

Rabbi Bruce Benson

Rabbi/Cantor Bruce Benson was ordained as a Cantor by Hebrew Union College in 1978. After a career spanning several decades, having founded several Jewish institutions including a synagogue, and having served a number of organizations as their Spiritual Leader, he completed a journey and has been ordained as a Rabbi as well.

From local to national song-leader for the Jewish youth movement and creative services in the 60's to nationally renowned Cantor, Bruce Benson has left his mark upon the contemporary music of Jewish America. In concerts, Clergy-in-residence appointments, and travels around the country, Benson has helped redefine the liturgical music scene of our generation.

He has been a multi-term member of the board of directors of the American Conference of Cantors(ACC), chaired their 1988 national convention and has sat on numerous religious and secular local and national boards. He has served as a Commissioner for the CJE (Commission on Jewish Education) of Palm Beach County, was a multi-term member of the Board of the ACC and is a published author and composer.

His album, *THE JAZZ SERVICE* recorded with jazz great KENNY G, received critical acclaim, and continues to bring contemporary Jewish music to a new and larger audience. *THE JAZZ SERVICE* was the largest selling Jazz album in the Jewish market for over 10 years.

The *ROCK SERVICE* CD (released in 2001) was a first round GRAMMY nominee, and its 2008 re-release included a new version of his anthemic piece, "THE HEALING PRAYER" which had the added beauty of an extraordinary sax solo by the late CLARENCE CLEMONS, of E Street Band fame. The Healing Prayer has been heard on YouTube in excess of 416,000 times.

His work on that album, along with many commissioned works for synagogue use and his educational writings earned him a place in the published history of the American Cantorate, *CHOSEN VOICES*.

He has served as a Jewish chaplain at San Quentin prison in California, and is currently serves in the City of Port St. Lucie and also works with the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office.

