

New York City and New Haven

Mini Tour Report

Tour started at 4:30 AM on the International Day of Peace with rehearsal, as we put our finishing touches on a beautiful, innovative, and personally-expressive JYC rendition of “Imagine” we arranged especially for a morning meditation event in Central Park with Deepak Chopra in honor of the day. Later that morning, two of our amazing singers, Shifra and Georgette, shared their insights brilliantly in a conversation with Deepak on [HuffPost LIVE](#). These appearances were part of the international Forgive4Peace campaign organized by UN Special Envoy Ray Chambers, and provided an incredible opportunity for us to contribute to a movement of global awareness about the power of forgiveness as a tool of peacemaking.

The three Abrahamic faiths also coincided in a meaningful way during our visit—between Yom Kippur, Eid al Adha, and the Pope’s US visit - and so we reflected that in our musical participation in Yom Kippur services at Romemu, sharing “Adinu” and “The Prayer of St. Francis” as our contributions.

The most exciting opportunity of tour, was, of course, the invitation to perform on the Late Show with Stephen Colbert! So exciting that we created a [video reveal](#) to publicly announce our appearance! It was amazing to see the kids brainstorming together to make this video represent them best, as each singer was able to bring their own individual character to the process. The incredible opportunity to bring [our distinct musical style](#) to such a high-profile TV performance could not have been more thrilling.

Our time in New Haven, coinciding with Family Weekend at Yale, was filled with song, and we left it feeling very much part of the Yale family too. We met the esteemed Duke’s Men of Yale for a song exchange and spent an hour going back and forth sharing our favorites- Micah even joined the Duke’s Men for a few! We were honored to join the Yale Glee Club for the Family Weekend Gala Concert in Woolsey. They joined us for a phenomenal performance of [Adinu](#) (which was so moving that it merited an [article in the Yale Daily News](#)) and we joined them for a new Glee Club classic, Raise Your Voices Here- which our singers fell in love with and are still listening to. We ended the evening with a celebratory feast at Yorkside Pizza, full of all kinds of food and moosetracks milkshakes!

The last day of the tour began with a concert at the Joseph Slifka Center for Jewish Life, which brought together a coalition of organizations across the Yale community. It was a beautiful performance, but also bittersweet, as it was our last for this visit. We ended the tour with a group reflection on the experience. Most meaningfully, we saw many of the lessons we had learned from our June US Tour reflected in the even more overwhelmingly positive experience our smaller ensemble had this time around. We always seek to improve, and are particularly excited to be building spaces, like this tour, in which our singers can take that responsibility upon themselves as well.

This New York and New Haven MiniTour was made possible by generous support from The Late Show with Stephen Colbert, UN Special Envoy Ray Chambers and the Forgive4Peace Campaign, the Naomi and Nehemiah Cohen Foundation and donation of a block of hotel rooms by Harry Krakowski and the Skyline Hotel, as well as by the Slifka Center for Jewish Life at Yale, the Yale Chaplain’s Office, Jeff Douma and the Yale Glee Club, and many more open-hearted individuals and organizations who rallied around the chorus to enable us to realize such an incredible opportunity on such short notice, particularly those who rallied to the call to keep us happy and well-fed:

[Hummus Kitchen](#) * Dionysios Bouzos * Toni Liebman * The Bram Family * Mark Levitt * Debra Vodenos * Linda Soha * Teresa Plotkin * Bill Weber * Laurie Phillips

For all of your support, we are beyond grateful.