

MICHELLE GREEN WILLNER (ASCAP)
COMPOSER/CONDUCTOR/EDUCATOR
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Michelle Green Willner's evocative and award-winning works, "filled with story, emotion and humanity," (artist Randi Matushevitz) are commissioned and performed internationally. Collaborations really excite her!

AWARDS/HONORS HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2018-2025 8 ASCAP plus Awards
2024 Biennial NLAPW First Place Music Winner for Reverberations
2023 NLAPW 2023 Shirley Holden Helberg Grant for Mature Women in Music
2016, 2017 Creative Inquiry Fellow, Institute for Jewish Creativity, American Jewish Univ, LA
2016 The Bruce Geller Memorial Prize, Grant Recipient for REVERBERATIONS
2015 Winner, Shalsholet International Music Festival, Maoz Tsur
1995-2013 5 ASCAP Special Awards, American Soc. of Composers, Authors, & Music Pubs.
2010-present Max Helfman Fellow, Jewish Music Commission, Los Angeles
1995-96 Grant recipient, Community Relations Council, The Jewish Federation, CA
1995 ASCAP Found. Grant to Young Composers, Honorable Mention, Jephthah's Daughter
1995 Finalist, American Jewish Song Festival for Sim Shalom/Grant Us Peace
1994 Fellow of the 7th Annual ASCAP/Fred Karlin Film Scoring Workshop, LA, CA
1994 Fellow of June in Buffalo 1994, Composers Conference, Buffalo, NY
1993 ASCAP Foundation Grant to Young Composers for Proposition 6
1993 Fellow of the 1993 Composers Conference, Wellesley, MA
1992 Departmental Fellowship, Columbia Univ, Full Music Fellowship, Mellon Foundation
1992 Brian M. Israel Prize, 1st Place for Quid Pro Quo, Society for New Music, Syracuse, NY
1991 Serge Garant Award, 1st Place for Quid Pro Quo, Soc. of Composers, Authors, Music Pubs. of Canada
1991 President's Fellow, Columbia Univ, Full fellowship and appointment Music Hum. Instructor
1990 Departmental Fellowship, Columbia Univ, Full fellowship and appointment Music Hum. Teaching Asst.
1988 Hugh LeCaine Memorial Scholarship, Faculty of Music, Univ. Toronto, 1 scholarship awarded
1988 Dean's Honor Award, Faculty of Music, University of Toronto
1986 Ben McPeck Scholarship, Faculty of Music, Univ. of Toronto, 1 scholarship awarded annually
1984 Ontario Scholar (given to outstanding Canadian high school seniors)

COMPOSITIONS/PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS: (Roughly 70 works & many performances not listed here)

1. **La Señora, COMMISSION**, folk-opera based on the life of Dona Gracia Nasi (2025-)
Selections premiered **Judy Frankel Memorial Concert**, Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies (Aug./25)
2. **Reflections: The Fallen Soldier, Dayenu and Kim'at Shakulah** for Soprano and Piano (2024/25)
October 7 Project, Max Helfman Institute **COMMISSION** Collab with Israel, Prof. Rachel Korazim
Performed 09/15/2024, *Lamentations*, Max Helfman Institute Concert
3. **Kochavim/Stars for Solo Violin** (2024) **COMMISSION Composers Conference**, Ongoing Collaboration
Performance by Matthew Hakkarainen, Ass. Concertmaster, Toronto Symphony, and YouTube streaming
4. **Sound. Bytes.** for Bb Clarinet and String Quartet (2024)
SELECTED Reading by the **Odin Quartet** and Kaye Royer, clarinetist (Aug 2025) Toronto, Canada
5. **Illuminations, COMMISSION LA Jewish Symphony**, baritone, choir and orchestra (also piano arr. performances)
Performed by *Los Angeles Jewish Symphony*, Dec. 21, 1997
6. **Beauty and the Dance of Wonder, COMMISSION** (2017), Large Ensemble and Male Chorus
Performed, *David's Quilt*, Helfman Composers and UCLA Collaborative Project, Nov. 2017
Performed, *A Holiday Concert*, NACUSA-LA December 2022 (Piano Rendition) and UCLA Recording
7. **Chanukah Dreams (SA) COMMISSION** (2018) *ongoing performances and streaming*
8. **The Stranger** for Woodwind Quintet (2022)
Performed September 18, 2022, Univ. of Redlands, *California Quintets Concert* with NACUSA-LA
Performed by *Zemel Choir*, London, England, September 1989 SATB Rendition
9. **Walking with Intimacy, COMMISSION** (2022), for String Quartet and Choir

