JEWISH EDUCATOR · MUSICIAN · SCHOLAR

Dr. Lorry Black

Curriculum vitae

lorryblack.com

Jewish educator, percussionist and scholar of Jewish music. Director of the Meyer and Anna Prentis Family Religious School at Temple Beth El, writer of the Stories of Music curriculum, and former Associate Director of the Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience at UCLA.

Professional Experience

Director, Meyer and Anna Prentis Family Religious School 2025–present
Temple Beth El

- Lead the religious school and rotate through every class as a specialist teacher.
- Develop new curriculum and resources for Hebrew and prayer.
- Build family programs that bring learners of every age into Jewish learning together.

Director of Lifelong Learning 2024–2025
Congregation Shir Tikvah

- Oversaw the religious school and synagogue educational programming for all ages.

Curriculum Specialist 2023–present
Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience, UCLA

- Continuing development of Stories of Music, a turnkey Jewish music curriculum.
- Author or co-author of eight-plus published Stories of Music lessons.

Associate Director 2017–2024
Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish Experience, UCLA

- Led 20–25 programs and concerts each year; managed recruitment, outreach and fundraising.
- Taught Popular Jewish and Israeli Music and Music of the Holocaust: The Human Experience.
- Directed the UCLA Klezmer Ensemble and developed Fiat Lux freshman seminars.

Music Teacher 2016–2017
Ilan Ramon Day School, Agoura Hills, CA

Lead After-School Music Teacher 2013–2014
Everybody Deserves Music, Los Angeles

Percussion Instructor 2007–2010
Calabasas High School (2007–2010); El Camino Real High School (2009–2010); UCLA Summer Chamber Music Academy (2008)

Private Teaching Ongoing
Percussion, music theory and academic subjects

Education

Doctor of Musical Arts, Sacred Music 2017
USC Thornton School of Music
- Research: Jewish music; music of the Holocaust. Minor: music education.
- Electives: conducting; arts leadership and entrepreneurship.

Master of Music, Percussion Performance 2012
USC Thornton School of Music

Bachelor of Arts, Percussion Performance 2009
University of California, Los Angeles

Conference Presentations

"Music of the Holocaust in Synagogue Practices" Sep 2019
Magnified and Sanctified: The Music of Jewish Prayer II, Hannover, Germany

"Max Janowski: Eastern European Modes, Jewish American Sensibilities" Mar 2019
Jewish Music Days, Ramat Gan, Israel

"Singing for a Sacred Space: Arranging and Leading Contemporary Congregational Singing" Mar 2019
Jewish Music Days, Ramat Gan, Israel

"Sacred Music in the Public Classroom" Oct 2018
College Music Society National Conference, Vancouver, BC

Guest Lectures & Residencies

Choir Instructor Jun 2026
Varna International Music Festival, South Carolina

Guest Lecturer Sep 2020
University of Southern California

Guest Conductor Apr 2019
Torrance Civic Chorale

Residency on Holocaust Music Jan 2018
Union College, New York

Lectures on Holocaust and Yiddish Music 2016–2018
University of Southern California

Klezmer Workshops 2020–2021
UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music

Ensemble & Worship Leadership

High Holiday Choral Conductor
Temple Israel, West Bloomfield

High Holiday Music Director 2019–2022
Temple Emanuel of Beverly Hills

Co-Director, then Director 2017–2023
UCLA Klezmer Ensemble

High Holiday Music Director 2016–2019
Temple Kol Ami

Music Director 2016–2018
Temple Etz Chaim Community Choir

Choral Librarian 2015–2016
USC

Audition & Recruitment Coordinator 2015
American Youth Symphony

Curated & Produced Events

Secret Chord Concerts (co-curated with The Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History)	2022
UCLA Album Drop Series	2020–2022
UCLA Jewish Music Masterclass Series	2020–2022
UCLA American Jewish Music Festival	Mar 2020
Klezmer Xylophone: An Unconventional Love Story	Apr 2019
Bible Women: Voices of Our Mothers	Feb 2019
UClezLA	Jan 2019
Benny Goodman: Ahead of His Time	May 2018
David's Quilt: Cantata Premiere	Nov 2017
American Culture & the Jewish Experience in Music Conference	Nov 2017
Singing in the Lion's Mouth: Music as Resistance to Genocide (co-organizer)	Oct 2015
Yom HaShoah Memorial Concerts	2014–2015
Jewish Jazz and Holocaust Music Performances	2013–2014

