

BerKalit ברקליט



Residency and Program Kit

National Award Winning Jewish A Cappella Group



BerKalit



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About

BerKalit is a national award winning Jewish a cappella group based in Boston, MA founded, directed, and arranged for by Mayta Cohen. Touring nation-wide to share their music, BerKalit has moved countless communities through the power of vocal harmony. Offering captivating concerts, engaging workshops for all ages, & meaningful songleading experiences, BerKalit pushes the boundaries of Jewish music with nothing but their voices.

Founded in 2022 at Berklee College of Music, BerKalit's name cleverly nods to its origins; in Hebrew, 'Kalit' (קליט) means 'catchy,' capturing the spirit of BerKalit's music, while sounding like 'Berklee.' BerKalit are the proud winners of Jewish Star Season 5 and the singers behind ASMAC critically acclaimed arrangement, "Lecha Dodi."

Alongside facilitating Shabbat services and vocal harmony workshops nationwide, the group is thrilled to have released their debut EP in 2025, featuring a collection of innovative liturgical arrangements. Comprising members from diverse religious backgrounds united by their love for Jewish music, BerKalit aims to bridge the gap between Jewish music and contemporary a cappella, foster community through vocal harmony, and use their voices to uplift the Greater Boston Area and beyond.



Residency Weekends



Through artist residency weekends, BerKalit seeks to uplift each element of Shabbat with the power of vocal harmony and communal singing. Each residency is curated to fit the needs of your community. Let's dream up a meaningful new experience together, or pick and choose from the following:

1

Shabbat Services: Leading a cappella Shabbat evening & morning services alongside your clergy through thoughtful selection of our repertoire. We also offer the leadership of our wonderful Chazzan in the group, Rachmiel Klein.

2

Harmony Workshop: Engaging your community through experiential vocal harmony. We are thrilled to offer several stock workshops that include text studies, group reflection, performance, vocal improv, and more.

3

Havdalah & A Cappella Concert: Bringing in the new week together with Havdalah followed by a family-friendly concert. With our interactive arrangements, we'll have your congregation singing in 5-part harmony in no time.

4

Sunday School Visit: Joining your Sunday school students for a morning of singing together, Q+As, beatboxing workshops, or even backing up your students as they take the solo on a prayer they may be learning.

Stock Workshop Options

We are passionate about creating unique experiences for your community! Here are some experiences we have crafted in the past:



BerKalit Harmony Workshop: An hour-long snapshot of our favorite ways to experience the beauty of vocal harmony, complete with a brief performance, vocal and physical warmup, chevrotah text study, and deep dive into one of our arrangements.



Tefilla-Cappella: In this 30 min workshop, we back up your teens with our harmonies while they take the solo, practicing prayers they are working on, giving them an opportunity to shine! We often include a Q+A section of this workshop.



Tot-Cappella: A 20-30 min session where we invite your little ones to sing and dance with us while we perform some of our joyous, upbeat pieces!



Circling Singing: A 45-60 min vocal harmony game rooted in Bobby McFerrin's world of vocal improv. Geared towards teens/adults or a group with an existing connection.



Shema-Cappella: An hour-long workshop where we break down our arrangement of the Shema as a way to explore the impact of vocal harmony in prayer.

Testimonials



"Hosting Berkalit at Anshe Emet was a true highlight of our year. Mayta and her fellow singers are only matched in their incredible talent by their kindness, professionalism, joy, and desire to truly connect with the community. We all fell in love with Berkalit and can't wait to have them back again. 10 out of 10 would recommend- do not wait to bring Mayta and Berkalit to your community, you will be so glad you did!"

- Cantor Rachel Brook (Anshe Emet Synagogue, IL)



"Berkalit's Shabbaton at Congregation Emanu-El in San Francisco was an awe-inspiring experience for our entire community. They brought extraordinary love, beauty and spirit to the weekend that they spent with us. They performed beautifully at our Friday night services, offered a fun Harmony workshop, gave a house concert, and sang for our youth community at Sunday school. Our congregants continue to talk about them and ask when they will return. Their music is uplifting and healing and we can't wait to have them back!"

- Cantor Marsha Attie (Congregation Emanu-El, SF)



"At our recent temple gala, we were fortunate to be serenaded by the soulful sounds of Berkalit, led by the incredibly talented Mayta Cohen. With only their voices—and an abundance of heart—they filled the room with harmony, elegance, and spirit. You could feel the care and craft behind each arrangement, and the group's connection to one another—and to the audience—was palpable. Berkalit didn't just perform; they uplifted, inspired, and reminded us of the power of music to build community and stir the soul.

