

ABOUT ZEMER: JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL

February 22-27, 2022

Over the past several years, Cantor Mark and I got together regularly to chat about our mutual love of classical music, opera and cantorial singing. One day Cantor asked me if I would be interested in co-sponsoring a Jewish music festival. Little did he know that this had long been a dream of mine. So I jumped at the opportunity. Calling on various figures in the music world that we knew from our respective backgrounds, we have put together a week-long series of events. Jewish music is wonderfully diverse, stretching from the more familiar like klezmer and Yiddish song to the ever growing world of classical, using both European and Mizrahi modes.

Our mission was to showcase and give voice to these various aspects of Jewish music and offer the community—Jewish and non-Jewish—an opportunity to sample this wide variety and also hear music, unfamiliar and new, as well as favorites. In the coming years, we plan to explore these fields even more. Over the week, you will have the opportunity to hear traditional music, classical composers and new commissions. We hope you will take advantage of this wonderful cornucopia of artists and performances in various formats to enjoy what both Cantor and I love—great music by wonderful Jewish composers.



MASHEY BERNSTEIN,
Co-sponsor and curator

Irish-born Mashey Bernstein Ph.D. has long been involved in the cultural life of Santa Barbara. He was awarded an SB Independent Original Award for his work for over twenty years on OUTRAGEOUS: The Santa Barbara Lesbian and Gay Film Festival. He later ran the Santa Barbara Jewish Film Festival and curated the Kolnoa (Israeli) sidebar of the SB International Film Festival. In 2015, Mashey retired from the UCSB Writing Program and Film and Media Studies Dept; he presently teaches a class there for the Religious Studies Dept. on "The Image of the Jew in American Cinema." He serves on the Board of the Santa Barbara Symphony. He also served on several committees of the Music Academy of the West. For the past decade, he has led the Short Story Discussion at CBB and is President of the Mesa Shul, housed at the Jewish Federation. He has published extensively on Jewish aspects of the media and of his friendship with Norman Mailer, the subject of his dissertation.

CBB gratefully acknowledges Daniel and Mandy Hochman for underwriting our Music Program each year; Laurie Harris and Richard Hecht for underwriting our Fund for New Jewish Music; and CBB's Lowden Musician in Residence Fund.

See cbbsb.org/music-festival for a full schedule of events

ZEMER

SANTA BARBARA'S JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL



SKLAMBERG LURJE JUDELMAN TRIO: *Yiddish Songs of Resilience*



TUESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2022
22 ADAR 1 5782
7:00 PM

LIVE AT
CONGREGATION B'NAI B'RITH

1000 San Antonio Creek Road,
Santa Barbara, CA 93111

———— Co-sponsored and co-curated by ————
Mashey Bernstein, Ph.D. and Cantor Mark Childs

See cbbsb.org/music-festival for a full schedule of events

This program's songs will be announced from stage.

SKLAMBERG LURJE JUDELMAN TRIO: YIDDISH SONGS OF RESILIENCE

The world premiere of a new program by this all-star trio which features The Klezmatic's lead vocalist and accordionist, **Lorin Sklamberg**, celebrated Latvian singer **Sasha Lurje** and noted fiddler **Craig Judelman**.

Yiddish Songs of Resilience presents songs ranging from contemporary to early-modern that speak to finding power in the midst of catastrophe. The Jewish people have centuries of experience dealing with difficult times, and song has always been a powerful way to give voice to their struggles and hopes for a better future. These songs help us contextualize the present moment and remind us we will make it through to better times, as we always have.

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS



LORIN SKLAMBERG (KLEZMATICS), lead vocals, accordion, guitar, piano Lorin's voice has been described as "transcendent, ethereal and sensual" while the Folkworld gushed that the Klezmatiks' frontman "brings tears into my eyes with his fabulous way of singing." Sklamberg, who says he "sang before he spoke" and taught himself to play guitar, piano and autoharp, has been involved in the world of Jewish music since he was 15 years old. After being introduced to klezmer, Lorin began to seek out songs within the genre, but it wasn't until after he moved to New York in the early '80s that he was able to incorporate klezmer into the music he performed. He studied voice, guitar, accordion and oud and served as the cantor at USC's Hillel House and Los Angeles' gay and lesbian synagogue, Beth Chayim Hadashim. Lorin can be heard on some 50 CDs, and also composes and performs for film, dance, stage and circus, produces recordings, and teaches and lectures from London and Paris to Kiev and St. Petersburg. By day he works as the Sound Archivist for the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

SASHA LURJE was born in Riga, Latvia, and when a friend invited her to join a Jewish youth theater, she didn't realize how suddenly her life's trajectory had shifted. She received early mentorship from many of the giants of the Yiddish music revival, at festivals in Russia and particularly at Yiddish Summer Weimar in Germany, propelling her to the forefront of the contemporary Yiddish music scene. It wasn't long before she was joining her heroes on stage, and teaching hundreds of singers herself, making it her life's work to spread Yiddish culture. Ms. Lurje has taught and performed at most of the major festivals and workshops for Yiddish music in Europe and the USA. Among her notable projects are her work with Daniel Kahn and the Painted Bird, and Semer Ensemble, which performs Jewish music recorded in Berlin in the 1930's. Her Yiddish progressive rock band Forshpil just released their second album, making it clear to the next generation that this music isn't just a delicate museum relic, but a living cultural treasure trove, ready to adapt and evolve as far as we will let it.



CRAIG JUDELMAN grew up in Seattle and since the age of four, he was never more comfortable than when he had a fiddle in his hand. He started with classical music but quickly realized he had much more to say than one genre could allow, studying Klezmer, Jazz, American and other folk music wherever he could. His passion for finding the sounds he hears in old recordings and adapting the violin to whatever context the moment demands has led him around the world, performing and teaching klezmer and old time American folk music on both sides of the Atlantic. He has performed and recorded with such legends as John Cohen (New Lost City Ramblers), Peter Stampfel (The Fugs), Steve Earle, Patty Smith, Michael Alpert (Kapelye, etc) and Alan Bern (Brave Old World). He performs around Europe with his old time stringband Interstate Express, as well as playing everything from Italian music to swing, and is the Artistic Director of Seattle Yiddish Fest. Craig and Sasha both currently live in Berlin where they help drive one of the world's most active Yiddish music scenes, but spend most of their time on the road playing and teaching this music, feeding the next generation and pushing this rich culture towards its next evolutions. They can also both be heard on the project Songs from Testimonies, music from the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University.