as the North American Jewish Choral Festival, the American Conference of Cantors Convention, the Cantors Assembly, and Jewish United Fund fundraisers as well as at many local synagogues. In addition, Kol Zimrah has performed at the Chicago Theater, the UIC Pavilion, Millennium Park, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, and the Chicago Cultural Center.

As part of fulfilling its mission, Kol Zimrah has appeared at the Lieberman Geriatric Health Center and the Weinberg Community for Senior Living, has regularly performed Hanukkah concerts at the Union League Club of Chicago, and presents annual Hanukkah concerts at the Selfhelp Home in Chicago. Kol Zimrah has also collaborated with the Second Baptist Church Choir and Bright Star Church of God Choir in joint performances of Jewish and gospel music.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Kol Zimrah performed the inaugural *Restoring the Broken Glass*, a concert commemorating Kristallnacht, featuring Cantors Sofia Falkovitch from Paris, France, David Berger, and Pavel Roytman, at the historic Chicago Loop Synagogue. We first sang with Cantor Falkovitch in 2019 in Paris at the Synagogue Union Libérale Israélite de France as a part of our spring concert tour.

In March of 2020, facing the pandemic, Kol Zimrah reinvented itself and turned to virtual recording. This has allowed us to continue making a joyous sound while we eagerly awaited coming together again. During this time we produced and shared numerous videos, created a virtual fundraiser, and participated virtually in the Louis Lewandowski Choral Festival in Berlin, Germany.

Our live concerts resumed in November of 2021 with yet another *Restoring The Broken Glass* concert commemorating Kristallnacht. This time, in addition to Kol Zimrah the program featured members of KAM Isaiah Israel Chorale, Cantors David Berger and Susan Lewis Friedman, and members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra.

Today our choir continues to grow and evolve. In addition to our very busy performance schedule we constantly reinvent ourselves in keeping with our mission of sustaining and interpreting the great tradition of Jewish choral music, serving as a musical resource for the region, and encouraging the composition of new Judaic choral works.

We perform and collaborate with cantors and musicians across Chicagoland and beyond. Kol Zimrah is a well recognized ensemble in the US and abroad and we are very proud of it.

In addition to live performances and virtual choral videos, Kol Zimrah can be heard on several recordings, including The Chicago Cantorial Tradition with Hazzan Alberto Mizrahi and Ernst Bloch's Sacred Service with the Lakeside Congregation Choir and Cantor Michael Davis. Kol Zimrah's chamber choir has performed live on WFLD television and on WFMT in Chicago, streamed globally through their website.

We welcome new members and are open for auditions for all those interested in singing Jewish choral music

A 501(c)(3) organization, Kol Zimrah is supported by contributions from members and benefactors. If you are interested in joining the choir or being a supporter of any kind, please visit www.kolzimrah.org.