



Borekh-habo! Bienvenue!

Welcome to KlezKanada's 26th Annual Summer Retreat! In this document, you can find descriptions of all the courses, classes, concerts, and other programs that will be happening during the online portion of the Retreat, Monday-Friday, August 23-27th. Note that all times listed are Eastern Daylight Time.

Click on the text in the Table of Contents to read a full description and a link to register. Come to a single class, a full day, or the entire week!

See our website for more information and further details: klezkanada.org

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Orientations

Community Orientation

August 23, 2020, 7:15-8:15 PM

Come learn what the KlezKanada experience is all about, connect with our community, and get ready for the week all together! For newcomers and veteran participants alike. Join us on Zoom or watch on Facebook Live.

Register only for Community Orientation

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezkanada-community-orientation-tickets-161266318901>

Tech Orientation

August 23, 2020, 3-4 PM

Get tips on how best to use Zoom and how to set up your devices for an optimal experience. All are welcome! Please sign up in advance here.

Register only for Tech Orientation

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezkanada-technical-orientation-tickets-161037303911>

Concerts

Antshtumt Zikh! KlezKanada Faculty Unmuted

Wednesday | Concert - 8:30-9:30

You asked for it, you got it! The KlezKanada faculty concert is an old tradition from the early days of the Retreat, revived anew-- by popular demand!-- for the virtual era. KlezKanada's international faculty is a melting pot of talent and vision, and tonight you can experience a global sampling of what they have to offer. Who knows what you might hear and see? KlezKanada faculty have the most original sound, and tonight they certainly turn it on!

#klezkanada26 #unmuteyourself

Register only for Antshtumt Zikh! KlezKanada Faculty Unmuted

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/antshtumt-zikh-klezkanada-faculty-unmuted-concert-tickets-161544097745>



Duo Controverso

Annette Bjorling

Wednesday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

After many years, Duo Controverso returns to KlezKanada for a special afternoon concert. Duo Controverso are harpist Annette Bjorling and clarinetist Kurt Bjorling. Producing an original sound and style, they are the world's premier, and possibly only, klezmer harp and clarinet duo. Comfortable traveling through a myriad of styles, their concerts take listeners on a journey through different eras and styles of klezmer and Yiddish music. Based on research and musical exploration of traditional East European Yiddish wedding music, folk songs, and liturgical pieces, Duo Controverso creates a unique soundscape, presenting a program to entertain, educate, and elate listeners.

Register only for Duo Controverso

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/duo-controverso-tickets-161020742375>

Ice Cream Social Dance Party

Avia Moore, Steven Weintraub

Thursday | Concert - 8:30-9:30

Where can one social dance while social distancing? At the KlezKanada Ice Cream Social!

Dig out your seersucker and gingham, and your pastel and candy colours. Spread out your picnic blankets and hang up some bunting. This summer our Thursday night dance party is an Ice Cream Social. The online evening will feature Yiddish dances led by our dance faculty Avia Moore and Steve Weintraub, with music from our amazing in-house band. Swing dancing, slow dancing, and extra special guests will be sprinkled throughout, making the evening even sweeter.

Let's make Ice Cream Thursdays a thing, with all the toppings. BYOIC (Bring Your Own Ice Cream).

Register only for Ice Cream Social Dance Party

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ice-cream-social-dance-party-tickets-161545078679>



Marilyn Lerner and David Wall // David Buchbinder with Mark Rubin and Michael Ward-Beregman

Marilyn Lerner, David Buchbinder

Monday | Concert - 8:30-9:30

KlezKanada is thrilled to open its 2021 concert series with a double bill featuring some of the most celebrated musicians from Toronto's rich klezmer and Yiddish music scene.

Since releasing their first recording "Still Soft Voiced Heart," in 2002, pianist Marilyn Lerner and vocalist David Wall have continued to collaborate, setting the works of modern Yiddish poets, such as Avram Reisen, Celia Dropkin and Avram Sutzkever, to their own inimitable music. In their first performance as a duo at KlezKanada, Lerner and Wall present a program of newly composed settings, as well as older settings from their large catalogue of original songs.

In his first appearance at KlezKanada, legendary klezmer trumpeter David Buchbinder presents his newest project "Music at the Center of The River." Along with bassist Mark Rubin and accordionist Michael Ward-Beregman, this New Orleans / Louisiana collaboration blends sounds and styles from Jewish and Roma traditions, with those from New Orleans and the Delta. An exciting musical journey, "Music at the Center of the River" taps into the sounds of multiple traditions, grounded in the present and reaching into the past.

Register only for Marilyn Lerner and David Wall // David Buchbinder with Mark Rubin and Michael Ward-Beregman

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/2021-opening-night-concert-tickets-161541574197>

Spotlight: 2021 Freed Fellows in Concert

Uri Schreter, Susi Evans, Szilvia Csaranko

Thursday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

Our Thursday afternoon concert features this summer's Freed Fellows. Each year at KlezKanada's Summer Retreat, we are joined by a group of rising stars in the world of Yiddish music, arts, and culture. The recipients of these fellowships are multidisciplinary, aesthetically unique, visionary, and exciting. Previous recipients of these fellowships have gone on to faculty, coordination, and directorial positions at KlezKanada. So keep an eye on this group, as you'll be hearing a lot from them in the future! This summer's Freed Fellows concert features pianist, composer, and ethnomusicologist Uri Schreter, puppeteer Rebecca Turner, clarinetist Susi Evans, and accordionist Szilvia Csaranko.

KlezKanada thanks Noah and Ronit Stern for their generous support of the Ruth and Joe Freed Fellowship Program, named in honour and in loving memory of Noah's grandparents, Ruth and Joe Freed, z"l.

Register only for Spotlight: 2021 Freed Fellows in Concert

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/spotlight-2021-freed-fellows-in-concert-tickets-161023476553>



Sveta Kundish & Patrick Farrell

Patrick Farrell, Sveta Kundish

Tuesday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

Our 2021 afternoon concert series kicks off with a set featuring vocalist Sveta Kundish and accordionist and composer Patrick Farrell. Coming to us from Berlin, Germany, they are fan favourites! We are excited to welcome this duo to our virtual stage. Featuring original settings of verse by 20th and 21st century women poets from North America, Europe and Israel, the songs portray intimate and emotional inner realms of love, longing, motherhood, joy, and loss. Join Kundish and Farrell in the poetic musical world they have been creating together since 2013.

“Together they form a congenial duo which is carrying Yiddish music into the future. With virtuoso accordion playing and shimmering vocals Farrell and Kundish know how to delight the audience.”

~ M. Fritsch (www.mittelhessen.de)

Register only for Sveta Kundish & Patrick Farrell

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/sveta-kundish-patrick-farrell-tickets-161019310091>

Veretski Pass // Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell

Cookie Segelstein, Stuart Brotman, Anthony Russell, Uri Schreter, Joshua Horowitz

Tuesday | Concert - 8:30-9:30

KlezKanada's evening concert series continues! We are thrilled to welcome two acts back to the stage: klezmer power trio Veretski Pass, and Yiddish vocalist Anthony Russell.

