



**Pizmon** is the Jewish a cappella group of Columbia University, Barnard College, and The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. Since its inception in 1987 as the first collegiate Jewish a cappella group, Pizmon has traveled to hundreds of communities in the New York metropolitan area, across the country, and around the world, to offer Jewish music as a source of inspiration and community outreach. While Pizmon is a student-run group, our main focus is off campus, centered on Jewish communities around the world. During a typical academic year, Pizmon will perform for more than fifty audiences ranging from Jewish day schools to homes for the elderly to entire communities. Through our identity as Jews and our love of music, we strive to be role models for Jewish youth. We are particularly proud of our diversity, with members originating from nearly every imaginable background and Jewish denomination.

## History

Pizmon is a Hebrew word meaning the chorus of a song. Pizmon was started in 1987 by four members of the Columbia University community who sought to bring Jewish music to homes for the elderly. Over the years we have grown to a group of approximately fourteen and significantly expanded our audience and mission. Although the group changes every year, as old members graduate and new members arrive, the spirit and energy of the group continues to grow. Whether we are performing in front of a concert hall of a thousand or a group of ten Hebrew school students, we enjoy experiencing the energy of our audiences.

In the early 90's, Pizmon added its now annual Musical Outreach Initiative, which takes place during the university's Spring Break. Every year we travel to different communities across the globe bringing our spirit, song, and Jewish unity wherever we go. Past Musical Outreach Initiative destinations have included Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Israel, England, France, Germany, Argentina, and various regions of the United States. Most recently in 2009, Pizmon went on a tour of the Midwest to communities in Chicago and St. Louis, as well as struggling communities in Carbondale and Peoria, IL. The Ruach that we were able to bring to these places was something they had never witnessed before, and was one of our most rewarding excursions. These trips are funded exclusively by our regional concerts, CD sales, and donations, as we are a strictly not-for-profit group. As such, all donations we receive go directly towards subsidizing the group's future travel.

## Members

Brandon DeShields  
Julia Caine  
Jenna Baldachin  
Jeremy Burko  
Hannah Needleman  
Mike Landes  
Eric Lawrence  
Zachary Lebwohl  
Abigail Lowin  
Aliza Stein  
Shayna Flink

## Music Director

Seth Samuels

## Business Director

Doug Yolen

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## **Performances**

Pizmon continually strives to have a community-wide impact. As such, we gladly perform at any and all public community events and venues, including, but not limited to Jewish Day Schools, homes for the elderly, Synagogues, and Jewish Community Centers. Due to our busy performance and academic schedules and our particular desire to impact communities as a whole, we are unfortunately unable to perform for personal weddings or bar/bat mitzvahs.

## **Contact Information**

For further information about Pizmon's performance schedule and activities, please contact our business director, Doug Yolen at [pizbiz@pizmon.org](mailto:pizbiz@pizmon.org).

For further information about Pizmon's musical repertoire and the type of music that we sing, please contact our music director, Seth Samuels at [srs2141@columbia.edu](mailto:srs2141@columbia.edu).

For further information about our MOI Spring Break plans for 2010, please contact Aliza Stein at [ams2285@barnard.edu](mailto:ams2285@barnard.edu) or Hannah Needleman at [han2107@barnard.edu](mailto:han2107@barnard.edu).

Media materials including sound clips, photos, and compact discs are available online at our website [www.pizmon.org](http://www.pizmon.org).