

Music Spotlight:

SHIRA GIRLS CHOIR: *The Newest Name in Jewish Women's Music!*

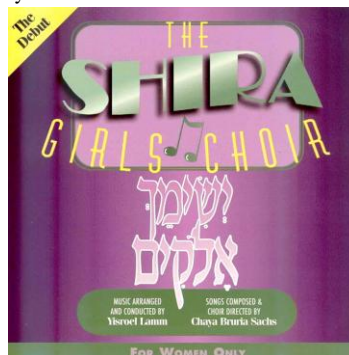
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Let me begin by sharing a secret with you: I'm one of those moms who enjoys spending time with my kids. I actually look forward to doing things with them during vacations, and I never dread the end of the school term. No, I'm not trying to shock you, nor do I intend to give you a guilt trip in any way. Okay, I admit I do have three daughters, one of whom is married, with children of her own, and I have been told girls are easier to handle than boys, but if you have daughters, you know full well they can be a handful, as well. Just try shopping with them, and getting them to agree with you on even a minor purchase. How about getting them to sit down and eat that delicious meal you've spent all day preparing? And oh, the music they listen to! Not that it's anything you might label as inappropriate, but can't they turn it down a bit?

So, what's my secret? You may ask. What magic formula have I discovered to make me actually anticipate spending quality time with my girls? Come closer, and I'll tell you: the solution is on a newly released album, and it's taking New York by storm. Let me explain. The album won't give you a panacea for solving any teen related problems, but listening to the beautiful music contained therein will work like a charm. Whatever your taste in music may be, this is THE album of the year, and you absolutely "gotta" have it, no ifs, ands, or buts! It's the Shira Girls Choir, and chances are your daughters have already heard all about it. Trust "us", it won't be long before you find yourself humming, then singing the lyrics over and over, together with your girls. The songs are unforgettable, and

the orchestration is mothering short of superb. After all, with arrangements by the incomparable Yisroel Lamm, would you expect anything less? Truly, listening to the Shira Girls Choir is cause enough to set your spirits soaring, the lyrics and the melodies are just that gorgeous. Sit down with your daughters, and any other female family members and friends, turn on the stereo player, and see what happens. Even if you don't agree on anything else, you'll find a common bond in enjoying the music. It's a very upbeat, contemporary sound that everyone will love, from the tiniest tots to the most baalibatishe bubbies, and everyone in between. It's lebedig, it's dynamic and full of life.



Entitled, "Yisimeich Elokim", this album was three years in the making, and was composed, produced and directed in its entirety by Chaya Bruria Sachs, who is certainly well on her way to becoming a major force on the international arena of music for frum women. While the Shira Girls Choir is making their New York debut with this album, and will be featured performers at the Blockbuster Women's Concert of the Year (please see our concert article elsewhere in this issue), neither Chaya Bruria nor her talented choir are newcomers to Jewish music. A

Baltimore native, her original compositions have graced numerous Bais Yaakov concerts since her high school days. Comprised of thirteen girls, this album features a melodious blend of lively, spirited voices, with a Torah theme prevailing.

Says Chaya Bruria, "I wanted something good to come out of this album", and it does. Listen to the poignant words of the title song together with your daughter; it is a mother's prayer that her beloved daughter grow to become like the Imahos. Listen to the works of "Rifaeinu," and you will actually feel their meaning. Chaya Bruria wrote this song because of all the people within the frum community who are sick and suffering. "I really do feel the meaning of the songs I write," she explains, and we feel the power of her words, as well. Each of the ten compositions is a gem to be savored over and over. Listen to "Aishes Chayil" and see the immediate effect it has on your daughters, as well as on yourself. And do be attentive to the music, it's not your usual violins and piano. You'll hear lots of brass instruments, too, adding to the total effect. And once you've listened to the incredible album, be sure to purchase tickets to the Blockbuster Women's Concert on Chol Hamoed Sukkos. You'll have the opportunity to see the Shira Girls Choir under the direction of Chaya Bruria Sachs appearing in our area for the very first time, together with your favorite female superstars. I'll be there, with my daughters, and I'll be looking forward to seeing you with your lovely family, too!