

GRAPEVINE

• By GREER FAY CASHMAN

■ PEOPLE WHO are used to hearing **Shai Abramson**, the chief cantor of the IDF, sing memorial prayers, or who heard him sing cantorial melodies at Jerusalem's Great Synagogue, were pleasantly surprised last Sunday to hear part of his expanded repertoire when he sang "Bridge Over Troubled Waters" in English and accompanied himself on grand piano. The performance was included in a two-part gala concert on behalf of Emunah that genuinely had something for everyone. Presenters were two internationally acclaimed performers: violinist, singer and songwriter **Ariella Zeitlin-Hoffman** and cantorial and opera singer **Simon Cohen**, both of whom were well acquainted with most of the performers.

The virtual event was opened with a Yiddish medley in which the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra was conducted by the late Mordechai Sobol. That is one of the beauties of virtual events in that they can include videos that feature deceased people doing what they did best. Sobol was well known in Israel and abroad for conducting orchestras and choirs in concerts of Jewish music – folk, hassidic, Yiddish and liturgical classics. The first part included choral singing and opera. There was also a lot of seemingly spontaneous patter between the two presenters, who will be back this coming Sunday, December 6, at 7:30 p.m. to introduce, among others, **Yonatan Razel**, **Daniel Cohlton**, **Shimon Cramer** and several other popular entertainers.

Fans of Shai Abramson will be able to hear him again. Many online musical events are free. This one is not. The charge is NIS 100. Proceeds will go to the Jerusalem Emunah Rachel Family Counseling Center and Preminger Therapy Unit. To register in order to access the program, go to emunah-jerusalem.org



SHAI ABRAMSON
(Courtesy)



SIMON COHEN
(Courtesy)



ARIELLA ZEITLIN-HOFFMAN
(Courtesy)