

JUSTIN CALLIS

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EDUCATION

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, New York, NY

Cantorial Ordination, May 2025

Master of Sacred Music, May 2024

- Cantorial Thesis: *The Song of Jonah*, a cantata for cantor, choir, and orchestra

Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Bachelor of Science, June 2011

- Majors: Theatre, English
- Certificate in Music Theatre

JEWISH PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Congregation Kol Ami, Cherry Hill, NJ

Senior Cantor, July 2025–present

- Officiates during Shabbat services in coordination with the clergy team
- Leads High Holy Day and Festival services, solo and in conjunction with clergy and educators
- Serves as music director for the congregation and for a volunteer 50-member community choir, *Koleinu*, which performs regularly at services and for community events
- Leads B'nei Mitzvah Program and designed a digital interface for students and families, incorporating visual aids and recordings of Torah, Haftarah, and blessings
- Led and organized *A Festival of Song*, featuring 120 singers and musicians from across New York and New Jersey at Temple Israel of the City of New York

Congregation Rodeph Sholom, New York, NY

Cantorial Intern, May 2023–May 2025

- Officiated during Shabbat services in coordination with the clergy team
- Led High Holy Day and Festival services, solo and in conjunction with clergy and educators
- Created visual *t'filah* for lay-led daily *mincha* services
- Premiered *The Song of Jonah* as communal programming during Yom Kippur, presented with choir and orchestra

East End Temple, New York, NY

Cantorial Intern, Soloist, Teacher, May 2021–June 2023

- Officiated during Shabbat services with Rabbi Joshua Stanton
- Led High Holy Day and Festival services, solo and in conjunction with clergy and educators
- Tutored for b'nei mitzvah students; taught for religious school
- Cantorial Soloist for religious school services and adult services

Washington Hebrew Congregation, Washington, DC

Cantorial Intern, July 2021–May 2022

- Officiated during Shabbat services individually and in conjunction with Senior Cantor Susan Adelman Bortnick
- Led High Holy Day services as part of the clergy team
- Led rehearsals with myriad musicians and vocalists throughout the year

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Jewish Choral Conducting Institute, New York, NY 2026–7 *Lazar Fellow*

- *Certificate in Jewish Choral Conducting*, expected July 2027
- Monthly online conducting sessions, plus biannual in-person intensives over two years

Songleader Boot Camp, Saint Louis, MO *February 2026*

American Conference of Cantors Annual Convention, Cleveland, OH *July 2026*

RECORDINGS

Kolot HaDorot: Celebrating Fifty Years of Women in the Cantorate, 2025

Transcontinental Music Publications, Conductor and Featured Soloist

Kol B'Seder for Choir, 2025

Transcontinental Music Publications, Conductor and Featured Soloist

Shabbos Dreams, 2023

Beth Reinstein, Featured Soloist

ADDITIONAL RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

The Chicago High School for the Arts, Chicago, IL

Instructor, January 2019–May 2021

- *Courses*: Keyboarding Skills for Voice Majors I and II, Songwriting & Composition, Vocal Technique and Repertoire IV, A Capella Choir

Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago, IL

Teaching Artist/Composer, July 2012–August 2020

- Crafted original compositions and story material for original operas

Storycatchers Theatre, Chicago, IL

Music Director/Composer, April 2013–January 2017

- Taught music to high school students and incarcerated youth
- Created original compositions, vocal arrangements, and orchestrations

PRIZES

Compositional Awards

- *The Song of Jonah*: Winner of the 2025 Dr. Jack Gottlieb Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music Student Composer Prize
- Ben Steinberg Young Composer's Award: *Shabbat*: Winner 2025; *Uvirchoteha—Blessings Before Sh'ma*: Runner up 2024

Be Wise Fellowship in Jewish Entrepreneurship, 2024–2025

- *Project*: Jewish Liturgical Orchestra, presented as a part of *A Festival of Song*

Academic Achievements

- Reuben Peretz Abelson Prize for Dedication to Yiddish Song; Temple Israel of Boston Cantorial Prize; Lee Gura Memorial Prize for Excellence in Choral Skills

REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST
