

From Russian Newspaper reviews: One

"Music as a recipe for survival" by Nadezhda Diner

The Moscow Male Jewish Choir "Hasidic Cappella," led by director Alexander Tsaliuk, gave a concert at the Russian Cultural Foundation.... In the audience were US Ambassador Dr. Collins, Cultural Advisor to the Israeli Embassy Shamaï Golan, officials from the German Embassy and the British Council, the composer Oscar Feltsman and the writer Arkadi Arkanov. During the concert Mr. Arkanov expressed his admiration for the choir. "This choir is preserving and popularizing Jewish culture in difficult times." The Hasidic Cappella, he added, is "a magnificent phenomenon" that "adds luster of the highest international caliber to this art form."

.....  
"Generous Guests" by Viktoria Remenik

The famous choir Hasidic Cappella, headed by Alexander Tsaliuk, has appeared on the most prestigious stages in Russia and abroad, including the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Hall. World-renowned cantors and other musicians have sung with this magnificent choir.

So when this choir gives a charity performance for the "Senior Citizens Club," it is a sign of their great generosity of spirit. It's hard to express how much joy they give the elderly people who attend our club and who aren't likely to have a chance to hear performers of this professional caliber.

.....  
"Diplomatic Reception" by Mark Irin

For the first time in the modern history of Russia, an evening dedicated to Jewish music was held at the residence of the Ambassador of the US in Russia. This was the initiative of the US Ambassador, Mr. Collins, who has attended many concerts of the Hasidic Cappella choir. In the Ambassador's residence, in the center of Moscow off the Old Arbat, from time to time there are musical performances of the highest caliber.

There were over 350 guests at the concert, including politicians, cultural figures, businessmen and religious leaders from various confessions.

In his welcoming address, Ambassador Collins noted that the Hasidic Cappella was a truly unique musical group that is successfully reviving Jewish liturgical and folk music. He spoke of world musical culture and the important role played by Jewish music. And he was delighted to introduce soloist Joseph Malovany, "the greatest cantor of our times."

.....  
"Hasidic Cappella's New Album" by Mikhail Muzyka

Jewish liturgical music, which had its origins in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century in Eastern Europe, virtually died out in Russia after the October Revolution of 1917. Only in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century did a miracle happen: this music began to be revived. Unusual, unexpected, beautiful and harmonious, it is drawing more and more listeners. And the choir Hasidic Cappella is becoming more and more popular in Russia and around the world.

The choir was founded in 1989.... It has toured virtually everywhere in the world, gave a command performance for members of the royal families of Denmark and Norway, performed at the ceremony celebrating the Chief Rabbi of Scandinavia, and performed three times with the renowned singer and cantor Mikhail Alexandrovich. In 1992 the choir took first place at the "Zimriya" choral competition. In 1996 the choir was the top winner at the Russian National Choral Competition, beating out world-famous troupes from Georgia, Armenia and Ukraine....

"Universal Music Group"... did market research which showed that not a single respected company had ever put out recordings of Jewish liturgical music; there were no professional recordings, or even recordings of cantors or choirs. The company decided to fill this gap [with the music of the Hasidic Cappella]. The album is a recording of the concert dedicated to the 3000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Jerusalem, performed in 1996 in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. The Hasidic Cappella performed with the cantor Joseph Malovany and the State Symphonic Orchestra...

The disc caused a sensation. In 1999 it was awarded "Best Disc of the Year" in classical music produced by Universal Music Group.



the prayers, whether they knew Hebrew or not. Indeed, the profound meaning of Judaism becomes clear through music, especially liturgical music. How often we think of Jewish music as popular music, as if we didn't believe that Jewish themes could be lofty. This choir gave the music special richness. And one is mesmerized by the artistry of Alexander Tsaliuk. All the singers fixed their gaze on him, as if he held in his hand the invisible strings of a lyre. And when they sang the final blessing, we in the audience found ourselves responding "Amen."