- Performed at *AMAZED*, Max Helfman Institute/UCLA Collaboration, Dec. 11, 2022
10. **Corona Sketches in Four Short Movements for String Quartet** (May 2022)
Performed *New String Quartets by California Composers*, NACUSA-LA, June 2022
 11. **In Memoriam: 2021 Yom HaShoah**, featuring Adonai Mah Adam for solo violin
Premiered on *JLTV* April 8th (Collaboration with Doni Silver Simons) and *Art and Memory*, Jerusalem Biennale
 12. **At Ends: The Transformation** for solo violin (1996)
2021 *ICP Sunday Virtual Concerts from the Presidio* (San Francisco)
2021 *Hot Air Music Festival* (**AWARDED** and featured on broadcast from San Francisco)
Performed on *Fragments*, Arena 1 Gallery, Santa Monica, 2018, collab. with Doni Silver Simons and Nicole Powell
Performed by North/South Consonance, *Three for Earth Day*, April 2018, NY, NY
Performed by Jeffrey Steinberg, *Shir Chadash*, UCLA concert, Art Share LA, and *New Center for Psychoanalysis* 2019
Performed by Isabella Lippi, *NACUSA Concert*, Cal State Northridge, March 1999
Performed by Curtis Macomber, *Speculum Musicae* at Recital Hall, CSULB, July 1996
 13. **Canon/drum (2018), COMMISSION** for Art Installation by Randi Matsushevitz
Recorded composition used in *Conundrum Art Exhibit* at Gallery 825, Los Angeles March-April 2018
 14. **Fragments (2018)**, Collaboration with Doni Silver Simons (visual/performance artist)
Arena 1 Gallery, *More Art Here* in conjunction with *2018 Art LA Contemporary*, February 2018
 15. **Mashbiach Sheon Yamim**, Women's Choir
Performed at *A Celebration of Women in Music* and *A Community of Choirs in Concert*, Sydney, Australia, Feb./May/17
Ongoing Performances in Toronto, Canada by *Lirit Women's Chamber Choir and Kol Rina Choir*
 16. **The Stain of Blood (Rescored 2017)**, Bass Clarinet, Bass Baritone, Piano
Performed at the 2017 *Unsung Festival*, Pasadena, CA, August 2017
Performed as part of *LA Made*, Online Program, January 2021 (In the Darkness)
Performed, Museum of Tolerance, *Reverberations*, Nov. 9, 2016 (Original)
 17. **Sim Shalom**, soprano/tenor, SATB, pno.; and string orchestra arr. **COMMISSION**, Ongoing performances
WACDA Reading Selection, ACDA Western Conference, Many Voices One Song, Pasadena, CA
Performed, July 2013, *American Cantors Convention*, Minneapolis
Performed by Hollywood Master Chorale, Dec. 2016
Performed at the *American Jewish Song Festival*, March 1996
Performed by *University Singers*, University of Toronto, March 1986
 18. **Reverberations**, electric violin and viola(coda) **COMMISSION**, Jewish Music Commission
Performed, Museum of Tolerance, *Reverberations*, Nov. 9, 2016
Performed, *More Art Here*, Arena 1 Gallery, February 2018
Performed by Jeffrey Steinberg, *Shir Chadash*, UCLA concert, Art Share LA, March 2019
Performed *LA Made*, Online Presentation, January 2021 (Coda)
Performed, Priscilla Tyson Cultural Arts Center, Columbus, OH, NLAPW Biennial Nat'l Conf., 2024
 19. **Maoz Tsur**, Orchestra and Chorus, and SATB arr.
Performed by Long Beach City College Choirs and Orchestra, (Dec. 2021)
Choreographed by Louis Reichlin, Director of *LA Dancers & Choreographers*, Ongoing performances
Performed at *San Pedro Dance Festival*, (Nov. 2016) and Madrid Theater, (Dec. 2016)
Performed, *Shalsholet International Music Festival*, Nashira Choir, (Nov. 2016)
 20. **Garden of Love, COMMISSION**, *Voices of Los Angeles Project*, Hollywood Master Chorale
Performed by *Hollywood Master Chorale*, Hollywood Lutheran Church and West Hollywood Library (June 2013)
 21. **A Letter Fell Out of the Sky, COMMISSION**, for narrator, mezzo soprano soloist, choir & orchestra
Performed March 31, 2012, at Los Angeles Jewish Symphony Concert and March 29, 2012, at Univ. of La Verne
Performed by LA Jewish Symphony Chamber Concert, Gindi Auditorium, March 2019
 22. **Hear Me at Dawn**, a musical poem, **COMMISSION**, soprano and chamber ensemble
Performed Jan. 31st, 2010, Temple Emanuel, Beverly Hills, *Shechina, Women's Spirituality in the Arts*
 23. **The Bunny Ball**, for male singer and synth, Children songs developed/recorded for author David Steinberg (Penguin Books)
 24. **Turtledoves** (July 2002), **COMMISSION**, for soprano soloist and SATB
Performed by *Mit Gezang Choir* with guest Vanessa Paloma, University of Judaism, August 2002
 25. **How to Eat (Sing) a Poem** (March /97), **COMMISSION**, for women's chorus
Performed by *UCI Women's Chorus*, St. Wilfrid's Episcopal Church; and at Irvine Barclay Theatre, (May 1997)
 26. **A Place to be Somebody** (April /96), **COMMISSION**, Documentary