Virtuosic, highly original, endlessly creative, and oozing with energy, Veretski Pass has been at the forefront of contemporary Yiddish music development for the last two decades. Effortlessly bouncing in and outside the boundaries of tradition, this trio seemingly knows no musical limits. The members of this group – Cookie Segelstein, Joshua Horowitz and Stuart Brotman – are integral figures of the international klezmer landscape, having paved the way for creative thought within the genre individually and as a group for over 40 years. Don't miss the grand KlezKanada return of Veretski Pass – coming all the way from Berkeley, California.

Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell is a vocalist, composer, and arranger specializing in Yiddish Song. In 2018 Anthony released the album *Convergence*, a collaboration with Veretski Pass, exploring the sounds of one hundred years of African American and Ashkenazi Jewish Music. His duo with keyboardist Dmitri Gaskin, Tsvey Brider, has toured the world and, in 2017, won the Concorso International de Canciones en Idish in Mexico City. Tonight Anthony is joined by pianist, and 2021 KlezKanada Freed Fellow, Uri Schreter.

This concert is co-presented by KlezKanada and the Yiddish Book Center, as part of the Center's Decade of Discovery initiative. Its theme for 2021 is Yiddish and Social Justice.

Register only for Veretski Pass // Anthony Mordechai Tzvi Russell

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/veretski-pass-anthony-mordechai-tzvi-russell-in-concert-tickets-161542450819>

Please use registration links to purchase tickets for single events. To purchase a Full Week Festival Pass, please [click here](#).



Zalmen Mlotek in Concert

Zalmen Mlotek

Friday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

Closing out our 2021 concert series and virtual program is a very special concert from Zalmen Mlotek. A major force in the world of Yiddish music and theatre over the last half-century, Zalmen is a pianist, conductor, composer, arranger, and accompanist. He is also the Artistic Director of the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, the longest running Yiddish theatre in the world, where he has both revived countless Yiddish classics and staged world premiers. While it is impossible to list all of Zalmen's credits, some notable achievements with the Folksbiene include: I.B. Singer's Yentl in iddish (1998), Di Yam Gazlonim (2006,) Joseph Rumshinky's 1923 operette The Golden Bride (2016), and Fiddler on The Roof in Yiddish (2018.) His recording credits include "Pearls of Yiddish Song," "In Love and Struggle: The Musical Legacy of the Jewish Labor Bund," and "Ghetto Tango," his collaboration with vocalist Adrienne Cooper. We couldn't be happier to welcome Zalmen back to KlezKanada to close off our 2021 program.

Register only for Zalmen Mlotek in Concert

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/zalmen-mlotek-in-concert-tickets-161024786471>

Instrumental

Advanced Accordion

Patrick Farrell

Level: Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

A workshop/masterclass for all accordionists with some experience playing their instrument and klezmer music. These sessions will be as participant-directed as possible, so bring your questions! Maybe there is a tune that is giving you trouble in one way or another. Maybe you have questions about how to move from one mode to the next. Maybe you'd like to talk about harmonizing and choosing which chords to play for which tunes. We'll take your questions and use them as jumping off points to speak about accordion technique, accompaniment patterns, counter-lines, klezmer style, dance rhythms, solo repertoire, bellows control, and whatever else comes up. You will be able to send Patrick questions/repertoire in advance, and he will come with a few tunes in hand himself. Go go magic squeezeboxers!

Register only for Advanced Accordion

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/advanced-accordion-tickets-159858873193>



Advanced Violin

Alicia Svigals

Level: Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Learn how to make the mysterious, beautiful, and deeply Jewish sounds that characterize klezmer fiddling. We will work on the krekhts and other ornaments, klezmer melodic rhythms and phrasing, improvising fills, varying the melody, being the rhythm section for another melody instrument, and how to play tunes so people will want to dance! For violins, violas, and other bowed strings.

Register only for Advanced Violin

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/advanced-violin-tickets-159913604897>

Advanced Woodwinds

Susi Evans

Level: Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Using our favourite tunes as a basis for repertoire and reflecting on historical recordings, we'll explore different ways to embellish a melody in klezmer style and see how creative we can be with making variations. Alongside ornamentation, we'll look at decorating upbeats and adding fills. A little practical knowledge of modes, arpeggios, and rhythms will go a long way. Part of the class will include a daily practice routine for wind players.

Presented by KlezKanada Freed Fellow Susi Evans.

Register only for Advanced Woodwinds

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/advanced-woodwinds-tickets-159918417291>

Arranging Masterclass

Adrian Banner

Level: Advanced, Intermediate | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

While musical spontaneity is great, sometimes you want a really tight arrangement, tailor-made for your band. Are you an aspiring or accomplished arranger? If so, this is the class for you. On the first day we will cover basic principles of arranging, focusing on klezmer and Yiddish song. On the rest of the days, class participants will share their arrangements for analysis, praise, constructive criticism and general kvetching by your friendly moderator and the rest of the class. We will take advantage of screen-sharing to highlight areas of interest and play samples of your arrangements via computer rendition. It is essential that your arrangements are done using notation software: use your favorite, or download MuseScore for free from musescore.org. Don't have any arrangements you'd like to share? No worries — come and check out the other arrangements and participate in the discussion if you like. Those sending arrangements should do so in advance of the workshop (we'll make arrangements!!).

Register only for Arranging Masterclass

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/arranging-masterclass-tickets-160619672765>



Brass Tsuzamen

Dan Blacksberg

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

This year at KlezKanada, all the brass (from trumpet, trombone, and tuba, to French horn, crumhorn, and serpent) and all the piccolo and contrabass instruments will join together in one big klezmer brass extravaganza! We'll be splitting the class into two parts. On days 1 and 2, we'll work on brass melodic phrasing, focusing on the different styles of klezmer brass melody playing, from the folks in the midst of old big orchestras to the front-line players of the modern era. On days 3 and 4, we'll turn to the accompaniment role and see how people of all registers link up the harmony and the rhythm through trombone lines, trumpet parts, and bass lines. Players of all registers can learn a lot from each other and there will be something for everyone every day!

Register only for Brass Tsuzamen

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/brass-tsuzamen-tickets-160023333097>

Build Your Own Poyk!

Thierry Arsenault

Level: All | Thursday | PM2 - 3:45-5:00

Have you always felt like trying to play a little bit of poyk but wondered where to buy one? Well, the truth is, music stores don't carry them. The good news though is that they're really easy (and cheap) to build on your own! In this workshop we will look at the different ways you can gather all the proper items and assemble your own drum. No tools necessary.

Register only for Build Your Own Poyk!

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/build-your-own-poyk-tickets-161017604991>

Early Morning Violin and other Bowed Strings Warm-Up

Deborah Strauss

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | Early Morning - 8:15-9:00

In loving memory of our dear teacher, Yaela Hertz z"l, of blessed memory, who led this session tirelessly for so many years.

We will gather each morning to connect with each other and to warm-up our fingers and ears with the exercises that Yaela taught and which have helped countless string players of all levels move through the day with greater ease and confidence. This year, we will also add specific klezmer exercises to help prepare for the day ahead.

Register only for Early Morning Violin and other Bowed Strings Warm-Up

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/early-morning-violin-and-other-bowed-strings-warm-up-tickets-160036526559>



Intermediate Accordion

Szilvia Csaranko

Level: Intermediate | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Melody, harmony, rhythm and bass: accordions can do everything! Being the most versatile instrument in a klezmer band means we have to study all these important roles. In this workshop we'll work on tunes that are especially fun to play on accordion and explore everything from secret fingerings to cool bass lines, whether leading or accompanying the tune – both!

