



קלעדנייעס KlezNews

2006 אוגוסט 25 דעם 25th August, 2006

2nd Annual אויפֿזונן a big success



by Elaine Cooper

Outcome: At the time of this writing over \$1500 has been raised for the scholarship fund. Yes, over 1500 cdn dollars.

Process: Well, the first accomplishment was to wake up on time after four hours of sleep. Second was to find your way to the RC dining room to check in, and then to remember both your name and your age. The latter is particularly difficult when your age is twice your bust measurement!

Like all seasoned runners and walkers we hydrated ourselves with coffee, water and got our complex carbs through the supply of bananas. Maps were given out and the path was described and then we went outside. To be outside this morning with the mist rising off the lake, the sun shining, and hearing the music of the cacophony of voices was a gift from above. Joanne drew the starting line in the sand, instructions were given.... "Runners in

the front, walkers in the back ... ready ... go". The runners left the walkers in their dust.... So, from the walkers' perspective this walk was a marvelous sensory experience.... the temperature was just right.

There were about 7 subgroups of walkers ... each following the rule of thumb of walkers ... you can only

walk as fast as you can talk ... and so we walked up the hill, past the gym, around to the entrance to the camp, through the path, some of us who had never seen the extent of this campsite had the opportunity to see the beauty of the land and the view....

There was a band cheering us on at one spot and miraculously there appeared another when we looped around a corner, over a long bridge, over the short bridge ... getting bumped by a runner who was now finishing a second lap before we had even finished our first.

Some of us 2.5 k walkers we made it to the finish line in

a half an hour. Others got there when they got there.... The operant word was 'endurance' not competition, and it had to be energizing and fun. Fun it was; energizing it was; and there was the overarching piece that anonymous tzedaka is one of the most important mitzvahs of the 613.



Klezkanada 2006, August 24, Thursday

by Sergio Smilovich

Otra vez Klezkanada ,
Escuchar el lago, oír las montañas,
Luz casi de otonio,
Siempre la luz
Musica del canto klezmer,
Canto baile y murga, y musica de
barrio, pueblo,
La musica de la union y
comunicacion,
Hoy celebramos el comienzo del
mes elul,
La preparacion para recibir en 30
dias el nuevo anio,
Y aqui en klezkanada
nos preparamos para abrir nuestros
oidos
Nuestros corazones, y nuestra
mente para llegar
A la esencia de nuestro pueblo , el
motivo, la tradicion
El presente que se transforma, y el
futuro: todo por venir,
Porque el klezmer expresa la fuerza
del espiritu de luz
de nuestro pueblo,

Pizzicato y silencio
El silencio de la fragancia, fresca y
clara,
La fragancia del cantoklezmer,
Que se multiplica por los 4 puntos
de la escala(escalera)

Y si nos movemos del punto al
circulo?

**KLEZKANADA
BOUTIQUE, IN
THE RETREAT
CENTER
TAKE HOME MUSIC, ART, AND
BOOKS FROM KLEZKANADA
STAFF AND CAMPERS
— CLOSES FRIDAY, 6PM**

Interview with Anna London, Toby Dresdner, and Sarah Young

By Jenny Levison and Josh Waletzky

J&J: Why did you decide to compete in the Loyf Tsunoyf?

A: 'Cause we did it last year and it was a lot of fun.

J&J: Did you run or walk?

A, T, S: Walk.

J&J: What was the most challenging part?

S: Trying to get in front of everybody.

T: Trying to talk while still walking.

J&J: Did you pay your own entrance fee?

A, T, S: No.

J&J: Who paid it?*

A: My mom.

T: My dad.

J&J: What did you think about the music?

T: I liked it.

A: Yeah, but there wasn't as much as last year.

T: There was no harp music. Last year I liked the harp music.

T: And last year there were more water bottles.

A: And this year the signs were tricky to find.

J&J: If you were going to do a fundraiser for KlezKanada, what would you do?

T: A book fair.

