

# JUSTIN CALLIS

[justincallis.com](http://justincallis.com)

## EDUCATION

---

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

*Cantorial Ordination*, expected 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 Rodeph Sholom, New York, NY**

*Cantorial Intern*, May 2023–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
- Tutors b'nei mitzvah students
- 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
- Led religious school *t'filah*
- 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
- Taught B'nei Mitzvah Prayer Prep in religious school

### **Congregation Beth Yam, Hilton Head Island, SC**

*Cantorial Intern*, June 2021–December 2021

- Officiated during shabbat services
- Taught music in the religious school and led youth services
- Presented a concert of original material inspired by the Book of Genesis

**KAM Isaiah Israel, Chicago, IL**

*Soloist, Accompanist, Teacher, August 2016–August 2020*

- Accompanist for services, led choir, cantorial soloist
- Taught students of all ages in a variety of disciplines

**Shir Tikvah, Homewood, IL**

*Music Director, June 2018–October 2019*

- Led choir rehearsals with volunteer choir
- Served as soloist, accompanist, and choir director for High Holy Days

**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

**Community Christian Church, Lincolnshire, IL**

*Music Director, January 2011–August 2020*

- Led devotional music during services and rehearsals
- Planned and implemented musical direction of congregation

**Chicago Opera Theater, Chicago, IL**

*Teaching Artist/Composer, July 2012–August 2020*

- Taught opera to elementary school students across Chicago Public Schools
- Crafted original compositions and story material for original operas
- With COT for Teens, served as music director and composer

**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
- Encouraged musical ensemble and appropriate vocal technique

**PRIZES**

---

**Compositional Awards**

- *Shabbat*: Winner of the 2025 Ben Steinberg Young Composer's Award
- *Uvirchoteha—Blessings Before Sh'ma*: Runner up for the 2024 Ben Steinberg Young Composer's Award

**Be Wise Fellowship in Jewish Entrepreneurship, 2024–2025**

- *Project*: Jewish Liturgical Orchestra

**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**

---