Presented by KlezKanada Freed Fellow Szilvia Csaranko.

Register only for Intermediate Accordion

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/intermediate-accordion-tickets-159916964947>

Intermediate Violin

Cookie Segelstein

Level: Intermediate | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Our morning intermediate fiddle class will explore some expected and unexpected techniques to play slow, medium, and fast dance tempos. One day will be devoted to the D word: doina. Learn ornaments, chords, the use of the bow, and all the things necessary to become a hot klezmer fiddler. Music will be provided in all clefs needed.

Register only for Intermediate Violin

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/intermediate-violin-tickets-159911065301>

Intermediate Woodwinds

Zilien Biret

Level: Intermediate | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Ornamentation is rhythm! This year, we will work on both European and American klezmer, focusing on two recordings, one from Dave Tarras and the other from the Belf Romanian Orchestra. What was musically different between Amerike and Eastern Europe? We will work on different ways to trill and add subtleties to your krekhtsn and your intonation. For any wind player who would like to improve their knowledge of klezmer ornamentation and rhythm.

Register only for Intermediate Woodwinds

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/intermediate-woodwinds-tickets-159917388213>



Josh Horowitz's Workshop and Lecture Series

Joshua Horowitz

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

Come to one, or come to them all!

Tuesday:

Doinas, God, and the Lost Jews (Lecture)

The Romanian Shepherd's Song has served as a metaphor for diaspora Jews since as early as the 18th century. The "doina" found its way into the Jewish liturgy, wedding, klezmer dance repertoire, and even Yiddish songs, giving rise to an entire body of tunes still performed today. Josh will show the development of the doina, how it operates musically and how it formed tunes spanning from old Ukrainian kolomeykes to the pop songs of the golden age of Yiddish. Josh will then demonstrate in detail why this is the second most important category of a new klezmer taxonomy via entertaining anecdotes, colorful visuals, and deep listening of historical recordings of this cornerstone genre. For musicians, he'll systematically show the modal mechanics of the doina, from the simple to the complex.

Wednesday

Doinas for Dummies and Dancing Dogs (Workshop)

This is a practical class for intermediate and advanced musicians with any instrument that is capable of playing melodies. Josh will methodically teach teeny-tiny formulas that make up the "Yiddish Doina" beginning with the forshpil (prelude), openings, orbital phrases (Josh's made up term), transitional phrases, cadences, and even modulations. He'll guide the perplexed through the forest of confusion that often surrounds this beguiling genre and show that there's more to life than feeling inadequate about not being able to improvise well. Join us in the new world of Zoom music teaching, where no one can hear your mistakes! Doinas are fun and easy to play. Trust Josh. He's spent years struggling with them.

Thursday

Cry, Baby, Cry: Badkhones (Lecture)

For centuries, Jewish weddings in Eastern Europe featured the unique folk art of the badkhn (the Jewish wedding master of ceremonies), whose improvised delivery was accompanied by musical interludes. Poorly documented and little studied, this folk tradition – part liturgical, part comedic – remains a crucial key to understanding Ashkenazi Jewish culture and music. Josh Horowitz will play historical recordings and show various types of badkhones, illustrating how the music formed the central building block of the klezmer musical system. This lecture will feature deep music listening and analysis, but will still be accessible to non-musicians. Josh won't shy away from critical ethnomusicological and historical perspectives and will present a new system of classification and analysis of modes designed to be more comprehensive for teaching and learning klezmer music. Fun and educational at the same time!

Friday

Modal Modulation for Scaredy Cats (Workshop)

Please use registration links to purchase tickets for single events. To purchase a Full Week Festival Pass, please [click here](#).



Did you just get scared when you read the term, “Modal Modulation”? Did you just kinda think, “nah, that’s for the experts. I think I’ll go take a nap instead.” If yes, then this workshop is for you. Josh will lead you gently through the basic methods of modal modulation in klezmer music for those traumatized by the mere thought of changing keys midstream. Part therapy, part fun, Josh will methodically break down and demystify the art of moving from one mode to the next by using small groups of notes and shifting them around. Yup, that’s all there is to it. The modulations are grouped systematically into categories that can be comfortably comprehended and navigated. After this session, you might even be able to predict modulation types from the beginning section of a tune and to understand tune types according to their modulations. You’ll learn both simple and complex modal modulations and, before you know it, you’ll be impressing your band mates with terms like “trichord” and “pivot notes.” For both intermediate and semi-advanced musicians who like to play by ear but tend to hide behind the bookshelf at the mere mention of the word “modulation.”

Register only for Josh Horowitz’s Workshop and Lecture Series

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/josh-horowitzs-workshop-and-lecture-series-tickets-161016098485>

Klezmer 1.01

Ariane Morin

Level: Beginner,Intermediate | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

Ariane and special guest Yoni Kaston will lead beginning and intermediate instrumentalists in playing klezmer in a supportive, creative environment. We will get through the basic genres, explain a bit of modes and harmonies, and learn some fine tunes in a happy play-along-session, live from our living room to yours.

Register only for Klezmer 1.01

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezmer-101-tickets-160026673087>

Klezmer 2.02: Repertoire, Jam, Play-along!

Susi Evans, Szilvia Csaranko

Level: Intermediate,Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Let’s find out what tunes we like to play on both sides of the Atlantic! The question is: how do you join in with a tune you don’t know? In a jam session situation we often find ourselves having to pick up a melody on the spot by ear, and trying to hear the chords that fit. With their step-by-step guide to jam session survival, Susi and Szilvia will show you techniques and tips for how to make this easy and fun! For intermediate to advanced players of all instruments.

Presented by KlezKanada Freed Fellows Susi Evans and Szilvia Csaranko.

Register only for Klezmer 2.02: Repertoire, Jam, Play-along!

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezmer-202-repertoire-jam-play-along-tickets-160028462439>



Klezmer 3.03: Advanced Klezmer Repertoire

David Buchbinder, Alicia Svigals, Zilien Biret, Michael Winograd

Level: Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | PM2 - 3:45-5:00

Each day, a different artist will lead you through some of their current favourite tunes and show you how they approach them. Taught by ear (and maybe some screen sharing) – get ready for the real deal! For advanced players of all instruments, and other quick studies.

Tuesday 8/24: Michael Winograd

Wednesday 8/25: Alicia Svigals

Thursday 8/26: David Buchbinder

Friday 8/27: Zilien Biret

Register only for Klezmer 3.03: Advanced Klezmer Repertoire

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezmer-303-advanced-klezmer-repertoire-tickets-160030783381>

KlezPocket 2: Drums and Bass

Kirsten Lamb, Thierry Arsenault

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Explore the foundation of klezmer grooves from khosids to bulgars, horas to terkishers. We'll dissect the layers of each rhythm, then weave in bass lines and chord progressions to bring them to life. Taught by bassist/vocalist Kirsten Lamb and drummer/percussionist Thierry Arsenault, this class is open to all accompaniment instruments (drum set, poyk, bass, tuba, accordion, piano, guitar, etc), melody players trying to fit into an accompanying role, and bandleaders looking to strengthen their band's rhythmic feel. The class will be a mix of playing and discussion, with recordings and sheet music provided.