Russian newspaper reviews: Three

"Hasidic Cappella on Tour"

The Moscow Male Jewish choir "Hasidic Cappella" returned to Russia from the Polish city of Chencstochowa, the venue of the Tenth "Gaude Mater" International Festival of Sacred Music, with yet another trophy – the bronze award. In the Philharmonic Hall in Chencstochowa the Hasidic Cappella performed with the cantor Joseph Malovany in a three-hour concert, which included six premieres of the extended versions of Jewish liturgical music... The new concert repertory was performed with top professionalism. Polish TV and radio broadcast the music live and recorded it. President Kwasniewski had the highest praise for the choir, with its rich and harmonious singing, and for the unsurpassed artistry of the cantor....

The success of the choir in Poland was no surprise for the troupe. In the ten years since the choir was founded the troupe has made 20 concert tours of the country. On September 4-5 the choir will take part in a large international festival in Bratislava. Indeed, this is the peak of the touring season for the Hasidic Cappella. In the last six weeks the troupe has performed in Nizhniy Novgorod, Vyatka, Ivanovo, and Kostroma. Soon, with the support of the JOINT and the Moscow Jewish Cultural Center Marina Roshcha, the choir will begin a tour of weekly charity concerts in a number of Jewish religious organizations in Moscow and the Moscow oblast (province). In September the Hasidic Cappella will tour Germany and Switzerland with the cantor Joseph Malovany.

"We are once again opening the door to the rich world of Jewish religious music," said Alexander Tsaliuk, artistic director and main conductor of the Hasidic Cappella.

.....  
"Joseph Malovany: Singing for Russians is a Joy"  
by Georgi Milikiants

On February 7 in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory Joseph Malovany, professor and cantor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Synagogue in New York, will perform with the symphony orchestra Young Russia and the Hasidic Cappella male Jewish choir. Professor Malovany answered Izvestiya's questions in a telephone conversation.

*What were your feelings as you left for Russia this time? Why will there only be one concert in Moscow?*

I know that Russians have big hearts and they are a great audience – warm, grateful and intelligent. It's a joy to sing for them. This time I plan to give two public concerts, one in Moscow and one at the State Cappella in St. Petersburg.

**The Hasidic Cappella, with whom I'm performing, is in my view the best professional Jewish musical troupe in the world.** We will also perform at the residence of the American Ambassador. I can only give one public concert in Moscow due to my tight schedule.

.....  
From CD Review, No. 29, January 2001  
Hasidic Cappella

It's hard to cite the exact number of concerts performed by the Hasidic Cappella in a season – certainly more than 100. The Hasidic Cappella performs regularly in the halls of the Moscow Conservatory, at concerts to celebrate holidays in the Jewish religious calendar, as well as at festivals, conferences, and workshops. Since the choir was founded ten years ago, it has gone on over 30 foreign concert tours, including to Germany, Scandinavia, Great Britain, Israel, Switzerland, and Poland. In the spring of 2000 the choir was awarded the bronze prize at the Tenth "Gaude Mater" International Festival of Sacred Music in Chencstochowa, Poland.

.....  
"Vivid Impressions"

The Hasidic Cappella, led by artistic director Alexander Tsaliuk, performed [at a concert on February 23]. The rich and powerful voices of the singers, who performed liturgical music and songs in Hebrew and Yiddish, astounded the audience. The audience was thrilled to hear familiar melodies and to feel closer to Jewish musical heritage.

.....  
"Pavarotti from a Synagogue" by Elena Cheremnykh in "Kommersant"

Joseph Malovany, the cantor of the 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Synagogue in New York and Professor of Liturgical Music and Yeshiva University, performed in the Grand Hall of the Moscow Conservatory. The partners of this incredibly popular cantor (who has a non-traditional tenor repertory) were the members of the preeminent Moscow choir Hasidic Cappella (led by artistic director Alexander Tsaliuk) and the magnificent Symphony Orchestra (Mark Gorenshtein, artistic director). I'm no stranger to prestigious concerts, but here this impression was compounded by the feeling of being at a real Jewish holiday. ... Joseph Malovany is omnivorous and artistic. When his partner, the Georgian Jew Gia Beshitailshvili (also a tenor) interrupted the audience's wild applause with a traditional *lezginka* (traditional, it would seem, among Jews as well as Georgians), Malovany might have been at a bit of a loss. But he resolved this potential interethnic conflict by conducting the overture to the Verdi opera *La forza del destino*...



