

Shabbat Melodies

Rebekka Dohme, Soloist
Petr Chrastina, Accompanist

Songs from the Shabbat Service

1. Hinei Ma Tov — How good it is (Psalm 133:1)
2. Eli, Eli — O God, My God, based on a poem by Hannah Senesch
3. Mi Ha'Ish — Who is the Man (Psalm 34:13-15)
4. Shalom Alechem — Peace and Welcome (based on B.Shabbat 119b)
5. Yedid Nefesh — Heart's Delight (Eliezar Azkari, Safed, 16th century)
6. Ahavat Olam — Everlasting Love (Traditional Prayer)
7. Shalom Rav — Prayer for Peace (Traditional Prayer)
8. Ose Shalom — Prayer for Peace (Traditional Prayer)
9. Adon Olam — God of the World (Unknown, 11th or 12th century)
10. Essa Enai — Psalm 121
11. L'dor Vador — From Generation to Generation (Traditional Prayer)
12. Hatikva — Israel's National Anthem (Naftali Herz Imber)
13. Ani Ma'amin — I Believe (Maimonides)

Vocal Soloist

Rebekka Dohme, cantorial soloist, sang before she could speak. A member of the Jewish Community of Hamelin, she has been serving as the congregation's cantorial soloist since she was 12 years old. Rebekka is presently pursuing a college degree in New York City.

Piano Accompanist

Petr Chrastina, a native of the Czech Republic, studied music at the Hanover Conservatory in Germany and earned his degree in conducting in 1989. Petr has worked as a choir director, music instructor and musician since 1984.

Introducing the Jewish Community of Hamelin

The first synagogue in Hamelin was built by Germany's most famous German-Jewish architect, Edwin Oppler, for the Jewish Community of Hamelin. It was dedicated in 1879. On November 9, 1938—on "Kristallnacht"—the synagogue was destroyed. After 1945, Jewish life ceased to exist in the town of Hamelin, and so the ruins of the synagogue became the possession of the town.

In the mid-1990s, Germany opened its doors to Jewish immigrants from the Former Soviet Union, and in 1997 a new Jewish community was born in Hamelin. Rachel Dohme, an American living in Hamelin, and 17 Jewish men and women from the FSU founded the Liberal Jewish Community of Hamelin. Today the congregation has more than 200 members and is affiliated with the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

In 2001 the congregation bought back the land where the original synagogue had been built with the intention of building a new home for Hamelin's Jewish community. Congregation members joined forces with a group of Christian citizens in order to fulfill this dream. Together they established the Foundation for a Liberal Synagogue in Hamelin in 2004. In recognition of the historic nature of this undertaking, the Hamelin town government renamed the plot of land #1 Synagogue Place.

The new synagogue will include classrooms, a library, offices, and a multi-use sanctuary and social hall. Funds for this project have come from government grants, local fundraising events, and from friends around the world. The purchase of this CD represents a donation to the synagogue's building fund. For more information about this project and our community, please visit our Web site (with monthly newsletters available in English, German, and Russian) at www.jghreform.org. Please visit us if you come to Germany, and thank you for your support.

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