

Chai Lifeline benefit stars Marvin Hamlich, world-renowned cantors

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Staff Writer

TORONTO - The 'Sing for the Children' Chai Lifeline benefit concert next week, starring musician extraordinaire Marvin Hamlich, is the perfect opportunity to enjoy a musical feast while helping children in need.

Chai Lifeline Canada is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping seriously ill children and their families.

Hamlich will conduct the Chai Symphony Orchestra at Roy Thomson Hall on Monday, April 4, at 7:30 p.m. The event will feature three world-renowned cantors - Yaakov Motzen, Moshe Schulhof and Alex Stein - and special guest star Zevi Muller, a renowned composer of international acclaim.

The program will also pay tribute to the music of the late renowned Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, whose legacy in chasidic song and prayer as well as religious outreach continues with Carlebach *minyanim* the world over.

Two of the performers have local connections; Stein is currently *chazzan* at Adath Israel Congregation, and one of Motzen's numerous past positions include serving as *chazzan* at Shaarei Shomayim.

"I actually went to the Carlebach temple in New York years ago," Hamlich told the *Jewish Tribune* in a telephone interview. "I love their style."

The famous American composer has written more than 40 motion picture scores and has won every major award in his field - Oscars, Grammys, Emmys, Golden Globe and a Tony.

He said that he's "happy to do the [Chai Lifeline] concert for a very worthy charity." It was his friend Cantor Stein who had approached him about it, and "I know it meant a lot to Alex. If it means a lot to him, it means a lot to me."

A child prodigy, Hamlich

"was not pushed", by his family - including his father, an accomplished musician in his own right - to perform.

"It was a question of, 'I could do it,'" he explained. "Because of that, I took to it well. If you had asked what I really wanted to do, I would probably have said I wanted to play for the New York Yankees. But I learned to love it."

Hamlich has been to this city many times.

"I love Toronto," he said. "I'm a big fan of Canada. I think it's a wonderful country."

The concert is sponsored by charitybids and 398 West. To order tickets, go to chaiconcert.com, chailifelinecanada.org or call 1-888-416-CHAI.



Adath Israel Cantor Alex Stein (left) is the reason Marvin Hamlich made time to conduct this benefit concert. "I know it meant a lot to Alex. If it means a lot to him, it means a lot to me," Hamlich said.

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