Russian Newspaper reviews: Four

The Hasidic Cappella has received many honors, including a diploma from the Second International Festival: Moscow is the City of Peace for their contribution to the preservation, popularization and development of national culture from the Russian Presidential Council on Culture and the Arts, and numerous honorary certificates for the choir's efforts to revive Jewish culture. For several years the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee ("Joint" or the "JDC") has arranged concerts of the Hasidic Cappella throughout Russia and the former Soviet Union. Among the dozens of letters of gratitude:

Dear Mr. Tsaliuk:

I would like to personally thank you for your friendship and support and express the hope that the Jewish Joint Distribution Committee will be able to collaborate with you for many years in the future.

With best wishes,

Joel Golovensky, Director of the Moscow Representative Office of Joint

Dear Mr. Golovensky:

The leaders of the "Hama" international cultural and educational center would like to thank you for giving us such joy with the concert of the Hasidic Cappella under the leadership of Alexander Tsaliuk. The members of "Hama" were overwhelmed by extraordinarily high level of professionalism and the great effort of the singers and Mr. Tsaliuk. We are very grateful.

We wish the Hasidic Cappella success and look forward to their next concert.

G. Elinson, Director of "Hama"

Dear Mr. Golovensky:

The members of the Saltykovka Jewish Religious Community would like to thank you for arranging a concert of the Hasidic Cappella under the leadership of Alexander Tsaliuk. We were very impressed by the varied repertory and the high level of professionalism. The audience was ecstatic.

I. Vaiser

Chairman of the Saltykovka Jewish Religious Community

Dear Mr. Golovensky:

The JDC in Dnipropetrovsk and the local Jewish community would like to thank you for helping to arrange the marvelous concert by the Hasidic Cappella. Over 600 people attended the concert, and after every song the audience applauded wildly, and then would not let the singers leave the stage.

We hope that not only Dnipropetrovsk but the entire eastern part of Ukraine will have another opportunity to applaud this choir very soon.

Tatiana Belkina, on behalf of the Director of the JDC in Dmirpropetrovsk

To the Moscow Office of JOINT

On October 10 after the Memorial Service for the six million victims of the Holocaust, which was held at the synagogue in the National World War II Memorial Complex, more than 200 of our congregants attended a concert of the Hasidic Cappella... which was enormously successful. The overfilled hall gave the choir a standing ovation. We would like to express our gratitude to the choir and Artistic Director Alexander Tsaliuk.

Z. Kogan

Chairman of the Hineini Congregation

Dear Mr. Tsaliuk:

On behalf of the Jewish Association of St. Petersburg I would like to express our gratitude to you and your choir for the concert "Cantor's Art of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" that was held in the Maly Hall of the Petersburg Philharmonic on February 22. This concert was a great event in the cultural life of the city, and a true holiday for music lovers. We are proud that a Jewish choir of international fame has appeared in our country. It is a great delight and a great honor to have you as guests in St. Petersburg, and we hope that we will continue to hear your choir in the future.

Sincerely,

A. Frenkel

Deputy Director of the Jewish Association of St. Petersburg

Cantor Joseph Malovany, F.T.C.I.

יוסף מלובני

חזן ראשי

בית הכנסת "עטרת צבי" (פיסטאוונג)

השדרה החמישית, ניו יורק

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Distinguished Professor

of

Liturgical Music

Bels. School of Jewish Music

Yeshiva University, New York

January 10, 2005

במורת השב

Dear Mr. Rosenberg,

The "Chassidic Cappella" Choir of Moscow, which I helped to create, continues to give me much pleasure and happiness.

This choir has toured with me throughout Russia, Europe, Israel and the U.S.A. I am proud to have given to them much of their repertoire in Jewish Liturgical Music, consequently issuing video DVD and Compact Discs under "Universal". The choir combines the best voices, blended into one voice, homogenic, refined and traditional. There is no doubt in my mind that this choir is one of the best, if not the best Jewish choir in the world today.