Register only for KlezPocket 2: Drums and Bass

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezpocket-2-drums-and-bass-tickets-160012807615>



Listen Up! with Socalled (Josh Dolgin)

Josh “Socalled” Dolgin

Level: All | Tuesday – Friday | PM2 – 3:45-5:00

What makes a kind of music sound the way it does? With all those little details that fly by so fast...how do you get a handle on a style? Why, by listening, of course! Careful, methodical, analytical, slowed-down, microscopic listening! “Sounds” like fun, right? Join Josh “Socalled” Dolgin as he leads a session in close listening of examples from his vast record collection of Yiddish song, klezmer, nigunim, and cantorial music: a tech-infused method of close listening in order to gather repertoire, learn about ornamentation, phrasing, harmony and arranging, and generally gain insight into Ashkenazic music styles.

For singers, musicians, arrangers, and composers, this class will take a pan-genre look at what can loosely be called “Yiddish Music” to enrich and enliven your own listening enjoyment and performances while trying to discover and unlock the secrets to what makes Jewish music tick.

Register only for Listen Up! with Socalled (Josh Dolgin)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/listen-up-with-socalled-josh-dolgin-tickets-160656737627>

Malkah Lerner presents: The Four Sessions Schmeer

Marilyn Lerner

Level: Advanced | Tuesday – Friday | PM2 – 3:45-5:00

Come for what you want to participate in or come to the whole shmir. Show your work, present a challenge you want to work on, or an area you want to explore. Marilyn will be present to aid, demonstrate, facilitate, listen, conspire, and abet. Solo playing, group work. For advanced musicians.

Day 1: Composition

Day 2: Mentorship

Day 3: Masterclass

Day 4: Improvisation

Register only for Malkah Lerner presents: The Four Sessions Schmeer

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/malkah-lerner-presents-the-four-sessions-schmeer-tickets-160034237713>



Piano Accompaniment Seminar with Zalmen Mlotek

Zalmen Mlotek

Level: All | Wednesday | PM2 - 3:45-5:00

Pianist, arranger, and conductor Zalmen Mlotek has a long history of accompanying and creating arrangements, including his work with Sidor Belarsky, Masha Benya, Emil Gorovets, Ben Bonus, Mina Bern, Shifra Lehrer, Leon Liebgold, Lili Liliana, and present interpreters. Zalmen Mlotek will share pianistic approaches to Yiddish folk music, Yiddish theatre music, and more.

Register only for Piano Accompaniment Seminar with Zalmen Mlotek

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/piano-accompaniment-seminar-with-zalmen-mlotek-tickets-161017049329>

Plucked Strings

Eric Stein

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Though not historically associated with klezmer music, the mandolin is a quintessentially Jewish instrument and, in recent decades, has become more frequently used in klezmer bands. Other plucked string instruments, like guitar and ukelele, have also become increasingly popular in contemporary Jewish music-making. In this workshop, participants will explore approaches to using plectrum instruments in klezmer and Jewish music, including rhythmic styles, melodic and harmonic approaches, and ornamentation. The sessions will also explore the long-overlooked history of mandolin and other plucked string instruments in Jewish musical life, through rare photos, documents, ephemera, and recordings from a number of Jewish mandolin legends.

Register only for Plucked Strings

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/plucked-strings-tickets-160024883735>

Re-contextualizing Klezmer: Creative Collaborations

Frank London

Level: Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

In this intensive class, musicians and artists will team up and create a new interdisciplinary collaborative work. The course is open to all creative artists: musicians, poets and writers, visual artists, dancers, theater-makers, etc. The goal will be to create a finished piece (or at least a good rough draft) over the course of the Retreat. Topics covered will include: composition, improvisation, modes of presentation, timelines for project planning and execution, and general discussions of both aesthetics and practical issues. So that we can hit the ground running, participants will be asked to come to the first class with an idea for what they would like to work on.

Register only for Re-contextualizing Klezmer: Creative Collaborations

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/re-contextualizing-klezmer-creative-collaborations-tickets-160616804185>



Style and Sources

Dan Blacksberg, Cookie Segelstein, David Buchbinder, Patrick Farrell

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

How do you work with old recordings or music books? How do you bring historical (or not so historical) sources into your time and space, and develop your personal style? Each day, a different artist from our wondrously diverse klezmer world will grant you a look into their laboratories, discussing influences, inspirations, and challenges, presenting favourites, playing, and talking about their work as contemporary Yiddish musicians.

Tuesday 8/24: Patrick Farrell

Wednesday 8/25: David Buchbinder

Thursday 8/26: Cookie Segelstein

Friday 8/27: Dan Blacksberg

Register only for Style and Sources

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/style-and-sources-tickets-160607341883>

Teenagers in Lvov

Zach Mayer

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | Lunch - 12:45-1:45

Do you want to revolutionize the KlezKommunity? Do you want to be a part of the baddest thing since Josh Dolgin? In Teenagers in Lvov, you will finally get to combine and perform your two favourite genres of music: hip-hop and klezmer! All youthful musicians are welcome. Are you a klezzical violinist? No problem. A rapper? Arguably better! Someone who likes to eat? Too bad! We rehearse during lunch.

Register only for Teenagers in Lvov

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/teenagers-in-lvov-tickets-161267867533>

Trad Band Arranging

Christian Dawid

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | PM2 - 3:45-5:00

How does a traditional klezmer band work? What are the roles of the different instruments, and how do they apply to the instruments in your band? How can bass and percussion best support form and melody, what is that trombone or tenor sax doing exactly, and what do you do if you have multiple melody instruments? Multi-instrumentalist Christian Dawid, joined by prominent specialists in the field, will dissect the composition of a fine klezmer band sound. For all of you new (or relatively new) to klezmer, and all you bandleaders with burning arrangement questions.

Register only for Trad Band Arranging

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/trad-band-arranging-tickets-160029692117>

Please use registration links to purchase tickets for single events. To purchase a Full Week Festival Pass, please [click here](#).



Vocal

Do un Dort (Here and There)

Sarah Mina Gordon, Daniel Kahn

Level: All | Thursday, Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Yiddish songs about separation and togetherness. Doikayt and dortikayt. Estrangement and entanglement. Exile and homecoming. Long-distance friends Daniel Kahn and Sarah Gordon will unite across the oceans and time zones to sing these songs with you. All levels of singers and Yiddish speakers welcome.

Register only for Do un Dort (Here and There)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/do-un-dort-here-there-yiddish-songs-of-separation-togetherness-tickets-160226759551>

Lid-Arbeter Varshtat (Song-Worker Workshop)

Daniel Kahn

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

Are you a singer, writer, composer, translator, adapter, mixer, collector, tinkerer, maker, faker, taker, or breaker of Yiddish songs? Join this progressive, polyglot, transnational, amalgamated, multi-lingual workshop of contemporary song work. Tune up your new songs, retune some old songs, put a tune to a poem or some words to a tune. We'll be taking apart songs, finding what's wrong, patching them up, and getting them to sing better than ever. Lid-arbeter fun ale lender, fareynikt zikh!*

*Song-workers of the world, unite! (Fluency in Yiddish not required — but it couldn't hurt.)

Register only for Lid-Arbeter Varshtat (Song-Worker Workshop)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lid-arbeter-varshtat-song-worker-workshop-tickets-160450986219>

Lullabies

Sveta Kundish

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

The genre of lullabies is one of the most beloved genres in folk song traditions around the world. Beyond their original function as a means of helping babies fall asleep, lullabies often open the door into parents' emotional worlds and help us look at history from their perspective. Join this class to learn some treasures from the well of Yiddish traditional lullabies, experience different ways of singing them, and share thoughts about their history and background.

