

## **In May 2015 the ICZ choir will be giving 2 concerts in Lithuania**



From the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Synagogue choir of the Israelitischen Cultusgemeinde Zürich (ICZ) will be on tour in Lithuania, with Chazan Michael Azogui, Noëmi Rueff at the piano, and under the direction of Robert Braunschweig. The key dates for performances are as follows:

Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> May: 19:30	Kaunas Philharmonic Hall, Kaunas
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> May: 19:30	Choral Synagogue, Vilnius

We will also be singing on Shabbat morning at the Choral Synagogue in Vilnius on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### **About us**

**The Zurich Synagogue Choir** ([www.synagogenchor.ch](http://www.synagogenchor.ch)) brings together two dozen singers under the direction of Robert Braunschweig. The Choir is supported by the Israelitische Cultusgemeinde Zürich (ICZ). It sings at the Löwenstrasse synagogue once a month during the Shabbat morning prayers, and on High Holidays. In addition, the Choir regularly participates in inter-faith events and gives concerts in Switzerland and abroad. The Choir's repertoire comprises some 60 songs and Chasan-accompaniments, mainly from the synagogue liturgy, by German, French, Polish and Russian 19th century composers and contemporary Swiss, American and Israeli musicians.

### **Director Robert Braunschweig**

Robert is from Zurich, studied music at the Musikhochschule Zürich and then at the Opera studio in Biel. As a wonderful baritone, he sings regularly in opera, operetta, concerts and musicals worldwide and is a voice teacher and coach. He has been our director now for over 15 years. He trains and cajoles us with great expertise, humour and a patience which, in other religions, would make him a saint.

### **Chazan Michael Azogui**

Michael was actually born in France but has been in Israel since he became a musician as a small child. He studied under Professor Agnes Messini of the Rubin Musical Academy Jerusalem as well as at the Cantorial Institute Tel-Aviv under the direction of the famous Cantor Naftaly Hershtik and composer Raymond Goldstein. Michael is a glorious tenor and has sung as a soloist in many operas and concerts both in Israel and abroad, singing also with many of the best Jewish choirs in the world, including the Great Synagogue Cantorial Ensemble in Jerusalem under Eli Jaffe, the Kol Rina choir under Roi Azulai, Neimah ensemble under Mark Temerliss in the UK as well as the ICZ Synagogenchor in Zürich since 2010.

### **Pianist Noemi Rueff**

Born in Biel, Noëmi Rueff started playing the piano at the age of 6. After school she studied at the Music Academy in Basel under Klaus Linder and at the Academy of Music in Lucerne under Hubert Harry, where she attained a diploma in music teaching as well as a concert level certificate with a distinction. This was followed by teaching in Basel and afterwards in Zurich, where she still teaches piano at the Conservatory. Noëmi Rueff is a versatile concert soloist, chamber musician and accompanist in various styles and formations. She is a faculty consultant at the music school in Zurich and board member of Omanut Switzerland, the Association for the Advancement of Jewish art.

*The Synagogenchor Zurich gratefully acknowledges the kind support of the Schweizerischer Israelitischer Gemeinde and the Israelitischer Cultusgemeinde Zurich.*