Research

- Holocaust-era musical and artistic activity in French concentration camps; research at the Mémorial de la Shoah (Paris), the Departmental Archives (Perpignan), the USC Shoah Foundation and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.
- Klezmer and Eastern European Jewish music.
- Contemporary American synagogue music.
- AI in Jewish education: creating classroom materials, building school apps and planning school logistics; workshop for educators in development.

Performance

Schmier Concert Series: Black Thread Jun 2025
Temple Israel, West Bloomfield, MI

- Assembled, directed and performed with an ensemble formed for the concert, blending klezmer and Yiddish song, jazz and global influences through new arrangements and premieres. Presented by the Regene & Leslie Schmier Concert Series.

Shabbat Shira: Playlist of a People Jan 2024
Temple Israel, West Bloomfield, MI

- Featured musician and scholar, sharing music from across the synagogue world alongside Temple Israel's music team.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra	2023
Ashkenaz Festival, Toronto: performer and organizer	2022
Los Angeles Jewish Symphony	2017–2023
Helix Collective	2012–2018
Pacific Opera Project	2012–2017
West Michigan Symphony	2015
American Youth Symphony	2008–2015
Santa Monica and Torrance Symphonies	2012–2013
Jacaranda Music Ensemble	2009
Brentwood Symphony	2008–2009
Young Musicians Foundation Debut Orchestra	2007–2009

Studio sessions for Netflix and independent and short films, including *The Red Cape* (2016), *The Wanderer* (2015), *The Shy Guys* and *Driving Thought* (2013)

Frequent performer at synagogue and secular events

Community Engagement

Outreach Concert — Oct 2018
Temple Sholom, Vancouver (College Music Society Conference)

Preschool Music Demonstrations — 2004–2016
Temple Etz Chaim and Temple Aliyah

Selected Press

"Shir Tikvah Welcomes New Director of Lifelong Learning," *Detroit Jewish News* — Aug 2024

Named among klezmer musicians to watch in Nicholas Papador, *Vessels of Song: A Collection of Klezmer Suites for Mallet Ensemble* (Heartland Marimba Publications) — 2024

"The Weitzman's 'Secret Chord Concerts' Feature a Wide Array of Jewish Music," 6abc Philadelphia — Aug 2022

"Secret Chord Concerts: A New Music Series Launches in June," UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music — 2022

"Jewish American Music Festival Gives Voice to Different Influences Within the Genre," *Daily Bruin* — Feb 2020

"UCLA to Host First-Ever American Jewish Music Festival," *Jewish Journal* — Jan 2020

"Benny Goodman Tribute Concert Celebrates Racial Integration, Evolution of Jazz," *Daily Bruin* — May 2018

"Concert Explores the Music of Benny Goodman's Groundbreaking 1938 Carnegie Hall Concert," UCLA Newsroom — May 2018

"Global Melodies: UCLA Klezmer Music Ensemble Aims to Revive Culture Through Performances," *Daily Bruin* — Apr 2018

"Singing in the Lion's Mouth: Music as Resistance to Genocide," USC Center for Advanced Genocide Research — Oct 2015

Honors, Fellowships & Languages

KlezKanada Performance Fellowship — 2022

Yiddish Summer Weimar, Germany — 2022

USC Choral Department Award — 2016

USC Shoah Foundation Summer Research Fellow: "Music of the French and Dutch Transit Camps" — 2013

UCLA Gluck Music Fellow — 2008–2009

Pi Kappa Lambda Honor Society

Languages: English (fluent) · Spanish and French (reading and functional speaking)