A: A water park.

*At this point in the interview, Sarah was called away to breakfast.

ASHKENAZ FESTIVAL 2006 TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 4

8 PERFORMANCE STAGES!!
OVER 150 PERFORMERS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
MOST EVENTS ARE FREE!!

"Please join us at ASHKENAZ 2006 as we honour the traditions of our ancestors and celebrate the breadth of our culture and modern artistry." — Mitch Smolkin, Artistic Director and former KlezKanada scholarship participant

Whether you are in the mood to catch some vibes or learn to kvetch like a pro, experience cutting-edge culture or cut the rug, you can do it all at ASHKENAZ! This year's festival, at the Harbourfront Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, assembles an award-winning lineup of local and international artists who combine the traditional and the new to bring audiences a living Yiddish culture.

Experience klezmer concerts, Ladino song, Yiddish barbershop, Kabbalah yoga, dramatic Havdallah rituals ushering in the weekend and the final pageant and parade! ASHKENAZ is a feast of activity for all, with most events free!!!

Celebrate the *best* of past fests with the return of *Klezmer Superstars*:

Klezmer en Buenos Aires (Argentina) and *Les Yeux Noirs* (France)
(Thursday, August 31, 8 pm at Harbourfront Centre Concert Stage)

Tickets for the above concerts and other special events can be purchased in person at the York Quay Centre Box Office, 235 Queens Quay West, 235, Queens Quay West, Toronto, or by phone at 416.973.4000.

See the festival schedule and read more at www.ashkenazfestival.com.

You can also get a full schedule RIGHT HERE!!! AT KlezKanada from Helen or Bob Smolkin!!

SEE YOU IN TORONTO!!!!!!

מיר וועלן זיך טרעפן אין טאראנטא!



INTERVIEW WITH DANIEL AND AARON BLACKSBERG

By: Sabu Wex, Jonathan Keammerer, Mira Netsky, and Michelle Wolzinger.

1. **Did you ever ride on an elephant?** A&D: No, but our cousin has and also taught elephants to play music in Thailand.
2. **Have you ever had a near death experience?** D: I once was almost driven off a cliff on the way to KlezKamp. A: A friend of mine was driving me on a highway and she stopped in the middle of the highway and we almost died.
3. **Have you ever had a girlfriend?** A: Yes, 1. D: Yes, 1. Both of us, the only girlfriend we ever had, we met this summer after senior year in youth orchestra.
4. **If you had to date a guy in Hollywood who would you date?** A: Johnny Depp D: Brad Pitt
5. **If you had to marry a woman in Hollywood, who would you marry?** D: I can't imagine marrying anyone who I wouldn't divorce in a month! Who-ever is richest. A: Jodie Foster. She's really intelligent.
6. **If you had to have a pet from the wild what would you have?** D: Capybara A: Stoat
7. **What kind of car do you wish you could drive?** D&A: Hybrid.
8. **If you had to date someone in KlezKanada, who would you date?** A&D: We plead the 5th.
9. **Why are you so flaky?** D: It's a tradition for musicians. A: I plan on entering the world of academia some day, and I'm practicing now.
10. **If you had to speak to the devil what would you say?** A: I would ask him if he believes in God. D: I would ask him if he had a vacation recently.
11. **Would you shave your head for 1 million dollars?** A&D: Absolutely!
12. **If you dunked your head under water and came face to face with a three foot pike, what would you do?** A: Eat it-live! D: Try to evaporate.
13. **What do you play and have you ever had it run over?** A: Piano—never! D: Trombone—no, but I have had many close calls!
14. **If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?** A: Annecy, France, there's an awesome lake, and the Alps. D: Banff, Alberta because I'm so in to nature.
15. **Have you ever tried to kill each other when you were young?** A: It's a possibility, but we've moved on. D: Now we only have unconditional love for each other.

GOOD BYE, AND SEE YOU NEXT TIME!!!