Register only for Lullabies

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/yiddish-lullabies-with-svetlana-kundish-tickets-160449580013>



Nigunim for Peace and Togetherness

Sruli Dresdner

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Learn nigunim from Sruli Dresdner's extensive repertoire of Old World Hasidic melodies. In this class we focus on traditional Hasidic nigunim--some are wordless and some incorporate text. Texts and transliterations will be provided. Zach Mayer will also bring some of his amazing original nigunim. This is the perfect class if you would like to centre your day with meditative communal singing and/or to bring back some very special and authentic Hasidic pieces to your communities. Participants are encouraged to share their favourite nigunim as well. Although this is a vocal workshop, instrumentalists will get plenty out of this class as well.

Register only for Nigunim for Peace and Togetherness

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/nigunim-for-peace-and-togetherness-tickets-160612401015>

Singing for Community Healing

Zach Mayer

Level: All | Tuesday, Wednesday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

A moment to connect our community through song. We will sing traditional nigunim as well as Zach Mayer's original melodies as a restorative and uplifting warm-up to the day. Open to everyone, and no experience necessary!

Register only for Singing for Community Healing

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/singing-for-community-healing-with-zach-mayer-boston-usa-tickets-160224504807>

Swoop (There It Is): Yiddish Song Interpretation

Anthony Russell

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

So you know a Yiddish song—sh'koyekh! Now, when you sing that song, how do you make it come alive? How do you provide interest, narrative, and drama to what you're singing for listeners who understand what you're singing and, perhaps more importantly, for those who don't? In this class, we'll be looking at how song text and narrative can inform how you sing a Yiddish song through the use of phrasing, volume, ornamentation, and other goodies from a song interpreter's tool box. Requirements for class participation are: a Yiddish song you know well, an English translation of that song, and a willingness to experiment.

Register only for Swoop (There It Is): Yiddish Song Interpretation

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/swoop-there-it-is-yiddish-song-interpretation-tickets-160614579531>



Yiddish Song Masterclass

Joanne Borts

Level: Intermediate, Advanced | Tuesday - Friday | PM2 - 3:45-5:00

Join veteran Broadway belter Joanne Borts in a coaching master class that provides singers with the opportunity to develop all elements of their performance. Special attention will be paid to issues of Yiddish diction, theatricality, arrangement, and getting at the meaning of a lyric. Participants are encouraged to bring at least one memorized Yiddish song.

Register only for Yiddish Song Masterclass

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/yiddish-song-masterclass-tickets-160651800861>

Yiddish Songs of Celebration: L'Khayem!

Janie Respitz

Level: Beginner | Tuesday, Wednesday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Join Janie Respitz to learn Yiddish and expand your Yiddish song repertoire through Yiddish songs that celebrate all aspects of Jewish life, from holidays to milestones. In difficult times these songs provide optimism and hope for a better tomorrow.

This course is part of the Ruchla Ferdman Yiddish Program, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Tauben family.

Register only for Yiddish Songs of Celebration: L'Khayem!

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/yiddish-songs-of-celebration-lkhayem-with-janie-respitz-montreal-tickets-160250346099>

Dance

Dancing In and Out Of the Box

Steven Weintraub

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Join Steve Weintraub for a workshop of his original dance choreographies. During this past pandemic year, Steve has embraced the unique (and challenging) space of the Zoom screen by choreographing dances that can be danced solo facing the camera, but that allow the dancer to relate to other dancers on the screen. Come and learn these new choreographies, many of which were created for Jewish holidays, and then take them home to dance - on screen or off!

For all levels. Many of the dances were designed as études, to get dancers comfortable with improvising to various rhythms. Where appropriate, Steve will demonstrate how the dance can be done entirely seated.

Register only for Dancing In and Out Of the Box

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/dancing-in-and-out-of-the-box-tickets-160603811323>

Please use registration links to purchase tickets for single events. To purchase a Full Week Festival Pass, please [click here](#).



Take My Hand: Yiddish Dance Repertoire

Avia Moore

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

Are you feeling ready to dance but a bit rusty in terms of repertoire? In this workshop with Avia Moore, we will focus on strengthening and expanding our Yiddish dance repertoire in preparation for that moment when we can finally clasp hands and dance together in-person again! This class will also include one session of Avia's popular Yiddish Dance Pop Quiz! The YDPQ is a fun way for dancers (and musicians) to practice matching dances to musical styles. We will be joined by special guests for the YDPQ session.

Open to all levels. While the focus will be on circle dances, we might cover a few couple or set dances as well. We will review the freylekh, bulgar, zhok, and sher and then move into the khosidl, and honga, sirba, kolomeyke, and more!

Register only for Take My Hand: Yiddish Dance Repertoire

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/take-my-hand-yiddish-dance-repertoire-tickets-160450197861>

Food

KlezKanada 2021 Cooking Series

Laurel Kratochvila, Leah Koenig

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

Explore Yiddish culture through food! Recipes will be provided so you can cook along with these experts. Come to one, or come to them all!

Tuesday

Everything But the Khale: The Jewish Mezze (and Forshpayz!) Table (with Leah Koenig)

Show stopping main dishes like brisket typically get all the glory at the Jewish table, but both Ashkenazi and Sephardi cuisine are filled with appetizers, dips, salads, and delicious nibbles traditionally served alongside challah on Shabbat and holidays. This class will explore the forshpayz ("before foods" in Yiddish) of Ashkenazi cuisine and the glorious mezze table of Sephardic cuisine, and students will prepare and enjoy a spread of dishes including muhammara (red pepper, pomegranate, walnut dip) and smoked trout crostini.

Wednesday

Kikhl: Plain and Fancy (with Laurel Kratochvila)

Light as air and puffed to perfection, are they cookies or are they crackers? Might as well ask if a tomato is a fruit or vegetable. Regardless of whichever camp you fall, learn to make and bake egg kikhl two ways: onion-y squares for farshmak and sweet bowties for dessert. (Recipe is vegetarian non-dairy with eggs)



Thursday:

Better Than Your Bubbe's: Kasha Varnishkes (with Leah Koenig)

With all due respect to our collective ancestors, their takes on kashe varnitshkes – the iconic Ashkenazi dish of toasted buckwheat mixed with noodles and fried onions – were too-often a bit lackluster. Of course, even when dry and tasteless, kashe varnitshkes is still a loveable dish, but it should – and can – be absolutely spectacular. This class will examine the history of kashe varnitshkes, and share the techniques and recipe behind a perfect dish of kashe varnitshkes that tastes like tradition, only better.

Friday:

Potato Knishes: Good food to eat while walking (with Laurel Kratochvila)

Comfort food aficionados, this is your workshop. Learn how to make your own potato knishes with a simple and perfectly flaky dairy dough. We'll bake, we'll eat, we'll talk knishtory.

Note: The recipe is vegetarian dairy, but substitutions will be provided for vegans upon request.