Please convey my warmest best wishes to its conductor, Sasha Tsaliuk - a most dedicated musician and to all the members for continued success, thus bringing the finest in Jewish

Just a Note from JOSEPH MALOVANY



Liturgical, Art and Folklore to vast audiences  
throughout the globe

I look forward to joining them for future  
concerts with much excitement and anticipation.

Thank you for helping them in being their  
great impresario.

Most sincerely yours,

Joseph Malovany

I had the pleasure of hosting the Moscow Jewish Cappella (Male Choir) for a concert and a Friday Kabbalat Shabbat Service and Shabbat Morning Service.

I was in Hazzanic heaven. This choir should not be confused with the Moscow Choir under Mischa Turetsky that has been coming to the US for many years now. This group is here for the first time.

I highly recommend them for any Hazzan wishing to present a most outstanding group that is absolutely wonderful to work with. They were open to doing anything I sent them to learn and did a masterful job at it. They came 21 strong plus 3 soloists. My congregation was thrilled. Their conductor Sasha Saliuk is an outstanding musician and conductor and a real "mench."

As many know, I have had the "other" Moscow Choir with Turetsky for the past 4 High Holidays. It has not been any pleasure at all to work with them. I've had nothing but grief and aggravation from that group. I hope I never see them back again and would strongly caution anyone who might entertain the notion of inviting them. This group however was like a breath of fresh air.

Their voices are outstanding; they are all Jewish and love Chazzanut and Jewish Music. They were also incredible with Russian and Georgian folk songs.

If anyone would like any information on how to reach them, I will be glad to forward that information.

Moshe Schulhof

----- Original Message -----

From: [Jackie Gmach](#)

To: [Alexander B. Tsaliuk](#)

Sent: Friday, May 06, 2005 12:38 AM

Subject: Jackie Gmach Recommendation

May 5, 2005

To Whom It May Concern:

As Program Director at the Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center in La Jolla California I can highly recommend the Moscow Male Choir.

The choir performed on April 11, 2005 to a full house at the Center. The choir, which has performed internationally, consists of highly trained professional voices. Their program captivated the audience, with a standing ovation after their last presentation.

Music is the Wine that fills the Cup of Silence and the Moscow Male Choir has broken the silence in presenting their music to audiences world wide. They present a melodic, harmonic and entertaining program.

Sincerely,

PAN>

Jackie Gmach

Jackie Gmach

JCC Program Director/Book Fair Director

Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center

Jacobs Family Campus

4126 Executive Drive

La Jolla CA 92037-1338

Ph 858/362-1150

***Cantor Jonathan Grant***

*Temple Bat Yahm  
1011 Camelback Street  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
USA  
949.644.1999  
cantorgrant@tby.org*

May 11, 2005

Vladimir Sloutsker  
President, Russian Jewish Congress  
c/o Alexander Tsaliuk, The Moscow Male Jewish Choir  
Moscow

Dear Mr. Sloutsker,

I am writing on behalf of my congregation, Temple Bat Yahm, in Newport Beach, California to thank you for your assistance in bringing Alexander Tsaliuk and the Moscow Male Jewish Choir to our community. I can say without reservation that their visit here on April 15 and 16, 2005 was a Jewish cultural and musical experience of great significance and enjoyment for our congregation. Their presentation of Russian and Jewish music was truly outstanding; their sharing of their Russian heritage was not only enjoyable, but was an important cultural learning experience for members of our congregation and community. I know that a strong bridge between our community and yours has been built by their presence here, and we hope it will continue for a long time to come!

I encourage you to continue your efforts on behalf of Mr. Tsaliuk and The Moscow Male Jewish Choir, for their work is vital to the rebuilding and sharing of Russian-Jewish musical heritage for communities in the USA and around the world.

We look forward to their return to Newport Beach, California!

Sincerely,

*Cantor Jonathan Grant*

Temple Bat Yahm ▪ 1011 Camelback Street ▪ Newport Beach, CA ▪ 92660

Sir –

My wife and I were at your concert on March 26 here in Washington DC - and, as I mentioned to you in person at intermission, we were thrilled at having the opportunity to see and hear the choir.

