

Conference Engagement Activities 2018
as of September 11, 2018

To explore ways in which musicians in higher education can interact with the cultural life of various communities, the 2018 Committee on Conference Engagement has organized opportunities for CMS members to share musical experiences with the Vancouver community during its National Conference.

Conference attendees are cordially invited to attend all engagement presentations except those noted as “Private Event.”

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12

10:00–11:00 a.m.

Connecting Through Music

Rebecca Sorley (University of Indianapolis)

Where: Chartwell Retirement Residences, Empress Assisted Living, 8948-202 St.
Langley, BC V1M 4A7

Residents in assisted/nursing communities sometimes feel isolated due to changes in personal needs and loss of loved ones. Finding connections with their fellow residents and staff help make these changes in life circumstances more bearable. “Connecting Through Music” involves an interactive music presentation involving 10-15 residents in an assisted living facility in Vancouver, BC. In this 40-minute program, the presenter will lead songs that would be in the residents’ repertoire and encourage them to participate using percussion instruments and/or singing. In addition, the residents and any available staff will take a known melody and change the words to create a new product. The presenter will then lead a discussion time using prompts that can help the community find commonalities including: What style(s) of music did you listen to as a young person? Name a piece of music or style that helps you remember a certain time in your life. What sort of music do you like to listen to now? Following this discussion time, the group will gather again for additional music. The residents will participate according to their physical and cognitive abilities with adaptations as needed.

Chartwell Communities provides independent, assisted and long-term care to Canadians in 180 locations. If this presentation is selected, one of the Vancouver facilities has expressed interest in hosting this program for their residents. The connections made through this outreach will enhance the quality of life for the residents and staff and could help encourage future music programs at the facility.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

Morning (Time TBA)

That doesn't sound Jewish!

Lorry Black (UCLA Milken Fund for American Jewish Music)

Gal Kohav (UCLA)

Where: Temple Sholom, 7190 Oak St, Vancouver, BC V6P 3Z9

*** Private Event**

Vancouver is home to the third largest Jewish population in Canada, a group of about 25,000 people, representing a diverse subpopulation with origins around the world. The Milken Fund for American Jewish Music at UCLA proposes to offer an engagement program at one of the many local synagogues which will trace the roots of North American Judaism through music. The program will follow three musical paths to Vancouver, the path of the Sephardic Jews of Western Europe, the Ashkenazi Jews of the Pale of Settlements, and the Mizrahi Jews of the Near East.

The program will isolate the various characteristics that make each musical style unique. Musical examples will highlight the unique aspects of the different branches of Judaism, pointing to the evolution of the music as Jews settled in the United States and Canada, and moved west. The repertoire will consist of a diverse array of music including cantorial and congregational music, Klezmer and Yiddish songs, Jewish art songs, and Jewish popular music, along with visual aids to set the context of the music. Furthermore, we hope to work with our assigned location to tailor the program to the community and offer supporting materials. We also hope to incorporate local synagogue musicians. The program sits in the middle of the engagement/outreach spectrum, offering the audience opportunities to be active participants as well as to allow for active listening not contingent upon individual participation.