Register only for KlezKanada 2021 Cooking Series

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezkanada-2021-cooking-class-series-tickets-160253467435>

Multidisciplinary

“Marry Me Already Soup” Food Memory Writing Workshop with the Maine Rebbetzin

Lisa Mayer

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

Food is one of the best ingredients of memory. Your favourite cookie when you were little. What your mother made for Shabes, The first meal you cooked for someone you desperately love. A secret recipe. A good date at a restaurant. A bad date at a restaurant. Write to your taste! And if anyone can out-pathetic her “Red Snapper Fish Story,” Lisa will buy you a glass of wine at the KlezKabaret!

Register only for “Marry Me Already Soup” Food Memory Writing Workshop with the Maine Rebbetzin

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/marry-me-already-soup-food-memory-writing-workshop-tickets-160859817043>



A. B. Yehoshua's Cultural Interconnectivity

Yael Halevi-Wise

Level: All | Thursday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

One of the most powerful Jewish writers of the 20th Century, A. B. Yehoshua's intellectual and artistic charm emerges in some measure from the nuanced attention that he invariably devotes to tracing complex relationships among Jews, as well as between Jews and Others, across history and geographic borders.

His major novels set up a highly-charged interaction among different "types" of Jews – Ashkenazim, Sephardim, Mizrahim – as well as between Jews and representatives of diverse types of Christians, Muslims, and even pagans that his characters meet in both the Eastern and Western hemispheres at key historical junctures.

This talk will illuminate the artistic and ideological background of such cultural interconnectivity in Yehoshua's masterpiece, Mr. Mani.

Register only for A. B. Yehoshua's Cultural Interconnectivity

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/a-b-yehoshuas-cultural-interconnectivity-with-yael-halevi-wise-mcgill-tickets-160251270865>

Sustainability, Temporary Shelter, and Illustrious Ancestors: Reinventing Sukkah Decorations

Tine Kindermann

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

Sukes is a holiday ripe (pun intended) with colour and opportunities for decoration – which doesn't have to be limited to plastic fruit and paper chains. This workshop will explore aspects of the stories around Sukes: how they resonate with us today and how they can be translated into meaningful Suke decorations. Participants will work with techniques like paper cutting, collage, assemblage, and classic painting to create contemporary celebrations and commentary. All ages welcome.

Please gather these supplies in advance of the workshop: Colourful paper, sharp scissors or X-Acto knife, collage materials (magazines etc), glue, fabric or other materials for assemblage, acrylic paint (including, or at the very least, white, dark brown and ochre), and brushes.

Register only for Sustainability, Temporary Shelter, and Illustrious Ancestors: Reinventing Sukkah Decorations

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/reinventing-sukkah-decorations-tickets-160868581257>



Yiddish Tkhines and New Songs

Noam Lerman

Level: All | Thursday, Wednesday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

How were Yiddish Tkhines once used, and how can we engage with them today? Come learn about the history of spontaneous prayer and tkhines, which are Ashkenazi supplications that were once regularly written and prayed by women and gender non-conforming people. We will learn new songs built directly from sections of Yiddish Tkhines books, and create new ones together.

Register only for Yiddish Tkhines and New Songs

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/yiddish-tkhines-and-new-songs-tickets-160967493105>

Talks and Conversations

#KlezKanada26: Plenary Sessions

Christopher Silver, Nikolai Borodulin, Evelyn Tauben, Daniel Toretzky, Zalmen Mlotek

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | PM2 - 3:45-5:00

Explore new angles on Jewish culture with members of KlezKanada's all-star faculty.

Tuesday: Jewish Music Plenary

North Africa's Jewish Musical Past

with Christopher Silver

For the first half of the twentieth century, North African Jews played an outsized role in the music industry across the Maghrib. In Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, all under French rule at the time, Jewish vocalists and instrumentalists aimed to preserve the classical Andalusian tradition while simultaneously pioneering new popular musical forms. Drawing on rare shellac records from his personal archive, historian Christopher Silver will provide a musical tour of the North African past through its sounds.

Wednesday: Yiddish Language Plenary

Yiddish Blitz For Klezmerim

with Nikolai Borodulin

Have you always wanted to learn Yiddish, but find that, every year at KlezKanada, you're too busy building your klezmer violin skills or refining your poyk technique to take a full class? Then this is the session for you! Explore Yiddish with style. Join master teacher Nikolai Borodulin to learn some cool klezmer slang words and start building or expanding your Yiddish vocabulary.

This session is presented as part of the Ruchla Ferdman Yiddish Program, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Tauben family.

Please use registration links to purchase tickets for single events. To purchase a Full Week Festival Pass, please [click here](#).



Thursday: Visual Arts Plenary

Tower of the Sacred and Ordinary

with Daniel Toretzky and Evelyn Tauben

A celebration for a new multimedia exhibition by long-time KlezKanadian Daniel Toretzky, created for Toronto's FENSTER window gallery and presented as part of the in-person KlezKanada programming. Toretzky brings his architectural training to his artistic projects, creating imaginative built environments and urban landscapes that marry social justice issues and actual places with witty, invented scenarios and settings. Raised in the Yiddish revival scene, Toretzky's work is often informed by probing Ashkenazi traditions, heritage, and history with a humourous spatial lens. In this visually-driven session in conversation with curator Evelyn Tauben, he will share examples of his past work and the inspiration behind his multifaceted exhibition. Together, they will explore his research process and wildly imaginative preparatory drawings. There will be guest appearances from other KlezKanada creatives who will share their crowdsourced contributions that inspired Toretzky's whimsical drawings at the heart of his Tower of the Sacred and Ordinary. Presented together by FENSTER (www.fenster.org) and KlezKanada.

Friday: Yiddish Song Plenary

Unknown Gems of the Mlotek Anthologies

with Zalmen Mlotek

The Mlotek anthologies of Yiddish song – Mir Trogn A Gezang, Pearls of Yiddish Songs, Songs of Generation, Mir Zaynen Do (a collection of Holocaust songs), Yontevdike Teg, (a collection of Yiddish holiday songs) – first published in the 70s continue to serve as important resources for the Yiddish song and klezmer communities around the world. Zalmen Mlotek will discuss and perform some of the unknown gems found in those songbooks that have yet to be recorded and popularized.

Register only for #KlezKanada26: Plenary Sessions

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezkanada26-plenary-sessions-tickets-160653981383>



Five Years of the FENTSTER Window Gallery

Evelyn Tauben

Level: All | Tuesday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

FENTSTER iz fin! Canada's most public Jewish art space celebrates its 5th birthday! Take a look back with curator Evelyn Tauben at the contemporary art installations that have been created especially for their window gallery in downtown Toronto. Exploring the Jewish experience through art, FENTSTER exhibitions can be seen day or night from the sidewalk, even during lockdowns. This multimedia session will offer a behind-the-scenes look at these projects including a taste of the ritual, tradition, personal narrative, and collective history that have inspired FENTSTER artists, including Jewish and Yiddish literature, theatre, and song. From the Credit River in Ontario to the Vistula River in Poland, from a kitchen in Winnipeg to a shul in Morocco – we'll journey to these places and more through site-specific works of art that transform a simple storefront window into a place of connection, creativity, conversation, and community.... even during COVID.

Register only for Five Years of the FENTSTER Window Gallery

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/five-years-of-the-fentster-window-gallery-tickets-160252841563>

Mickey Katz, Yinglish Comedy, and the Continuity of Klezmer

Uri Schreter

Level: All | Tuesday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Some people seem to believe that klezmer vanished in the 1950s. Others think that Mickey Katz isn't funny. Narishkayt! Fortunately, as we will hear in this lecture, none of that is true.

