

# Ilana Mulcahy, née Silverman

+1-516-680-8175

[ilanamulcahy@gmail.com](mailto:ilanamulcahy@gmail.com)

Recordings and written materials can be found at [www.ilanamulcahy.com](http://www.ilanamulcahy.com).

## Profile Statement

---

Fifth-year cantorial student at the Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music at HUC-JIR. Experienced vocalist and service leader. Skilled in a diverse array of musical styles. Possesses strong leadership, communication, educational, and organizational skills. Deeply committed to and passionate about Jewish life, culture, and community.

## Education

---

### **Debbie Friedman School of Sacred Music - Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion**

Master of Sacred Music, 2025

Cantorial Ordination, anticipated 2026

### **Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital**

Certificate of Completion of Clinical Pastoral Education Level 1A: Intro to Spiritual Care, 2025

### **Washington Theological Consortium - United Lutheran Seminary**

Certificate of Completion of Dialogue of Abrahamic Faiths Course, 2024

### **Feliciano School of Business - Montclair State University**

Master of Business Administration, 2021

### **Rutgers Business School - Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

Professional Certificate in Human Resource Management, 2018

### **Mason Gross School of the Arts - Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey**

Bachelor of Music, 2015 - Magna Cum Laude

*Major: Music Education; Concentration: Voice*

## Jewish Professional Experience

---

### **Cantorial Intern, 2023-present**

*Temple Emanu-El - Westfield, New Jersey*

- Leads Shabbat and holiday services for the general congregation, as well as family services
- Tutors B'nei Mitzvah students, runs B'nei Mitzvah rehearsals, and officiates B'nei Mitzvah ceremonies
- Leads t'filah for the religious school at the elementary and middle school levels
- Teaches sixth grade Hebrew and Judaics classes

### **Student Cantor, 2022-2024**

*Temple Israel - Ottawa, Canada*

- Led Shabbat and holiday services for the general congregation, as well as early childhood and family services
- Gave traditional sermons as well as "Sermons in Song"
- Coached lay-leaders, offering one-on-one mentoring and feedback
- Taught music in the religious school; taught exploratory course on Jewish identity to Grade 6
- Created and facilitated innovative Havdallah programming for various congregational groups
- Conducted the congregational High Holiday liturgical choir; directed choral rehearsals

### **Song Leader and Music Specialist, 2010-2016**

- Led t'filah and song sessions; taught choral music, musical theater, and Judaic studies to grades Pre-K-8 at the following Jewish summer camps:
  - JCC of Central New Jersey-Jewish Performing Arts Camp in Scotch Plains, New Jersey (2015-2016)
  - Ramah Day Camp in Nyack, New York (2011-2013)
  - Camp Laurelwood in Madison, Connecticut (2010)

### **Religious School Teacher, 2014-2016**

*Congregation B'nai Tikvah - North Brunswick, New Jersey*

- Taught Judaic studies to students in the "Chai School" program, grades 7-11
  - Developed curricula to engage teens in Jewish topics; fostered camaraderie and belonging
  - Created elective programming for students to learn about and support Jewish nonprofits
  - Helped students design their own projects and present their work to the congregation

## **Jewish Volunteer Experience**

---

### **HUC-JIR Soup Kitchen, 2024-2025**

- Performed at annual benefit concerts as well as dining sessions for Soup Kitchen guests
- Prepared and served/distributed meals, clothing, and toiletries at dining sessions

### **Temple Emanu-El, 2016-2021**

*Edison, New Jersey*

- Temple Board Nominating Committee - identified qualified candidates and invited them to run
- Search Committee - screened resumes, designed interview questions, conducted reference checks, and interviewed candidates for clergy and office staff roles
- Membership Committee - planned events for the congregation, designed new-member welcome process, and represented the synagogue at local community events

## **Secular Professional Experience**

---

### **Human Resources Professional, 2018-2020**

*Atrium Staffing - Iselin, New Jersey*

- Served as a recruiter for the GlaxoSmithKline intern/co-op program
  - Guided hiring managers through the recruitment process and served as a resource to them
  - Selected qualified candidates for positions across the company
  - Analyzed recruitment data and presented weekly reports to client stakeholders
- Worked in human resources and account management for Contingent Workforce Solutions division
  - Provided HR support and guidance to managers and employees; managed client accounts
  - Facilitated onboarding and offboarding; processed payroll for hundreds of employees
  - Served as strategic partner in the creation and roll-out of customized programs for clients
  - Trained and mentored new team members

### **Music Teacher, 2015-2017**

*New Jersey Public Schools (West Windsor-Plainsboro, East Brunswick, and Carteret)*

- Taught general education students, grades K-5
  - Taught general music, choir, and strings classes, focusing on music literacy, vocal technique, and exposure to and familiarity with diverse repertoire
  - Designed objective-based curriculum for each grade level
  - Created unique programs to meet students' learning needs and development
  - Conducted choir concerts for ensembles ranging from 20 to 200 student performers
- Taught special education students, grades K-5
  - Worked with students facing learning challenges including Autism, behavioral disorders, ADHD, language-learning delay, blindness/vision impairment, and intellectual disabilities
  - Designed and implemented individualized curriculum

*(Continued on next page)*

- o Taught communication, social skills, and language/phonation
- o Taught non-verbal children to sing and speak through the medium of music

## Awards and Honors

---

- **Lee Gura Memorial Prize for Special Aptitude and Interest in Synagogue Choral Music**, *HUC-JIR*: 2023 and 2025
- **Cantor Debra Stein Award For Traditional Hazzanut**, *HUC-JIR*: 2025
- **Weitzman-JDC Entwine Microgrant for Artist-In-Residence Weekend in Dublin, Ireland**, *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee*: 2024
- **Celia & Abraham J. Schwartz Memorial Prize for Exemplary Service to the Jewish Community**, *HUC-JIR*: 2024
- **S. Messinger Prize for General Excellence**, *HUC-JIR*: 2024
- **Edith Roberts School of Sacred Music Prize for a Deserving, Meritorious Student**, *HUC-JIR*: 2024
- **Reuben Peretz Abelson Prize for Dedication to Yiddish Song**, *HUC-JIR*: 2024
- **Atara Merit Scholarship**, *HUC-JIR*: 2021-present
- **Weitzman-JDC Entwine Fellowship**, *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee*: 2021-2024
- **Student Speaker at Mason Gross School of the Arts Commencement**, *Rutgers University*: 2015
- **Michael Fardink Memorial Award for an Outstanding Vocalist**, *Rutgers University*: 2015
- **James Dickinson Carr Merit Scholarship**, *Rutgers University*: 2011-2015
- **Dean's List**, *Rutgers University*: 2012- 2015

## Skills

---

- |                        |                     |                             |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| * Solo/choral singing  | * Curriculum design | * Torah/Haftarah chanting   |
| * Prayer leadership    | * Teaching/training | * Pastoral care             |
| * Guitar               | * Problem solving   | * Public speaking           |
| * Conducting ensembles | * Time management   | * Organizational leadership |