



GEOFF Sirmai and David Fisher know they have the best job in the world. The satirical songsters' business Comic Roasts is the toast of the special event scene, making it their business to be funny. They perform at corporate functions, private parties and simchas and it is clearly as much fun for them as for their clients.

"Not only do we get to meet some wonderful people who have a sense of humour by definition, but we get to celebrate them and their friends or colleagues in comic song."

The cream on the cake is when they hand out song sheets to lead the whole audience in a singalong song in tribute to the guest of honour or host company. It's the feel-good finale to a show that always hits the right note in every sense.

Geoff and David have given the Comic Roasts 'treatment' to scores of leading companies from banks to legal firms, developers, IT and manufacturers. They have roasted retiring CEOs and politicians, launched products and sent up whole divisions of staff at corporate celebrations.

They have had fun with prominent sportsmen and women and, at private functions, paid musical comic tribute to retiring school principals, war heroes, famous physicians and a host of birthday boys and girls, b'nai and b'not mitzvot. Then there are the communal celebrations where they have given the whole community 'a gentle kick in song and shtick'.

Both university-trained musicians, the two met in the '80s while writing, directing and



performing in the original AUJS Revues. Then followed success in cabaret, musical comedy, TV and radio. They are also the force behind the annual hit Koshers Theatresports.

Geoff is a mad soccer player in his spare time who also coaches his daughter's Maccabi team. He is also very involved in communal affairs, currently on the board of the Shalom Institute. When not turning on the laughter, David is a keen cyclist and runner. He also enjoys a capella singing ("And no, that doesn't mean 'without a kippah!'")

According to the pair, one of the most satisfying reactions from clients is amazement at the detail of the musical portrait. "We're often told it seems like we've

known the people for years," says Geoff.

You'd wonder how they get away with what sounds very much like biting the hand that feeds them. But these two clearly know their business. Says David, "It's more of a nibble than a full-fledged chomp!"

"We're always guided by the brief our clients give us. Having spent some time with the key people, we know just how far we can go. The only drama we've had was a pretend tantrum from one audience member upset we hadn't mentioned him!"

The lesson? If you put on a roast, make sure there's enough to go around!