From Students of Yiddish

gathered by Elaine Cooper

פֿון אַמאָנע

איך בין פֿאַרשעמט וועגן מיין מעשה אין דער ציטונג וואָס איך האָב געשריבן, וויל איך האָב ניט געמיינט אַז זי וועט זיין אין ציטונג. ייִדיש איז ניט געווען די שפראַך אין דער היים, כאָטש מיר האָבן געווינט מיט דער באַבען. דער טאַטע און די מאַמע זענען געבורן געוואָרן אין קאַנאַדע... זיי האָבן גערעדט ייִדיש איך זאָל ניט פֿאַרשטיין. ביז איך האָב אָנגעהויבן זיך לערנען ייִדיש מיט 20 יאָר צוריק האָב איך ניט גערעדט קיין ייִדיש וואָרט.

דער ערשטער קלאַס אין ייִדיש איז געווען זייער שווער און איך האָב זיך געפֿילט שרעקלעך. איך בין אוועקגעגאַנגען פֿון קלאַס מיט זייער ווייניק ייִדיש. איך האָב באַשלאָסן קיין ייִדיש מער ניט רעדן. אין KK האָב איך געפֿונען ייִדיש און איך וויל רעדן ייִדיש נאָך אַ מאָל. דאָ בין איך אַזוי פֿריילעך זיך לערנען ייִדיש מיט אַ לערער וואָס איז אויסגעצייכנט און לערנט ייִדיש מיט גרויסן ענטוואַרט. נאָך אַלץ בין איך שרעק. איך האָב אויך ניט קיין סך ווערטער צו רעדן ייִדיש ווי איך וויל. אָבער איך האָב ליב צו רעדן און הערן ייִדיש אַ סך. איך האָב מזל צו געפֿינען קאַליאַ וואָס העלפֿט מיר אַרויס אין דער פֿריילעכער אַרבעט!

from Chana Marmur

Many, many years ago at college, I gave a presentation, based on a story written by Elie Wiesel, called "My Teachers." The teachers that taught him Torah and Talmud appeared to him as giants. When the SS rounded them up and he saw them taken away, they were broken people, unrecognizable.

At that time I did not understand

why I had chosen that story. It was only after working through my presentation that I understood why. Why? I loved my Jewish teachers who taught me about the world of my parents. The world of my parents did not die a natural death. That world was destroyed, which left me with a deep longing for that world, here at KlezKanada some of that longing is fulfilled.

BRING THE MUSIC HOME

by Ellie Shapiro

What do Quebec City and Jerusalem have in common? They're two cities that will soon have Jewish music festivals, thanks to the passion, drive and skill of several determined KlezKanada participants who got some organizing tips at a workshop dubbed "The Producers" on Monday and Tuesday. They joined others from Cracow, Naples (Florida), Syracuse, Montreal, Ottawa, Long Island and the San Francisco Bay Area who have the same goal—to bring the music home.

Whether it's for 10,000 in Cracow or 300 in Roslyn; on a boat along the Dneiper River, or in a city park in upstate New York, the result can be life-changing, for organizers and audiences alike. Don't try it, if you're not ready to handle the satisfaction that comes with creating an event that can bring joy to your own community. Do try it if you believe that Jewish secular culture has a vital contribution to make to the common good. Just don't forget to order the Portapotties and the napkins. Successful production of a concert or a festival depends on the ability to address both the vision and the minutiae. It's the "why" and "how," in the end, that determine the outcome of the "what," "where" and "when."

The Jewish Music Festival, based in Berkeley, California, draws its inspiration from a brew--part tikkun olam, (the Jewish imperative to repair the world) and part Pete Seeger, who helped birth the American folk music revival more than fifty years ago, encouraging thousands to sing along in harmony. The Festival, like KlezKanada, creates a space where Jewish culture flourishes. It thrives because individuals are nurtured by the community to explore their own creativity; and they then feed that creative expression back to the group. People at the Festival are encouraged to raise

Continued on page 6

New Yiddish Art Song Cycle

Marilyn Lerner and Adrienne Cooper presented a pre-view presentation at PM2 on Thursday of a new song cycle project composed by Marilyn. These songs were based on poems by Anna Margolin from her book, *Lieder*, originally published in 1929. There is currently a new English translation from Shirley Kumov. However, for some of these songs, Adrienne provided the English translation that were designed to work more smoothly for a singing text.

