

## Letter of Reference for Student Cantor Iris Karlin

Dear Friend,

I am more than happy to offer this letter of reference for Iris Karlin.

Quite simply, Iris is the most talented cantor I have ever worked with!

In my forty-year career as a rabbi I have had the pleasure to work with many cantors and cantorial students blessed with great musicality or deep spirituality. However, Iris's combination of the two is unmatched.

Musically, Iris is gifted with a remarkably versatile voice, which enables her to master a broad range of musical styles, from the operatic to the folk. This enables her to deliver on the big, classical cantorial pieces of the High Holidays, while at the same time leading in the folk-participatory style of typical Shabbat services.

In whatever musical mode she is singing, Iris brings a reverent spirituality to the liturgy. For she knows that it is prayer she is offering, and she of course understands the meaning of the Hebrew.

The fact that Iris is highly proficient on piano enables her to provide outstanding accompaniment to everything she sings.

Iris also loves composing music, which means that at almost every special occasion we celebrated we could count on an original piece of music created for that event.

Iris has a naturally out-going and sensitive personality, which enables her to relate well to congregants of all ages.

Finally, Iris has an extraordinary work ethic. During her two years at our congregation she went above and beyond the call of duty in all her singing, directing, teaching and tutoring roles. For example, she managed to stage a student production of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* via Zoom during the height of the pandemic. She co-starred in a memorable concert for our congregation's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with her own work, *Jubilee*, as the highlight.

I wish that Iris and her family could remain with our congregation forever. But I know that the community that chooses her will be blessed more than they can imagine. Please do not hesitate to call me so that I may further justify all these superlatives!

L'shalom,

Rabbi Barry L. Schwartz, Congregation Adas Emuno, Leonia, NJ (856-313-8750-cell)