- City TV and Directors' Guild of America, ran several times on public cable access television, May 1996
- 27. Hasta La Vista, Cowboy!** (Oct. /94), orchestra
Recorded at Universal Studios, *ASCAP/Fred Karlin Film Scoring Workshop*, LA, Oct. 1994
- 28. Jephthah's Daughter** (Dec. /93), fl.(picc.), cl.(Eflat cl., b. cl.), tpt., perc., harp, sop., vla., cb.
Performed by *Synergy*, Greenway Court Theatre, LA, March 2001
Performed by *New Music Ensemble with Guest Artists*, CSULB, May 5th, 1997
- 29. Proposition 6** (Nov. /92-June/93), fl.(picc.), b. cl.(cl.), bsn., hn., vln., vlc.
Performed at *June in Buffalo*, Buffalo, NY, June 1994
Performed at *Wellesley Composers Conference*, Wellesley, MA, August 1993
Performed by *New Millennium*, Columbia Composers Concert, Columbia University, NY, Apr. 1993
- 30. Quid Pro Quo** (May /91), fl., cl., pno., vln., vlc.
Performed by *Earplay*, Berkeley, CA, February 1997
Performed by *Society for New Music*, Crouse College Auditorium, Syracuse University, Oct. 1992
Performed by *Speculum Musicae*, Columbia Composers Concert, Columbia University, May 1991
- 31. Come, Break with Time** (Nov. /90), S.S.A.T.B.
Performed by *Premier*, St. John's in the Village, '92 and at Columbia Composers Concert, Columbia Univ, '91
- 32. The Kiss-A Short Story (Inspiration: Klimt)** (Apr. /89), orchestra
Reading and recording by *Riverside Symphony*, Miller Theatre, Columbia University, May 1990

INVITED TALKS HIGHLIGHTS: (Not all listed here)