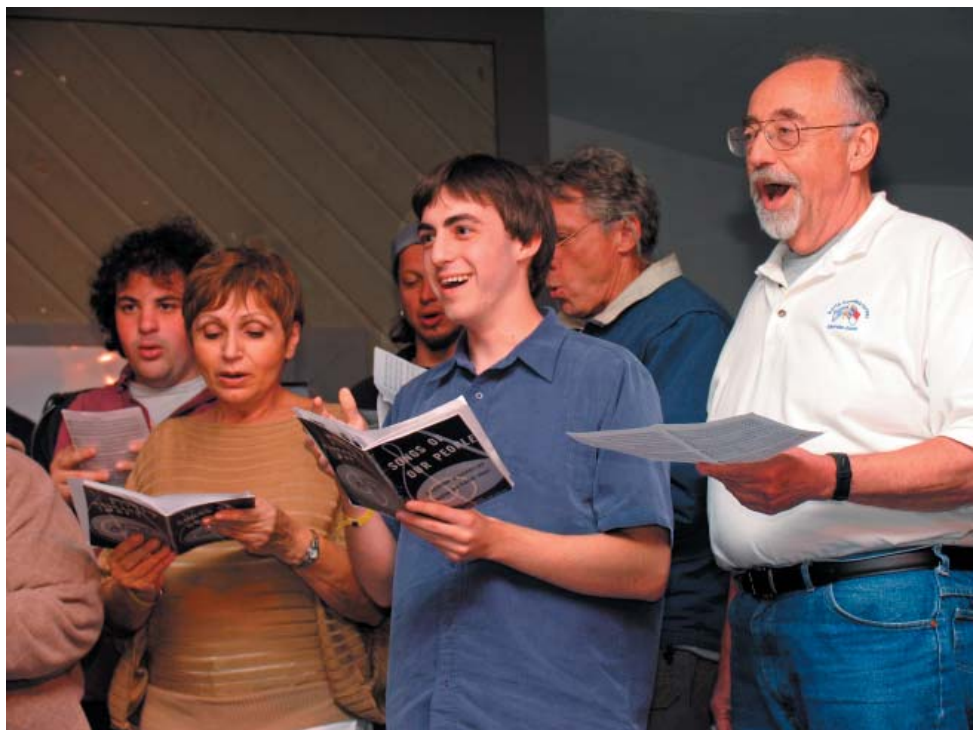
Adrienne gave us some biographical background about Anna's life, which helped explain the nature of her poems-- most of which were clearly the product of a unhappy person, dealing with the pain of huge suffering of true depression. The music Marilyn set adeptly captured the moods and meanings of the texts, which were set in both Yiddish and English.

As of today, some of the pieces were written out, some were written as jazz lead sheets and improvised, and some were texts spoken by Adrienne with Marilyn providing a piano backdrop to the piece. Marilyn hopes to add the

ability for more instruments to accompany the singer as part of the overall work.

In each case, the song was intense and carefully matched to the text. In one case, a song was set in both English and Yiddish, demonstrating the different rhythms of the language and the close attention the composer put in representing the meanings that the different languages presented. Marilyn's musical influences and experience are both wide and deep, from classical Schubert and Brahms lieder to Joni Mitchell and jazz. Her tremendous ability as a composer to both absorb and influence, but to transform it is apparent in this music. I'm looking forward to learning more and hearing more of this fascinating composer. Several of her CDs are for sale in the KlezKanada boutique.

Adrienne deserves tremendous credit for taking on a song cycle with both such depth of intellectual commitment to the text and such impressive interpretive abilities. This work will be heard again at KlezKanada on Saturday.



