

AXS ENTERTAINMENT / ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT / ARTS & EXHIBITS

Roger Daltrey in New York City synagogue on Shabbat

January 16, 2011

7:38 PM MST



LONDON, ENGLAND - JANUARY 13: (L-R) Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend perform onstage during 'A Concert For Killing Cancer' at Hammersmith Apollo on January 13, 2011 in London, England.

Gareth Cattermole/Getty Images

It's been a busy week for [The Who's](#) lead singer, [Roger Daltrey](#). On Thursday night (January 13), he **performed at a charity concert in London**, then today and tomorrow, he'll headline at the **Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy Camp** here in New York.

Yesterday afternoon, the British rock star, who describes himself as agnostic, was the featured guest at the West Side Institutional Synagogue's **Annual Rock N' Roll Shabbaton**. Because this event took place on the Jewish Shabbat in an Orthodox synagogue, there were no pictures, videos or any type of recording.

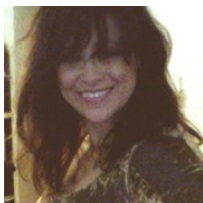
After a kosher lunch, Jewish Gospel singer **Joshua Nelson** delivered a stirring rendition of the traditional Jewish hymn “Adon Olam.” David Fishof, the founder of Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy Camp and father-in-law of the synagogue's rabbi, then spoke about his friendship with Daltrey and the charity work that the legendary singer does.

Next, Rabbi Shlomo Einhorn spoke about the concept of **Tikkun Olam**, also known as Repairing the World, and the tireless work that Daltrey does for a number of charities, including **Norwood**, a Jewish charity that assists people with learning disabilities. The rabbi then presented him with an award, honoring the Who co-founder for his philanthropic work.

Daltrey held forth for about 10 minutes, starting with his early life – growing up in working class London and how his life changed after he heard Elvis sing, as he decided that was what he wanted to do with his future. He couldn't afford to buy a guitar, so he built his own. The singer spoke about getting expelled from school on his 15th birthday and recounted, to laughter from the audience, how the headmaster told Daltrey that he'd never make anything of himself. He then reminisced that the best part of being a sheet metal worker was having the tools to make better quality guitars for bandmates Pete Townshend and John Entwistle.

He talked about his struggle to cope with fame early in his career, and how he learned to put it to good use: for altruistic purposes. Then he discussed his work with Richard Desmond, a prominent British Jewish businessman, for Norwood and how they formed the RD Crusaders, a band which performs to raise money for charities.

Then rapper **Kosha Dillz** and Jewish reggae singer **Elan Atias** each performed an a cappella song.



Leslie Feffer

New York Classic Rock Music Examiner