

SHIMON SMITH

Musical Artist in Residence

Bridging the gap between American and Israeli culture -
creating connection through the power of music, prayer and Kehilah.

Our time together is tailored to your community. The goal is to fit in and see where I can add from my expertise. Here's what a weekend residency with me might look like:

Worship Services

- ✦ Ruach filled family oriented musical celebration that will incorporate known Jewish prayers and some originals.
- ✦ Working with your music staff and clergy to put together an outstanding service. Where are the best moments for innovation? What are the most sacred, "untouchable" moments of your service and how can we make them even bigger?
- ✦ A sermon and song about this week's Torah portion.
- ✦ Sheet music, chord sheets and recordings will be provided.
- ✦ The prep is as important as the service - what are the groups in your community that most need targeting? More ideas on that below.

Add Ons / Concerts / Ideas

Concert: Tot Shabbat - Welcome the Shabbat with the whole family. Music for families and kids.

Workshop: Songleader Intensive - Working with your teen leadership on new songs and involving them in the services and Sunday School.

Workshop: Israeli Music and Jewish Music- Explore Israel's history through Israeli popular music. Map out how Israeli society changed over the years. Discuss Israel's history and get to know some important examples of Israeli music.

Singing Circle: Shira Betzibur - A classic Israeli singing circle with lyrics on the screen.

Concert: Havdallah / Evening of Music- A songsession that will include your favorite Israeli and (some) American folk tunes, plus originals. These are real community building moments where we can all sing together and celebrate the weekend.

Concert and Workshop: Sunday School - A music filled day - I'll meet with various age groups of kids, teach them songs and at the end we'll give a performance. This can be a mixture of English and Hebrew tailored to your kids needs.

Workshop: Bridging the Gap - Real Talk— A discussion about Pluralistic Judaism in Israel. How can we talk about Israel? What the future holds. This discussion can be with adults, teens or Bar/Bat Mitzvah age.

[HHD video](#)

[Summer Camp video](#)

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Bio ([Press links to view more videos](#))

Shimon Smith is one of the leading Songleaders / Cantorial Soloists in Israel. His home congregation is The Daniel Centers for Reform Judaism in Tel Aviv, where he [leads musical services](#), teaches hundreds of [Bar and Bat Mitzvah students](#) a year, runs the Mitzvah Chug, and leads special musical services with his [band](#) on various festive and solemn occasions.

Shimon is also the musical leader of [Tlamim](#), (Tel Aviv chapter) the Reform movement's social activism group for young adults. Shimon leads HHD services as Cantorial Soloist for Brooklyn Jews.

Shimon leads music in social justice settings around the country in support of the Reform Center for Religion and State. He was also the music director at last year's IMPJ conference, leading the [Friday night songsession](#). He was invited to sing his [Prayer For The State](#) of Israel at the [URJ conference in Chicago 2019](#). Commissioned to write the Women Of The Wall's 30 year anniversary song, "[Kumi Ori](#)", and recently [released an album by the same name](#). He is one of the leaders of "[Hallelu](#)," Israel's singing communities conference. He also records weekly [Torah Sermons and songs](#) for the IMPJ.

He is the musical director for the [Jewish Agency's Summer Shlichim program](#), which send 1,500 Shlichim to the states every year. Next year will be his 8th year working with the organization.

Shimon was born in Korea to American parents, and made Aliya with his family when he was 6. Growing up in the Israeli Conservative movement, his Nusach came before his musical chops. After serving in the IDF as an officer he went on Shlichut to the States, where he worked as the head songleader at Capital Camps for 6 summers. He's toured Jewish summer camps every summer since. Shimon continues to write [original Jewish music](#). He was featured in 3 Transcontinental music publications and the PJ Library. He is also the host of "[The Best in Israeli Rock](#)" on Jewish Rock Radio.

Shimon recently voice dubbed "Scar" in Hebrew, for the new Lion King movie, 2019.