



Dear Colleagues in Music,

We would like to invite you to participate in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: a massive choir video collaboration that we pray will bring healing and change to our broken world at this difficult time.

Introducing **From Chains to Change**: an interfaith, multiracial initiative that unites the voices of Black and Jewish prayer leaders in the singing of [Richard Smallwood's "Total Praise."](#)

This piece, based on Psalm 121, is a well-known anthem to many. We believe this project has the potential to reach a wide audience. We want to show solidarity and support and hopefully open ways to further collaborate to create a just society.

We believe that this project will be an important contribution both artistically and financially, yielding both change and freedom from the chains of our past. August 20th – our projected release date – is a significant one for both Americans and Jewish leaders. Aug 20, 1619 was the day that the first Dutch ship carrying African slaves arrived in America. Aug 20, 2020 is Rosh Chodesh Elul, the first day of the new Jewish month and the beginning of a deeply reflective period as we approach the High Holydays.

This project has been generously funded by the Cantors Assembly Foundation, which will cover our production costs. It is our hope that as people watch our video and are inspired by it, they will also feel moved to donate to the NAACP who is doing the difficult work toward racial justice. We are particularly moved by the <https://www.poisefoundation.org/james-weldon-johnson-scholarship> fund.

We welcome your participation in this project. You will find all of the details [here](#). If you have a close association with any other music ministers in your professional community, please invite them to join us and pass along the details.

Yours in musical collaboration and blessings,

Hazzan Alisa Pomerantz-Boro
Hazzan Joanna Dulkan
Hazzan Jeffrey Myers
Hazzan Steve Stoehr
Hazzan David Lipp
Hazzan Stephen Stein
Hazzan Jeremy Lipton