Bravo!! Mazel Tov on such a grand concert!! Yasher Koach!! "Way to go!!"

I've got a few thoughts, all related to Jewish music, that I'd like to share with you, sir - but right now, it's lunch time here in Washington, and it's a beautiful spring day outside, so I'm going to go for a walk and enjoy the great weather.

Please come back to Washington soon - we should have had a "standing room only" crowd for you on Sunday [if you're not familiar with that term, it means that every seat in the theater is taken so some members of the audience have to stand to be there] - those who missed your concert missed not only great singing, but also missed a great slice of true Show Business!!

Respectfully,

Dudley "Slide" Schwartz

Proud member of the trombone section of the Rockville Brass Band, and proud organizer of "Eine Kleine Tikva," the Klezmer, Yiddish, Ladino, etc band at our synagogue.

"Schwartz, Dudley J CTR MDA/DV" <Dudley.Schwartz.ctr@mda.mil>

The MMJ and Maestro Alexander Tsaliuk performed at my synagogue last year. It was an extraordinary experience for the entire community. The attendees at the concert were aware from the very first note, that we would be hearing something we never heard before, that it was of the highest quality and that we would be moved to tears. The music was glorious and the singing magnificent. I also was moved by the story of this remarkable group and its remarkable conductor. I introduced the concert with an explanation of the musical situation of Jews living under the tyranny of Communism and the strides that have been made since the fall of the Soviet Union and the important part Alexander played in bringing quality Jewish music to Russian and the world. I urge every community that loves Jewish music to bring this group to their communities so that they too can experience what we experienced in Allentown, Pa

Ellen Sussman  
[kicantor@enter.net](mailto:kicantor@enter.net)

This is a forwarded message

From: Spiritenorp@aol.com <Spiritenorp@aol.com>

To: atsaliuk@mtu-net.ru

Date: Thursday, December 30, 2004, 8:05:41 AM

Subject: From Sasha Tsaliuk

Dear Sir or Miss,

I am the Cantor in Thousand Oaks where we were fortunate enough to receive the Hassidic Cappella last March as guests for the weekend. They led the Friday evening service with me and we sang a concert together on Sunday. The experience was magnificent from beginning to end for both me and our K'hilla, congregation. Sasha Tsaliuk was a delight to prepare repertoire with. He was flexible in both learning numbers on request from me as well as programming his own pieces and providing me with things well ahead of time. I have sung with many conductors and I found him extraordinarily sensitive to my needs as a singer and interpreter. I know the Moscow Male Jewish Choir will achieve much success in the future and it has been my pleasure to be a part of their legacy of memorable concerts throughout the world.

Sincerely yours,  
Cantor Peter Halpern

On 12/30/04 6:52 AM, "Alan Greenbaum" <[rabbi.greenbaum@verizon.net](mailto:rabbi.greenbaum@verizon.net)> wrote:

Dear Stan,

I just want to repeat what a fantastic experience it was hosting and enjoying the MMJ Choir last year. They were fabulous, both in the Friday night service in which they participated as well as in the concert itself. And the added bonus of hosting these people in congregants' homes was very exciting.

Thank you for making this all possible with your extraordinary work leading up to the weekend itself!

All the best,

Rabbi Alan Greenbaum



*Embassy of the United States of America*

Moscow, Russia  
October 20, 2003

To the Consular Section:

This letter is written in support of the application from the Moscow Men's Jewish Choir. The Choir is scheduled to perform in New York, Philadelphia and Toronto in early December.

The Moscow Men's Jewish Choir enjoys the reputation of one of the best Jewish ensembles in Russia. Several years ago the Choir presented an outstanding concert at Spaso House.

PAS knows both Alexander Tsaluk, Artistic Director, and Asir Rozenberg, Managing Director of the Choir, and these two people are frequent guests of Spaso House.

This is the first tour of the Men's Jewish Choir to the U.S. and we will appreciate your consideration and assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. D. Wohlers", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Laurence D. Wohlers  
Minister Counselor for Public Affairs