The daughter of a mother with roots in Latvian Jewry and a Baghdad-born father of Babylonian Jewish tradition who emigrated to the U.S. in 1947, Cantor Elizabeth Shammash feels the proud inheritance of two rich Jewish lineages. As a performer, she is known for her richly colored mezzo voice and depth of interpretation. She serves Adath Israel in Merion Station, PA. In addition, she works with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality, mentoring rabbis and cantors in Jewish mindfulness practices.

Her career in opera and concert has taken her to companies including New York City Opera, Boston Lyric Opera, Wolf Trap Opera, Palm Beach Opera, Sarasota Opera, Israel Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv, and the Beijing Music Festival. Symphonic and chamber music appearances have included the Israel Philharmonic, China National Symphony, Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Berlin Radio Symphony, Los Angeles Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Minnesota Orchestra, Cleveland Orchestra, Boston Baroque and Ravinia, Tanglewood and Marlboro festivals. She has performed several programs with Philadelphia-based Lyric Fest, including a Leonard Bernstein 100th birthday concert at the Kimmel Center, with Jamie Bernstein as narrator, and *Yiddishe Nightingale*, an evening of Yiddish theater with Zalmen Mlotek and Cantor Thom King.

Cantor Shammash has recorded extensively for the Milken Archive of Jewish Music on the Naxos label, including Yiddish stage songs of Abraham Ellstein and Joseph Rumshinsky, Yiddish art songs of Lazar Weiner and David Stock's *A Little Miracle.* She is the alto soloist in Handel’s *Messiah* with Apollo’s Fire, Cleveland’s acclaimed baroque orchestra. Recent performances have included two distinguished programs at YIVO in New York City: a Yiddish Liederabend and a Hebrew Liederabend, featuring art songs of Israeli composers.

She holds degrees from Brown University (B.A. in Italian Studies), Manhattan School of Music, Boston University Opera Institute, and the Jewish Theological Seminary. She is a member of the American Conference of Cantors and the Cantors Assembly, for whom she has served on the executive council. She completed the Clergy Leadership Program and Jewish Mindfulness Meditation Teacher Training with the Institute for Jewish Spirituality. She is a longtime yoga practitioner and makes her home in Philadelphia with her husband, David Reed, and their dog, Lenny.

*[www.elizabethshammash.com](http://www.elizabethshammash.com" \t "_blank)*