

Sephardic Music Workshop

Ruah Ha'Aretz

June 28-July 2, 2010

Pearlstone Conference and Retreat Center in Reisterstown, MD

Led by Hazzan Dr. Ramón Tasat

www.ramontasat.com

Schedule

Monday 6/28 2:45-5:45 PM Sephardic Music- Introduction

The first session sets the historical context and establishes the necessary base for the study and learning of Sephardic music. The history of the Jews of the Iberian Peninsula including Spain and Portugal is truly remarkable. Their story began sometime in the seventh century and continues through today. Sefarad, the beloved Spain, embraced a large Jewish community that lived in peace with her Muslim and Christian brethren for more than a thousand years.

Tuesday 6/29 2:45-5:45 PM

Sephardic Liturgical Music, traditions and customs

Hazzan Tasat will also identify liturgical selections that participants might like to introduce during religious and spiritual occasions and that are, by and large, eminently participatory. Music teachers within the Jewish community may be interested in Judeo-Spanish songs to enhance their repertoire, including for Friday night or Saturday morning Shabbat services, and for other significant events, such as commemorations or celebrations of students or congregants. Singers and musicians of all backgrounds will be exposed to melodies of rare beauty and exciting rhythms that are often largely unknown to the larger community.

Wednesday 6/30 2:45-5:45 PM

Sephardic Paraliturgical Liturgical Music II/Intro to Sephardic Secular Music I

Thursday 7/1 2:45-5:45 PM Sephardic Secular Music II

Dr. Tasat will discuss the Jewish life cycle according to the Sephardic tradition with abundant musical examples. The purpose of this session is to bring the day to a close with a deeper understanding of the religious framework in which music plays an essential role. From baby-naming and birth ceremonies to weddings to death and mourning, each life cycle creates an opportunity to unite a community through song. Dr. Tasat will illustrate how the Sephardic tradition interprets these life cycle events with music as spiritual foundation.

Friday 7/2 2-5 PM Sephardic Music today-Master class

The purpose of this session is to enable the group to learn from others, and to expand even further your understanding of Sephardic techniques and methods. Participants will be encouraged to perform a short Sephardic piece in their repertoire with the goal of receiving valuable feedback. One of the goals throughout the session is to provide amateurs and professionals alike with musical material that everyone can sing and learn from.