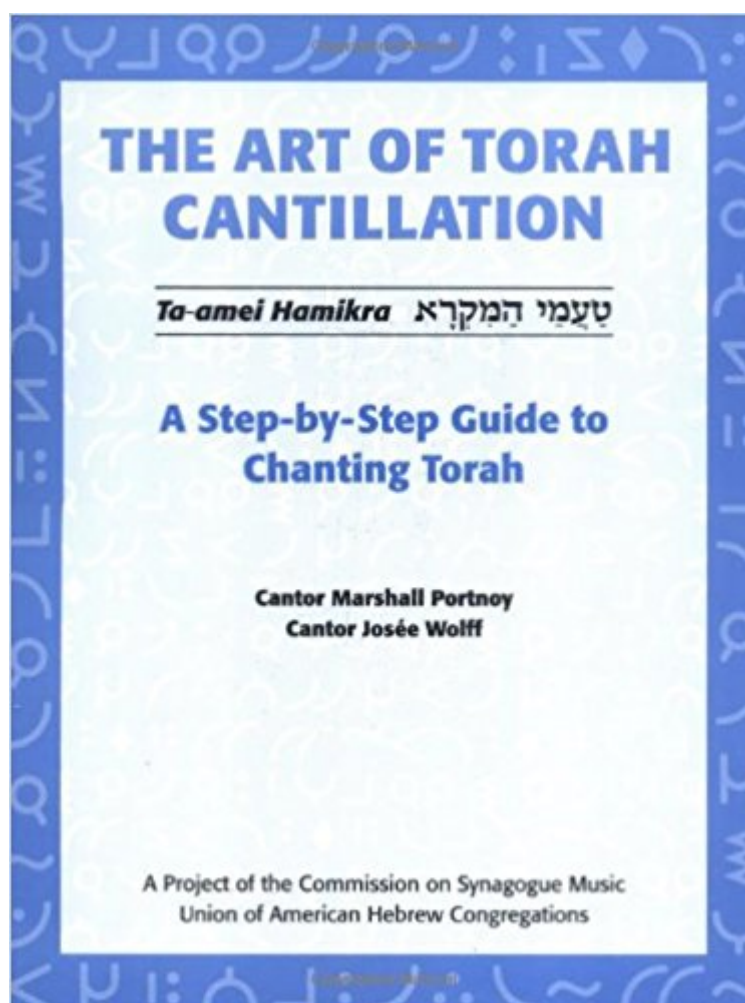


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The Art Of Torah Cantillation: A Step-by-Step Guide To Chanting Torah [Book + CD]



Synopsis

This unique, step-by-step book and compact disc package will lead the novice through each step of learning how to chant Torah. Divided into 13 lessons and additional useful appendices and bibliography, the book allows the reader to "self-teach" the important principles of Torah cantillation. The only pre-requisite for this course of learning is a basic ability to read Hebrew and a willingness to learn! It is a perfect selection for B'nai Mitzvah students, beginning learners, and for adult education courses. Step-by-step exercises and instructions CD of recordings correspond with written exercises Includes both male and female voices on recording Includes glossary, list of parashiyot, High Holy Day cantillation and more!

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 39 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #388,695 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Religious & Sacred Music > Jewish #64 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Sacred Writings > Torah #257 in Books > Religion & Spirituality > Judaism > Jewish Life

Customer Reviews

I had read from the Torah before, but chanting had remained on my "bucket list" until I read The Art of Torah Cantillation. It really does exactly what it sets out to do: teaching a novice, step-by-step, to how to understand the trope marks and master a Torah portion. I worked entirely through the first four lessons, which teach the three main types of trope clauses (etnachta, sof-pasuk, and katon), then dipped into the rest of the book as needed for the few parts of my parasha not covered by these clauses. The Appendices were especially helpful. Appendix B is a great summary of the internal structure of the different types of trope clauses. Appendix H represents the main varieties of these clauses in standard musical notation, so you can reproduce them on a keyboard. There are 41 in total. Once I had worked through the necessary parts of the book, I prepared my first parsha as

