



AMERICAN CONFERENCE *of* CANTORS
Sacred music. Spiritual leadership. Jewish life.

Honorary Membership
Merri Lovinger Arian
April 2023

An ideal for any academic setting is to expand the sense of appreciation of the subject-matter and of learning itself. Teachers from early-childhood age through terminal degree programs, in their own way, strive to open students up to the world around them and how they might interact with that world in an expanded way. When a young student learns to count or read, the teacher begins with simple numbers or words. As the young person matures, those numbers and words become more and more complex. The best teachers help students transform the complex into the achievable.

Merri Lovinger Arian, you have guided your students through this process hundreds upon hundreds of times. You have shown us that in order to be able to achieve all this is possible, we need a solid understanding of the basics. You have never shied away from helping your students in the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music master the basics and discover our own building blocks of understanding. You have instilled in us a drive to explore the sheer possibilities of Jewish music, music pedagogy, liturgical artistry. In doing so you have given us the tools to think, pray, teach, and sing with whole and realized hearts.

Merri, you teach with tenderness and openness that you encourage and expect in return from your students. You challenge us to be true to our own selves with your kindness, you respect each student's place and path while helping shine light on the next point of growth. You bring a sense of understanding and humility to your work that you give away so freely, such that others cannot help but absorb and revel in it.

You have impacted generations. The growth that you help your students develop is a self-renewing gift as your students find their true voice and help others find theirs. You have created a legacy of excellence in your tenure at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music. And you have done so with dignity for each student and in each interaction.

Therefore, it is my distinct pleasure and privilege to inform you that on March 12, 2023, the Executive Board voted unanimously to bestow upon you Honorary Membership in the American Conference of Cantors.

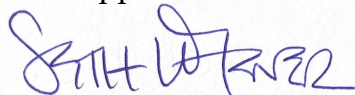
The American Conference of Cantors does not bestow Honorary Membership lightly. Only those who have left an indelible, shining mark of true wisdom on the Reform Cantorate are considered for this honor. You, Merri, have given of yourself to the students of the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music so selflessly, so admirably, and so authentically that this Honorary Membership is but a small token of our appreciation of you and your efforts to strengthen the Reform Cantorate.

חַזַּק חַזַּק וְנִטְחָזֵיק
Chazak Chazak v'Nitchazeik

Merri, your strength has given us strength and together our strength can change the world.

As you retire from your fulltime work at the DFSSM, may you and your beloved Ramie and your family go from strength to strength in all of your endeavors.

With appreciation and love,



Cantor Seth Warner

President