Join KlezKanada Freed Fellow Uri Schreter for a deep dive into the art of clarinetist, bandleader, and entertainer, the self-styled "Borscht Jester," the one and only, Mickey Katz (1909-1985). Out of all his prolific output, Katz is most famous for his "Yinglish" musical parodies, which he performed and recorded in the first couple of decades after World War II. His comical spoofs of American pop hits, apart from being beautiful, superbly executed, and preciously clever, were also an important link in the continuity of klezmer and Yiddish musical entertainment after the war. In this lecture, we will listen to Katz's recordings, learn about their history, and try to understand why, in fact, he was so damn funny.

Register only for Mickey Katz, Yinglish Comedy, and the Continuity of Klezmer

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/mickey-katz-yinglish-comedy-and-the-continuity-of-klezmer-tickets-160639331565>



Queens of Tarab: Tunisia's Jewish Superstars of 20s and 30s

Christopher Silver

Level: All | Wednesday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Between the world wars, Tunisian Jewish female recording artists like Ratiba Chamia and Louisa Tounsia, together with the era's first bona fide celebrity Habiba Messika, explored and shaped new ideas about love, marriage, and the role of women in society. They accomplished this feat through Arabic-language foxtrots, the Charleston, and a genre known as ughniyya. These singers, who identified themselves in their lyrics and through their dress as flappers or "modern girls," challenged traditional gender roles on stage and in their daily lives. Through original recordings and the stories behind them, this session will explore the often ribald music that kept Tunis on its feet for decades.

Register only for Queens of Tarab: Tunisia's Jewish Superstars of 20s and 30s

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/queens-of-tarab-tunisia-s-jewish-superstars-of-20s-and-30s-tickets-160644430817>

Samy Elmaghribi: The Life of a Moroccan Icon

Christopher Silver

Level: All | Thursday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Samy Elmaghribi (born Salomon Amzallag) was a mid-twentieth century Moroccan superstar of few equals. From his debut in 1948 through his heyday in 1956, the Jewish musician was a ubiquitous presence on radio and in concert in his native Morocco and in Algeria. During this period, his music provided Moroccans with the soundtrack to their lives as their nation marched toward independence. This session follows the remarkable life and career of Samy Elmaghribi in Morocco, France, and eventually Montreal, where, in 1968, he would come to serve as the cantor at the city's historic Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

Register only for Samy Elmaghribi: The Life of a Moroccan Icon

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/samy-elmaghribi-the-life-of-a-moroccan-icon-tickets-160645887173>



Skotshne State of Mind? Reevaluating the Skotshne genre through the KMDMP materials

Christina Crowder, Walter Zev Feldman

Level: All | Friday | AM1 – 9:30-10:45

Before the Kiselgof-Makonovetsky Digital Manuscript Project (KMDMP) came online in November 2020, the most readily accessible source of tunes labeled “skotshne” was Beregovski’s book Jewish Instrumental Folk Music (JIFM). Beregovski divides the genre into sections for “listening” and “dancing,” but even he says there are no specific musical characteristics to define these tunes. So what’s up with this elusive genre? Why would a klezmer call a tune “skotshne” in their own manuscript? This workshop will examine skotshne tunes in the KMDMP corpus with an eye to see what we can learn about how everyday klezmorim used the term in their written charts and how examining these tunes complicates and expands our understanding of the genre. Participants will have the opportunity to play selected KMDMP skotshne along with Christina and to participate in an overview and discussion with Christina and Walter Zev Feldman.

More information on the Klezmer Institute’s KMDMP can be found here:
<https://klezmerinstitute.org/kmdmp/>

Register only for Skotshne State of Mind? Reevaluating the Skotshne genre through the KMDMP materials

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/reevaluating-the-skotshne-genre-through-the-kmdmp-materials-tickets-160646651459>

Yiddish Idioms and What To Do With Them (Michael Wex Lecture Series)

Michael Wex

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Michael Wex, best-selling author of *Born to Kvetch*, gives an in-depth tour of the world of Yiddish idioms in four parts. No knowledge of Yiddish is necessary for any of these classes, but a sense of humor is required. Come to one, or come to them all!

Tuesday

Es zogt Zikh Azoy: Sources of Yiddish Idioms. We’ll have a look at the main sources—Jewish and non-Jewish; religious and cultural; animal, vegetable and mineral—from which Yiddish derives idioms.

Wednesday

A Kapore Gelt: Religious Ritual and Yiddish. The influence of Jewish ritual life, in observance and breach alike, on Yiddish terminology and expressions.

Thursday

Vi in Posek Shteyt: Yiddish and Classical Jewish Texts. We’ll look at how canonical Jewish texts have helped to shape Yiddish idioms and ways of thinking.

Friday

May the Angel of Death Get a Crush on You: The Yiddish Curse in Theory and Practice.

Please use registration links to purchase tickets for single events. To purchase a Full Week Festival Pass, please [click here](#).



Register only for Yiddish Idioms and What To Do With Them (Michael Wex Lecture Series)

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/yiddish-idioms-and-what-to-do-with-them-michael-wex-lecture-series-tickets-160620884389>

Theatre

The World of Yiddish Theatre Today

Shane Baker, Mike Burstyn, Joanne Borts, Zalmen Mlotek

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30

Come meet an array of incredible Yiddish theater artists, producers, and culture-bearers whose work inspires, delights, honors, and innovates upon the treasures of Yiddish theater tradition.

Tuesday

Zalmen Mlotek on Yiddish Fiddler

Join Zalmen Mlotek, artistic director of The National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene, in a behind-the-scenes discussion about the genesis of the acclaimed New York production of Fidler afn dakh, Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish. Under his initiative and musical direction, this production became the surprise hit of the New York theatre season, garnering several major theatre awards with national and international tours planned. The conversation will also include musical examples of the Yiddish with comparisons to the English original.

Wednesday

Meet Joanne Borts!

Meet Joanne Borts, the beloved New York theatre artist, Yiddish singer, and advocate! Compared to Bette Midler and Barbara Streisand, and counting Molly Picon and Fanny Brice among her inspirations, this Yiddish diva steals every stage she graces. Hear about her wonderful career, which has included numerous Broadway appearances, performing with Neil Sedaka, Theodore Bikel, and The Klezmatics, co-writing and co-starring the acclaimed off-Broadway family show Kids & Yiddish, serving on the National Council of Actors' Equity Association, and playing her little red accordion.

Thursday

Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre: A Gem of Jewish Montreal

Dora Wasserman immigrated to Montreal in 1950 and soon founded what was to become the Dora Wasserman Yiddish Theatre. It started as "Di Yiddishe Grupe" and these original members remained dedicated to Dora's vision and to the theatre ever since. The group grew and evolved, and established itself as a gem in the Montreal Jewish and theatre communities. Throughout its history, the DWYT has performed Yiddish classics, new works, notable translations, toured the world and invested in its future through children's programming. Its ongoing collaborations with a spectrum of communities, artists and culture makers have created meaningful bonds. As the only permanent Yiddish theatre now in Canada, the DWYT is proud of over a half century of developing and preserving Yiddish language and culture through the arts.

Please use registration links to purchase tickets for single events. To purchase a Full Week Festival Pass, please [click here](#).