I am a Russian Guy – Listen to my Story

by Richard Kurtz

Who could not be impressed by Pasha Lion (stage name P'soy Korolenko), who performed at the "East meets West" concert on Tuesday, singing "The Number"—I am a Jewish Guy... Pasha was introduced by Michael Alpert as an artist from Moscow and as being Bob Dylan-like. I wondered what would a Jewish guy from Russia named Pasha, with a Black Beard, playing an electric piano he affectionately called "My Cute Little Thing," have in common with Dylan? I decided to seek out Pasha to find out. As one would expect at KlezKanda the answer is in the song.

Pasha is an impressive, thoughtful and jovial person. He collected his English words carefully and explained that the song was written during a sad time, of lost love. Like a younger Dylan he uses simple instrumentation emphasizing the melody and lyrics. In this song, he cannot get the phone connection again –the love is lost. The song is also political. Hatred can be felt from any perspective including animal and plants. We absorb hate as Jews, as Russians, as humans or as any living things--and for what reason? Music to Pasha can be simple and complex at the same time depending at what level you hear it. He likens it to the many levels that one can study the same text of Torah to flush out different meanings.

Pasha likes to consider himself as a funny street singer in the Russian tradition. Through his music he tries to overcome boundaries both in language and geography. To Pasha the song is the fire and the meaning is the fuel.

I asked him if his experience at KlezKanada is what he expected. Without hesitation he said yes, he anticipated a big camp, little houses, lots of cars, a variety of great classes and teachers making choice selection difficult. With a gleaming smile he said the one thing he did not expect was to have the honor of hearing and meeting Theodore Bikel and Irving Fields.

Of course no conversation between a Russian and Canadian can go on long without intersecting with hockey. We talked about the 1972 Canada vs. Russia Hockey series. Remember that? Canadian pride and confidence was severely tested as the Hockey games moved across Canada from Montreal, east to west. Vladislav Tretyak and the boys changed Canada forever. Pasha told me that some Soviet dissidents were in the closet secretly rooting for Canada, although many other dissidents were also hiding their secret desire for Soviet victory from their dissident comrades. Russians, according to Pasha, can relate to the vibe of Canada and to its beautiful landscapes, so similar to areas in Russia.

Pasha has performed all over the world. This coming year he will concentrate on touring in Russian towns and cities. He does hope to tour in the United States and Canada in the near future. He left me with some websites (English and Russian) to help find his recordings and future performance dates – www.ozon.ru, www.psoy.badtaste.ru, www.ycrop.com, www.blissrecords.com). I plan to keep tabs on his schedule and when he comes to New York I will be there to support a modern Jewish minstrel.

THE NUMBER

by Pasha Lion

I am a Jewish Guy
Everybody hates my people
I wish I knew the reason why
I probably deserve it somehow

The number I wish to call cannot be
completed as dialed
The number I wish to call cannot com-
pleted at all (chorus)

I am a Russian Guy
Everybody hates my country
I wish I knew the reason why
I probably deserve somehow

Chorus

I am a human guy
Everybody hates my species
I wish I knew the reason why
Probably because I am vicious

Chorus

It feels so hard to sing
Come over now and give me some
change
I am a poor little thing babe
Come on over and bring me some
change

The number I wish to call will never be
completed as dialed
The number I wish to call will never be
completed anymore



At the Klez
Cabaret

BRING MUSIC HOME From page 3 their own voices, make their own music, dance and balance bottles on their heads in an annual schedule of concerts, jams, dances, school outreach, and finale Community Music Day, with its dozen workshops and instrument petting zoo. At its best, the Festival is about actively learning, creating, playing, interacting, exploring, and connecting, as well as performing. It is an antidote to a consumer-oriented, mass-produced, atomized culture that often induces passivity.

