

Pillars of Jewish Song: Day 1 (Debbie Friedman) [Specialty Track 1]

AUTHOR(S):	Anat Halevy Hochberg
SUMMARY:	In this session, we will sing songs by Debbie Friedman and others, study relevant Jewish texts, and discuss and practice songleading methods. <i>-Submitted by Anat Hochberg</i>
TOPIC(S):	Jewish music, songleading, Debbie Friedman
LEARNING OBJECTIVE:	Participants will experience a guided singing circle, learn about Debbie Friedman's musical legacy in the Jewish music world, and develop skills as song leaders.
AUDIENCE:	8-20 songleaders and camp musicians.
TIMING:	90 minutes
APPENDICES:	Debbie Friedman Handout Achat Sha'alti Handout
MATERIALS NEEDED:	Flip chart paper Markers Post-Its Lyrics Sheets – 1 per person Speaker
SET-UP DETAILS:	Any open space, indoor and outdoor, with space for chairs in a circle & walls to put up flip chart paper. Chairs in a circle

SESSION TIMELINE & OUTLINE:

- 0:00 – 0:05 – Welcome & name go-around
- 0:05-0:15 – Question reflection time
- 0:15-0:30 – Opening song and discussion
- 0:30-0:45 minutes – Learning about Debbie Friedman
- 0:45-0:55 – Zooming in on Musical Midrash
- 0:55-0:65 - Modern counterparts
- 0:65-0:80 – Parking lot
- 0:80-0:90 Closing circle

0:00 – 0:05 – Welcome & name go-around: say your name and pronouns

0:05-0:15 – Question reflection time

- Participants go around the room answering the following questions on flip chart paper posted around the room. Questions:
 - What do you hope to gain in this session (and in the music specialty track?)
 - What do you love about Jewish song?
 - When is the last time music made you feel alive?
 - What are your strengths as a songleader?
 - How do you want to grow as a songleader?

0:15-0:30 – Opening song and discussion

- Leader teaches and leads a song by Debbie Friedman – “Miram’s Song,” “Lechi Lach.,” or “Mi SheBeirach.”
- Post-singing discussion: What did you notice? How were you engaged to participate? Did you feel guided through the learning of the song? How did you feel?

0:30-0:45 minutes – Learning about Debbie Friedman

- Ancestor & text connection – read Miriam’s Song of the Sea and discuss Miriam’s qualities as a song leader.
- Community-generated learning: in pairs, participants share what they know about Debbie Friedman, her music, and legacy. Then share back in group, supplemented with information from teacher, about some of the main points of Debbie’s story and work.
- Main points to emphasize – radical democratizer of liturgical & Jewish music through innovating Jewish folk music style, focus on healing music, Music as Midrash..

0:45-0:55 – Zooming in on Musical Midrash

- In Chavruta, and then group discussion, look at the connections between the text from Exodus and the text of “Miriam’s Song.” What did Friedman add to the story? How does that paint a new story in our heads of the Crossing of the Sea, and connect us to ancestral characters? Create a working definition of Midrash.

0:55-0:65 - Modern counterparts

- Group discussion: who are current Jewish artists that you have heard of that continue Debbie’s legacy? (Some areas of legacy: popular/folk styles in liturgical music, musical midrash, healing music).
- Listen to, sing, and learn “Achat Sha’ali” by Chava Mirel.

0:65-0:80 – Parking lot

- This block gives participants a chance to raise questions they would like to explore further, based on what we have looked at. It can also be a time to address hopes or questions generated in the opening flipchart activity that have not yet been addressed.

0:80-0:90 Closing circle:

- Go around with one thing you appreciate and one thing you are taking away from the session.
- Other possible closing questions: What is a story you would like to tell through music? How can Jewish music increase access to Jewish knowledge today? What is a new question you have?