- Cantor Shanna Zell (Temple Beth Elohim, MA)



Repertoire

Highlights

- Adon Olam/Hashem Melech by Gad Elbaz
 - Upbeat, Israeli-pop, liturgical, traditionally sung at the end of services
- Adoshem Malach, melody by Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach
 - Ballad-like, traditionally sung at Kabbalat Shabbat
- Al Hanissim by Jacob Spike Kraus
 - Jazzy, traditionally sung at Chanukah and Purim
- Am I Awake/Bar'chu by Noah Aaronson
 - Mellow, powerful liturgical, traditionally sung at Shacharit and Maariv, includes English translation
- Am I Awake/Adonai S'fatai by Noah Aaronson
 - Mellow, powerful liturgical, traditionally sung before the Amida, includes English translation
- Birchot Havdalah by Debbie Friedman
 - Mellow liturgical, traditionally sung at Havdallah
- Call/Response Niggun by Mayta Cohen
 - Meditative, 3-part harmony niggun, audience interactive elements
- Dayeinu, Traditional
 - Upbeat, traditionally sung at Passover
- Give Thanks by India Arie
 - Engaging gratitude-based zipper song in English, audience interactive elements
- Hashkiveinu Mashup, settings by Dan Nichols and Craig Taubman
 - Pop ballad, traditional prayer, includes English translation
- Hatikvah by Shmuel Cohen
 - Israeli National Anthem
- In My Life (Beatles)/Masa Chayay (Boaz Mauda) Mashup
 - Classic pop, mashup of an American & Israeli pop song
- L'cha Dodi by Shlomo Carlebach
 - Upbeat, energized, traditionally sung at Kabbalat Shabbat
- L'cha Dodi by Abie Rotenberg
 - Ballad-like, traditionally sung at Kabbalat Shabbat
- L'yehudim by Noam Katz
 - Upbeat, traditionally sung at Purim and Havdallah, audience interactive elements
- Maoz Tzur from Traditional Jewish Liturgy
 - Upbeat, traditionally sung at Chanukah, jazzy twist
- Mi Shebeirach by Debbie Friedman
 - Mellow liturgical, traditional prayer, includes English translation
- Oseh Shalom by Gesher
 - Upbeat, jazzy song of peace
- Priestly Blessing by Elana Arian
 - Emotional, meditative, traditionally recited during the Amida
- Shalom Aleichem by Rabbi Israel Goldfarb
 - Ballad-like, traditionally sung on Shabbat
- Shema by Solomon Sulzer
 - Meditative, traditionally sung before bed, audience interactive elements
- Sim Shalom by Julie Silver
 - Mellow liturgical traditional prayer, traditionally sung towards the end of the Shacharit and Mincha Amida
- Sufganiyot by Ellen Allard
 - Upbeat, silly & engaging Chanukah song, audience interactive elements (particularly great with children)
- Tzadik Katamar, Traditional
 - Soft and lullaby-like, traditionally sung at Kabbalat Shabbat
- V'ahavtah (L'reiacha Kamocha) by Shelon Low
 - Upbeat, funky & engaging, from the book of Leviticus, audience interactive elements, includes English translation
- We Give Thanks by Rick Recht
 - Upbeat, hopeful, audience interactive piece (particularly great with children)
- When You Believe, Prince of Egypt
 - Powerful, ballad-like song of hope
- Yismechu by Kol B'Seder
 - Upbeat, silly & engaging, traditionally sung during Shabbat Musaf, audience interactive elements
- Yotzeir Or by Dan Nichols
 - Upbeat, traditionally sung at Shacharit

Cost Details

Interesting in bringing BerKalit to your community? We would love to spend Shabbat with you! Reach out to director Mayta Cohen for updated honorarium pricing plus home hospitality or hotels, and meals.

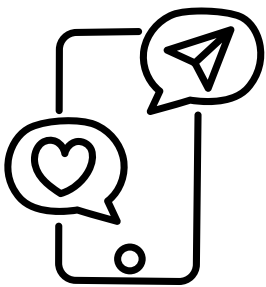
Interested in a one-off event? BerKalit offers both concerts and workshops as standalone opportunities. Inquire directly for more details.

Links & Resources



OUR MUSIC

- Music Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rm0_me57Nyg
- Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/1vRBEPaEf9cQub3iL0qP9e?si=Inrk64qzSrKvD07WF03aew>
- Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/us/artist/berkalit/1785316221>



OUR SOCIALS

- Website: <https://www.maytacohen.com/berkalitacappella>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/berkalitmusic/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BerKalitMusic>
- Mailing List: <https://mailchi.mp/26cde2e13a72/mailling-list>
- Email: BerKalitMusic@gmail.com

