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# Israel's 60th-anniversary CD available in Oz

SHARON BERGER

AUSTRALIANS will soon be able to listen to the dulcet tones of Sir Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the Commonwealth, and his *Israel – Home of Hope* CD compiled in honour of Israel's 60th anniversary.

The double CD, an eclectic mix of Israeli music and history, will be distributed free of charge to all children at Jewish day schools, through the Board of Jewish Education/United Jewish Education Board and the Zionist youth movements. It will be available at the State Zionist Council's 60th Yom Ha'atzmaut events, on university campuses during the Australasian Union of Jewish Students Israel Week and will be posted to all Great Synagogue members.

The New Zealand Jewish community will also receive copies of the CD, which Rabbi Jeremy Lawrence of The Great Synagogue described as a "fabulous, fabulous collection" and "a very nice present". Rabbi Sacks himself provides much of the narrative for the CD.

Rabbi Lawrence worked directly with the chief rabbi's office in the UK and the Zionist Federation of Australia (ZFA) to ensure widespread distribution of the 20,000 copies of the CD. "Rabbi Sacks is personally very enthu-



The chief rabbi's CD produced in honour of Israel's 60th anniversary. Photo: AJN file

siastic about the CD, and I share that enthusiasm," he said.

"The chief rabbi has selected a beautiful and varied range of Jewish music from across the ages, highlighting the connection between the Jewish people and the land of Israel. His inspirational commentary between the musical tracks completes a thoroughly uplifting recording, which I believe will touch the hearts of members of our community who remember the days before the state

and those who are so young that they already take the State of Israel for granted," said Rabbi Lawrence.

If there are copies remaining, the ZFA plans to make the CD available to the general public following the various Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations throughout the community. Rabbi Lawrence added that most of the compilation can be directly downloaded from the website and he encouraged community members to share with others if they received multiple copies.

# Worldwide call for unpublished Holocaust survivor testimonies

PETER KOHN

THE United States-based Claims Conference has launched the Worldwide Shoah Memoirs Collection and sent out a plea to Holocaust survivors to submit previously unpublished memoirs of their experiences to a new electronic collection.

The US program was announced by Professor Saul Friedlander, winner of the 2008 Pulitzer Prize (non-fiction) for *The Years of Extermination: Nazi Germany and the Jews 1939-1945*. In his second volume of a history of the Holocaust, he relied on excerpts from

journals and letters in writing about the atrocities.

"Usually the history of the Holocaust is written from the viewpoint of German documents and archives," said Professor Friedlander, who was born in Prague, but escaped to France in 1939, and then immigrated to Israel in 1948. He teaches history at the University of California in Los Angeles.

Claims Conference chair Julius Berman said the global appeal for unpublished survivor testimonies would ensure "their stories will live on long after they are gone. We owe it to the victims who did not survive to

establish this collection of first-hand memoirs".

However, according to Bernard Korbman, education and research director of the Melbourne Jewish Holocaust Museum and Research Centre, the overwhelming portion of testimonies given by survivors in Australia has been published and so does not meet the criteria of the worldwide request.

Information about the Worldwide Shoah Memoirs Collection and instructions for submission are at <http://memoirs.claimscon.org>.



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The advisers, managers and staff extend their best wishes to readers for the Festival of Passover.

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