

LEO DWORSKY & FRIENDS

ARTIST BIOS



Leo Dworsky

Leo Dworsky, a Minnesota native, is a first-year Master of Sacred Music student in the Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary, where his work is rooted in a deep passion for music and community building. He currently serves as a Cantorial Intern at Temple Emanuel of the Pascack Valley in Woodcliff Lake, NJ, and previously earned a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance and Jewish Studies from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities. Leo has performed with a range of opera companies, orchestras, and media outlets, appearing in multiple operatic roles and earning recognition as a featured artist and scholarship recipient.



Spencer Chandler

Spencer Chandler first played the piano accordion on the Guthrie stage in the 2018 production of *INDECENT*. He has since gone on to play accordion for Open Eye Theater, Theater Latte Da, and with various groups upon request. He is one half of the popular musical duo *The Connie Dodgers*, playing Irish music around town, and his albums of original music can be found at spencerchandler.com (where you can also learn about the Alexander Technique, of which he is a certified teacher). Through the first week of July, he'll be playing a bit of fiddle on stage in the world premiere of *MY ANTONÍA* at Latte Da, and in Fall, will be back on accordion in *INDECENT*, also at Latte Da.



Rita Lusky

Rita Lusky has served as pianist at Bet Shalom since 1981 and has performed at a wide range of venues throughout the Twin Cities. For decades, she was an active participant in the Yiddish Vinkl at the Sabes JCC, helping sustain and celebrate Yiddish language and culture through music. She also shared a longstanding musical collaboration with Judy Dworsky, who initiated and led weekly sing-alongs at Knollwood Place, bringing joy and connection to the community through their partnership.



David Baldinger

David Baldinger, lifelong member of the Baldinger Bakery family, has had a passion for Jewish music since he played Tevye from "Fiddler on the Roof" as a teenager. Having studied with Hazzan Mitchell Kowitz, David frequently substitutes for the Cantor at Temple of Aaron, and serves as Cantorial soloist at Sharei Chesed. David and his wife, Christy have two lovely daughters (Hannah & Natalie), and a perfect granddaughter, Luella.



Johnna Parks

Johnna Parks recently graduated from the Carlson School of Management with a dual degree in Marketing and Public & Nonprofit Management. Alongside her academic interests, she has always had a passion for performing in musicals and concerts, and for singing with her college a cappella group, VocalU. She also served as a leader of the student choir, Chai Notes, for four years at Minnesota Hillel.