

ASK YOUR  
JEWISH  
FAIRY  
GODMOTHERDear Jewish Fairy  
Godmother:

I just got promoted from within to the executive directorship of a mid-size regional non-profit. I have worked here for seven years, first in a midline capacity, then in senior management to the twenty-year director. I was one of several dozen applicants including other internal candidates, but the only internal one who survived the various elimination rounds and who became a finalist. One criterion was the ability to implement our new strategic plan. I was the unanimous first choice of the board of directors, but the second choice of the staff. I genuinely don't know if there's a personal reason why some of them did not want me, or if the idea of any insider didn't feel good to them. I know the "new shiny penny" can always be attractive and also that there is at least one senior staff person who is a

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By DAVID A. SCHWARTZ  
STAFF WRITER

World renowned violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman will make his third visit to the Festival of the Arts Boca next month, performing on March 6 with the Festival Orchestra Boca conducted by Constantine Kitsopoulos and on March 9 with Cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot, chief cantor of Park East Synagogue in New York City.

Both concerts will be at the Mizner Park Amphitheater and Cultural Arts Center auditorium in Boca Raton.

In a phone call from New York, Perlman talked about the upcoming performances.

The March 6 program will feature Mendelssohn's "A Midsummer Night's Dream Overture, Opus 21," which Perlman called "one of the great jewels in the crown of violin repertoire." He added, "It's a classic piece and from a classic era."

Perlman will also perform Beethoven's "Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Opus 67," and Mendelssohn's "Violin Concerto in E minor, Opus 64."

Performing with Helfgot on March 9 is "a very exciting thing for me," Perlman said, explaining that Helfgot reminded him of the cantors he heard as a child in Israel.

"Helfgot is an amaz-



Violin virtuoso Itzhak Perlman and Cantor Yitzchak Meir Helfgot will perform together in March at the Festival of the Arts Boca. Submitted photo

ing hazan, a great cantor," Perlman said. "I love the voice." Perlman said he admires the ease with which Helfgot sings. "He reaches the high notes with little effort."

Hankus Netsky, music director for the show, said most of the songs Perlman and Helfgot will perform are from their Eternal Echoes album.

But there will be a few numbers from the "Rejoice" special that they did for PBS and from Perlman's Klezmer shows.

Perlman wanted a "music project," Netsky said. "It's not a Jewish project. It's for everyone to hear. The world should know its important music."

Helfgot is part of a

cantorial revival that has cantors on the level of the great ones of the 1920s and 30s, Netsky said. "Perlman decided to nab one of these cantors and take it beyond the cantorial revival. He's taking it more like if the cantors were performing at the Marlboro Jewish Festival. It's comparable with the best music out there."

## Festival to feature Itzhak Perlman

The concert won't be like those of Jan Peerce or Richard Tucker, Netsky said. "It's not bombastic. The show won't have a full orchestra, a brass section, a harp. Our goal is to give the audience a very artistic performance," he said. One with a "chamber orchestra aesthetic."

Helfgot did an amazing concert at B'nai Torah Congregation in Boca Raton about four years ago, said Ehud "Udi" Spielman, one of two cantors at the synagogue. "He has a very gifted voice."

Cantor Benjamin Tesser, also of B'nai Torah Congregation, was at a Perlman and Helfgot concert last year at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn.

"The two of them together were great," Tesser said. Their performance is "spectacular to watch and to listen to."

Perlman is one of the world's foremost classical musicians and he has great appreciation for Yiddishkeit, Tesser said.

Helfgot is "one of the greatest Jewish voices alive today," Tesser said, and one of the greatest of the last half century.

Tickets for Perlman's March 6 performance or Perlman and Helfgot's Eternal Echoes concert on March 9 range from \$25 to \$125 and can be purchased at [www.festivalboca.com](http://www.festivalboca.com).