

Cantor Yaakov Motzen, currently of the Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, Toronto, Canada, is a native of Tel Aviv. He is a fifth generation cantor who began his career at age 6 as a soloist with the choir of Cantor Shlomo Ravitz. Cantor Motzen attended the Kol Torah, Be'er Yakov and Ponevitz yeshivot, and studies music and vocal technique with Yosef Goland. He also studied hazzanut with Cantor Yitzchak Eshel. While serving in the Israeli army, he devotedly performed before wounded soldiers after the Yom Kippur War. He became Vice-President of the Nachala Organization, which is dedicated to entertaining wounded soldiers. Cantor Motzen held major positions in Givatayim, Haifa and Ramat Gan, and sang on Kol Yisrael radio and television. Cantor Motzen came to Montreal in 1978. There he held the position of Cantor of the Shomrim Laboker for 9 years and Cantor of Adath Israel for the following 9 years.

His exceptional voice and outstanding Cantorial repertoire have earned Cantor Yaakov Motzen a place of prominence unique in his field. He has released over a dozen recordings of Hassidic and Cantorial music. Recent performances have included a concert series in South Africa as a soloist with the Johannesburg Jewish male choir. Also, in November 1987, Yaakov Motzen joined several other outstanding Chazzanim in a tour behind the Iron Curtain which was organized by the American Society for the Advancement of Cantorial Arts and the Gila and Haim Weiner Foundation. This was the first time since World War II that chazzanim performed publicly in Hungary and Romania. In the following year, Cantor Motzen continued to perform behind the Iron Curtain in Russia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. Moreover, Yaakov Motzen has given concerts in many parts of the world, including Australia, England, Israel and numerous cities in North America. Yaakov Motzen released over a dozen recordings of liturgical, chassidic and Yiddish music which have received international acclaim.