

422 congregants participated in the congregational survey to share their thoughts and vision for the next Hazzan of Chizuk Amuno Congregation. 75% of respondents to the survey had not participated in the community conversations, and 85% of respondents were >46 years of age. The quantitative data from the survey paint a more detailed picture of the congregation's views and desires for their next Hazzan. While the number of respondents under 46 years of age was limited, several of the preferences differed between those over and under 46 years, in statistically significant ways. Several high-level messages emerged from the survey:

1. While people have their individual preferences, the majority of respondents are open to multiple modes, melodies and musical styles (65% prefer a mixture of styles from the Bimah).
2. 87% of respondents prefer the Hazzan to enable personal prayer, either all the time or in specific contexts, compared to only 13% who favor the Hazzan as the exclusive conduit to prayer.
3. 74% of respondents ranked additional voices singing with the Hazzan (volunteers, children, professional choir) at the highest priority, focusing attention on the importance of harmony in the overall musical experience. Interestingly, 75% of respondents would like this on High Holy Day services, and 55% would like to experience this at Shabbat morning services.
4. The volunteer singer option was most popular amongst all age groups, being the top 2 choices in the survey for 55% of those above 46, and 68% in those under 46.
5. Only a minority of respondents noted preference for a professional choir within their top 2 choices, with 45% of respondents over 46 making this choice, and only 14% of respondents under 46 selecting this option amongst their top 2 choices.
6. There was significant enthusiasm for variety of services amongst different age groups. For those <45, >70% desire variety of musical offerings. For those >45 years, this was 45%.
7. Interestingly, almost 80% of those under 46 years noted that they would come to services more often if the music was more to their liking. This also applied to 55% of those over 46, strongly suggesting that better satisfying the musical needs of congregants could enhance engagement and attendance.