- 2026 **Invited Presenter**, *A Deep Dive into La Señora*, folk-opera based on life of Dona Gracia Nasi, WJSAC, U of Denver, Mar. 2026
- 2025 **Invited Presenter/Director/Commission**, **Judy Frankel Memorial Concert/Lecture**, *Society for Crypto-Judaic Studies*
- 2025 **Invited Guest Interview** *Moral Courage*, <https://open.spotify.com/episode/2lgrDE2iLwlhsZM1bojoAU?si=b3937ec2ce7e4fcd>
- 2024 **Women's Cantor Network Concert Artist Series** Presentation (*featuring 5 of my works*)
- 2024 **Invited Guest Interview** *Spirituality and Science*, <https://open.spotify.com/episode/1k2TKxBJQztQ5SsRMPZ43b?si=53b94e70bc9244ea>
- 2023 **Invited NACUSA-LA** Presentation: *Poetry and Choral Commentary (featuring 8 of my works)*
- 2023 **Women's Cantor Network** Presentation: *The LA Jewish Community Children's Choir: Its Inception, Its Realization, Its Repertoire!*
- 2022 **Invited Talk**, *My Musical Journey from East to West*, Long Beach Community College
- 2022 **Invited Talk**, *Pacific Southwest Region of Women's League for Conservative Judaism*
- 2021 **Invited** *Sepharad: The Untold Story that Changed the World*, **Jewish Heritage Alliance and ANU Museum, Tel Aviv**
- 2021 **Invited** *Creating Holiday Music*, **unSung** to discuss my Holiday Music
- 2021 **Invited** *Art and Memory, A Conversation on Yom HaShoah*, with Founder/Dir. of **Jerusalem Biennale**
- 2021 **Invited** *Exa(u)ltation and Despair in the Music of Michelle Green Willner*, **ICP Online Concerts at the Presidio, SF**
- 2021 **Invited** *LA Made*, Online Presentation: *The Making of Reverberations*
- 2019 **Invited**, *Reverberations*, **Conney Conference of Jewish Arts**, 92nd St Y, NY
- 2018 **Composer Chat**, American Choral Directors Association, Pasadena, CA
- 2018 **More Art Here** in conjunction with 2018 Art LA Contemporary, Panel Discussion and *Fragments* performance, Arena 1 Gallery
- 2013 **Invited Voices of LA**, Hollywood Master Chorale, composition mentor, presenter, commissioned piece
- 2012 **Invited Presentation**, **Cantors Assembly of America**, Palm Springs Conf, Presenting my compositions
- 2002 **Invited Lecturer**, **Nowakowsky International Jewish Choral Festival**, University of Judaism, CA

WORK EXPERIENCE HIGHLIGHTS: (Founded/directed/produced many choirs/shows in LA, NY and Toronto not listed here; also, for lecturer positions, teaching expertise and education—please see website)

- 2011-present **Music Director and Founder**, **Jewish Community Children's Choir and MGW Singers**, Los Angeles
<https://jewishchildrenschoir.com> Awarded LA County of the Arts Commission and LA City Department of Cultural Affairs Grantee
- 2004(fall)-10 **Director and Producer**, Yeshivat Yavneh Annual Banquet Show, Beverly Hilton, CA
Writing 45 min. scripts, composition/arr. for 300-voice choir & band, 60-person choir chime ensemble, technical and organizational arrangements

PUBLICATIONS HIGHLIGHTS:

- 2025 *My Father, Z"L, As Inspiration*, Women's Cantor Network, published Spring 2025
- 2016 **Maoz Tsur**, for cantor, SATB, Children's Choir and ensemble, Shalshet Int'l Jewish Music Festival
- 1994 **Jephthah's Daughter**, a composition for dramatic soprano and chamber orchestra; Dissertation
- 1991 **Quid Pro Quo**, a composition for flute, clarinet, piano, violin, and cello

February 2026, Michelle Green Willner (1994 Doctor of Musical Arts, Columbia University)