



The Association  
for Torah & the Arts  
artsandtorah.org



Elevating  
the Arts  
since 2007

## About ATARA

ATARA is a network of Torah observant female creative and performing artists, including vocalists, instrumentalists, dancers, songwriters, theater professionals, filmmakers, writers and visual artists. We include women of all ages, all *hashkafot* within Orthodoxy, and varied levels of training and experience. Through conferences, concerts, workshops, online forums, a monthly newsletter and networking organized by our volunteer leaders, we build community and encourage professional advancement in the arts aligned with Torah values.

## Key Leaders (Volunteers)

Miriam Leah Gamliel, Founding Director, started ATARA as a grassroots venture to support women seeking outlets for creative expression within Orthodoxy. Trained in musical theatre, she holds an MA in Jewish history, an MLIS in Library Science, and an EdD from YU's Azrieli graduate school, with a dissertation on creativity and spirituality among artistic students in Orthodox schools. Based in Montreal, she runs arts training programs, holds musical events, directed a women-only feature film and participated in several arts-based fellowships.

Esther-Leah Marchette, Co-Director, has been with ATARA since its founding. She is a singer, songwriter and former cantor (before becoming a baalat teshuva in her early 20's) with a B.A. in Songwriting from Berklee College of Music in Boston, and plays piano, guitar and percussion. Professionally, she has been working in the software industry for 20 years as a manager and technical program manager.

## ATARA Timeline

2007	ATARA first meeting and concert, Facebook group for artists launched
2008-2012	Annual Conferences, newsletter launched
2016-2018	Annual Conferences, newsletter upgraded, website upgraded
2020	7 Virtual Programs (performance + educational), "Virtual Stage" space launched
2021	First Virtual Conference, website upgrade, membership program launched, 501c3 status
2022-2023	Reliable revenue from fundraising, membership, programs and advertising. Conference and year-round programs. Expand marketing, membership and audience.
2024	Special projects including niche articles and publications.
2025	Jumpstart microgrants program launched, city-specific branches (volunteer leaders)