In a world growing more insecure by the day, a world where instruments are made to fly in baggage, an event that brings people together is an act of healing. Start with one concert. It can begin with the hard working musicians of KlezKanada who are a great source of talent. For not much more effort, you can produce two or three concerts. Before you know it, you're presenting your community's first annual Jewish Music Festival.

Festival Production Resource Guides can be obtained through Ellie Shapiro, eleanors@brjcc.org.

קלעזניעס KlezNews

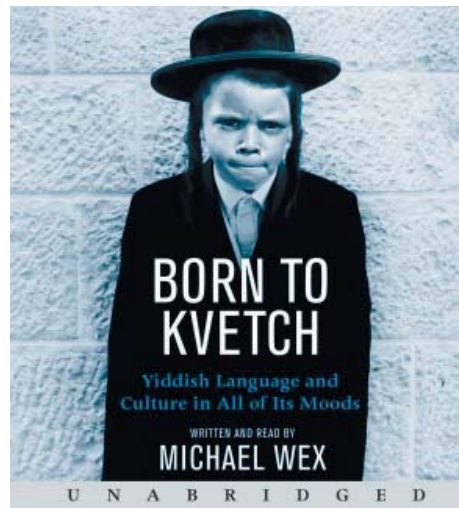
Staff include Ari Davidow, Richard Kurtz, Elaine Cooper, Jonathan Cohen. Photographs by Bob Blacksberg שמוח Janina Wurb. All contents copyright by their creators, and all rights reserved by the creators.

A PDF copy of this newsletter will be available online after camp, and HTML versions of the stories and art will be placed online, along with additional materials, in a weblog format to permit comments and participation.

Web: www.klezkanada.com

E-mail: shgoldman@sympatico.ca

In addition to this newsletter, articles by KlezKanada participants are published daily to the KlezKanada blog: go to www.klezkanada.com and click on the button in the top navigation bar, "blog".



*Ode to Michael Wex,
on "Born to Kvetch"*
by Anonymous ("Anonymous" was a woman)

Mazel tov on your success!
We're not surprised, we must confess,
When suddenly, we took a look,
And off the charts, there went your book;
And mit a mool, is bald gevorn,
A geveer, is shoin gebaren!

We are so very glad for you,
And for your shaina maidlach, too,
And tho' you're not so much perturbed,
Your accolades are much deserved.
So thank the Lord, and say Amen;

Remember that, we knew you when!
KlezKanada 2006



Jerry Alperstein, from New York City, came to KlezKanada with five hats and will have worn them all by Friday evening. They are a straw hat, a folding denim hat, a woolen stocking cap, a yarmulka, and a Jewish War Veterans cap (pictured here).

Personal Ads

To submit a personal advertisement, accompany it with a \$5 (or more) contribution to the KlezKanada Scholarship fund.

KlezKanada Afloat. Join fellow klezmerim on a Klezmer Cruise on the Dnieper River, May, 2007. Brochures available in the KlezKanada Boutique (in the Retreat Center), or see Marc Dolgin.

Brave Old World concert

DVD The first live concert release, and the first klezmer concert DVD by the premier "New Jewish Music" band Brave Old World, with Alan Bern, Michael Alpert, Kurt Bjorling, and Stu Kaufman. DVD produced by David Kaufman, producer of the KlezKanada video, "The New Klezmerim." \$25 from the KlezKanada Boutique in the Retreat Center. Get your copy here before the Boutique closes on Friday and the artists and producer will autograph it for you.

Temporary Montreal lodging sought

Two klezmerim from Seattle (Harvey Niebulski and Bernice Maslan) are looking for a place to stay in Montreal for a few days after camp. Please contact us, or leave a message with newsletter staff. A sheynem dank!

KlezCalifornia 2007

Join us in the San Francisco Bay Area for our next event. See us on the web at www.klezcalifornia.org for details, or call Julie Egger, 415-789-7679. Pick up our flyer in the KlezKanada Boutique in the Retreat Center.

Thank you to our wonderful shuttle drivers

without whom many of us could not have come. Elaine and Dov Troy.