follows:* I made sure I understood the Hebrew (not necessary, but it added a lot to the experience for me)* I made a photocopy of the parsha.* I bracketed each trope clause and labeled it by the number of its melody in Appendix H* I worked through the parsha clause by clause sitting at my piano, first singing the names of the tropes, then plugging in the actual Hebrew.* When I could do the whole thing smoothly, I weaned myself from the piano.* By this time I was ready to wean myself from the masoretic text (marked with vowels and trope marks) and chant directly from the Hebrew as written in the Torah scroll. I used a Tikkun to practice this. Not an easy process, but the next time will go a lot faster. Thank you, Cantors Marshall and Wolff!

Amazing primer for learning how to really chant Torah after using memorization for your Bar or Bat Mitzvah. Step by step teaching of the trope (with accompanying CD) in their common sequences makes it easy to learn the musical expressions, improves Hebrew reading, and, ultimately, allows you to work out the cantillation for whatever passage you need to chant. Pages with the musical expressions written out at the back of the book are especially helpful. I learned to play all of these on the tin whistle; makes working out the tunes fun and easy.

There are many positive things about this book/CD, many of which have been noted in other customer reviews: clear presentation, beautiful voices. You should be aware, however, that the melodies themselves are likely to differ somewhat from the ones that you are used to. The words "dissonant," "minor," "sophisticated," even "bluesy" come to mind, though I'm not enough of a musical expert to apply them definitively. I do know that when I went to an online trope-learning site, what I heard was easier to learn, in part because it sounded more like what I've heard in synagogues throughout my life, and in part because the intervals and melodies were simpler. I also appreciated the fact that the site showed the written notes together with the initial presentation. In this book, the written notes are small and are relegated to an appendix, and the key in which they are represented contains three accidentals, which is a bit more of a struggle for me to sight-read. Finally, the website had the advantage that it "cut to the chase"; it allowed you to go right to the individual trope and listen to them once, twice, or however many times you wanted. By contrast, the tracks on the CD that come with this book alternate between the tropes, words sung with those tropes, and repetitions. These are helpful from a pedagogical standpoint but not so much when you want to return to them as a quick reference. However, in defense of the book, it does explain the tropes better than the website, in a way that is more likely to help you keep them in your head. In addition, a book, merely by virtue of its physical presence, is easier to refer to and relate to than a

website, or printouts from that website. In conclusion, I would say that your decision to learn from this book or from a website should be based on how ambitious you are and how willing you are to depart from what you (and your mainstream audience) find more familiar.

Amazing instruction book on learning the art of Torah cantillation! It is so well laid out, taught and includes the audio CDs. Very helpful, and I would highly recommend it! Good quality, good price. -Rivka Edery, M.S.W., L.C.S.W. Author of: "Hear Me Sing: Book I" (2016) • Trauma and Transformation: A 12-Step Guide • (2013)

This book was a lot cheaper when I bought it... "The Art of Torah Cantillation" is extremely useful and I've found it to be quite helpful in learning to leyn. You get a taste of te'amim and learn the nigun, then you apply it to actual Torah text... beautiful. Concise and easy to use, with CD.

The book is extremely well-organized and explains Torah trope in a very logical, step by step manner making it easy to learn yourself. I've tried to learn it several other times/ways with little progress. This book explains how the tropes relate to one another in families, the role that each trope plays, and the meanings of the trope names (in a table at the back). It also provides a CD that allows you to listen to the sound of all the examples in the book and an appendix with the notes written out on musical staves. This book is well done and well worth the cost if you want to learn Torah cantillation.

I purchased this less than three months ago, and, while a full time student have learned enough from this book to "cantillate" well enough to chant the weekly PARASHOT (in private) to my satisfaction. This product is a great guide to Torah cantillation and is definitely worth its price (which, incidentally, is relatively nominal).

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