Join a few DWYT members to explore the theatre's rich history, significant moments onstage and off, and the vision for its next generation.

Friday

Shane Baker Interviews Mike Burstyn

Born in New York to a family of Yiddish actors, internationally acclaimed America/Israeli actor, director, and entertainer Mike Burstyn has been wowing audiences since the age of three. Learn about Mr. Burstyn's incredible career including numerous Broadway appearances, hosting his own variety TV show in Holland, and garnering 2 Israeli Oscars. Who better to tease out these tales than Shane Baker: Yiddish actor extraordinaire, host of the KlezKabaret and recent collaborator with Mr. Burstyn on a celebrated virtual production of Itzik Manger's Megillah Cycle.

Register only for The World of Yiddish Theatre Today

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-world-of-yiddish-theatre-today-tickets-161014196797>

Vu bistu geven? Where have you been?: A Yiddish theatre making workshop

Jenny Romaine

Level: All | Tuesday - Friday | AM2 - 11:15-12:30 and PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Last year when the pandemic prevented our gathering at Camp B'nai Brith, an artistic team commissioned to create a 25th anniversary tribute to KlezKanada made a movie that looked backwards, sideways, and to the land itself to reflect on Yiddish life in the Laurentian mountains, Indigeneity, and what mutual aid could look like in this current moment. This summer work continues on this Québec-based adventure parable featuring original music and songs in Yiddish, English, and Kanien'kéha.

We'll explore Sholem Shtern's Yiddish/French work *Dos Vayse Hoyz* about the Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts, and puzzle over ideas of Indigeneity found in North American Yiddish plays. We will conduct oral histories with each other and continue to develop our communities' knowledge of local Indigenous histories and perspectives. The class will meet two periods a day (AM 2 and PM 1) and will culminate in a live Zoom performance on Saturday night, August 28th.

The artistic team from the 2020 commission was: Geoff Berner, Sadie Gold Shapiro (2021 KlezKanada Freed Fellow), Rachel Lemisch, Simone Lucas, Jenny Romaine, Ira Temple, with Kanien'kehá:ka (Mohawk) artist scholar historians Trina Stacey, and Eric Pouliot-Thisdale, and made possible by the generosity of the Rivaya Tzafon Fund (Montreal, QC).

Register only for Vu bistu geven? Where have you been?: A Yiddish theatre making workshop

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/vu-bistu-geven-where-have-you-been-a-yiddish-theatre-making-workshop-tickets-161546312369>



Yiddish Language

Advanced Yiddish Classes & Lectures with Eugene Orenstein

Eugene Orenstein

Level: Advanced | Tuesday – Friday | AM1 – 9:30-10:45

This lecture series includes three sessions of a Seminar in Advanced Yiddish (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday), and the annual Sara Rosenfeld Memorial Lecture (Friday). All sessions will be conducted in Yiddish.

Seminar in Advanced Yiddish:

A close reading of Peretz Markish's "di kupe," the poetic work that created a revolution in Yiddish literature, on the centenary of its publication.

The annual Sara Rosenfeld Memorial Lecture:

Moyshe Broderzon, Poet and Dramatist of the Yiddish Avant-garde. 65 Years after his premature death.

יודזשין אָרענשטיין, סעמינאַר אין אַוואַנסירטן ייִדיש: פּרץ מאַרקישעס פּאָעמע, „די קופּע“, אַ שעדעוור פֿונעם ייִדישן מאָדערניזם אין גערעם פֿון איר צייט.

יודזשין אָרענשטיין, די יאַריקע לעקציע אין אַנדענק פֿון שׂרה ראָזענפֿעלד ע״ה: משה בראָדערזאָן, פּאָעט, דראַמאַטורג, קולטור שאַפֿער פֿון ייִדישן אַוואַנגאַרד (65 יאַר נאָך זײַן פֿריצײטיקן טױט)

This course is part of the Ruchla Ferdman Yiddish Program, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Tauben family.

Register only for Advanced Yiddish Classes & Lectures with Eugene Orenstein

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/advanced-yiddish-classes-lectures-with-eugene-orenstein-tickets-160238025247>



Conversational Yiddish For Beginners

Asya Vaisman Schulman

Level: Beginner | Tuesday - Friday | AM1 - 9:30-10:45

With this Yiddish crash course for beginners, you will leave class every day able to have a new short conversation with your classmates entirely in Yiddish. Learn how to introduce yourself, talk about what you do each day of the week, count various items, and sing some simple Yiddish songs. The class will also introduce students to reading and writing in the alef-beys. This dynamic and engaging class is for absolute beginners and will be taught using materials from the instructor's award-winning textbook, *In eynem*.

This course is taught cumulatively, with each day's lesson building on the previous day. As such, registration is only available by course pass, rather than day-by-day registration. Space is limited!

This course is part of the Ruchla Ferdman Yiddish Program, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Tauben family.

Register only for Conversational Yiddish For Beginners

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/conversational-yiddish-for-beginners-tickets-160231977157>

Intermediate Yiddish: Mit yidish iber der velt

Nikolai Borodulin

Level: Intermediate | Tuesday - Friday | PM1 - 2:00-3:15

Meet and chat with contemporary Yiddishists and learn about legendary Yiddishists from the past. This class, taught by master teacher and Director of Yiddish Programming at the Workers Circle in New York, offers an engaging way to improve your Yiddish and connect more deeply with Yiddish language, community, and history.

This course is for students at the intermediate level. This class has limited enrollment. Registration for the full week, rather than day-by-day, is strongly encouraged.

This course is part of the Ruchla Ferdman Yiddish Program, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Tauben family.

Register only for Intermediate Yiddish: Mit yidish iber der velt

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/intermediate-yiddish-mit-yidish-iber-der-velt-tickets-160622898413>



Children's Program

The KlezKanada KlezKids Program

Lorie Wolf, Madeline Solomon

Level: | |

Join KlezKids directors Lorie Wolf (Toronto) and Madeline Solomon (Brooklyn, NY) for a week of learning and creativity!

This week, the KlezKids Program will work on the production of Zlateh the Goat, a heart-warming Yiddish folk tale (as told by Isaac Bashevis Singer) combining music-making, puppetry, film, visual art, storytelling and drama led by experts in the field. By following the interests of your children, we will create a piece that not only engages them fully but also gives them space to play, reflect and build community.

AM1: Family Concerts: 9:30-10:45 AM ET

The day begins with a special series of interactive concerts for the whole family. Learn to bleat like a goat with clarinetist Michael Winograd and weep like a violin with Deborah Strauss. Talk to your pet in Yiddish with Esther Gottesman and lament in song with Sasha Lurie. And much more!

AM 2: Yiddish Folk Tale Project: 11:15-12:30 PM ET

Bring this story to life with music, puppets, movement and art!

Musicians: make a soundscape for the story with Lorie Wolf

Artists, dancers, puppeteers: turn your home into a snowstorm with the help of Tine Kindermann; create puppets of the boy and goat and help them dance together to keep warm with Madeline Solomon.

PM1: Tweens-Only! Film Project: 2:00-3:15 PM ET

Get some tips on how to make a film about this very goat-y folktale

PM 2: Yiddish Folk Tale Project: 3:30-5:00 PM ET

Work continues on our music and art project!

Special guests to this year's KlezKanada Program include:

Christian Dawid, Esther Gottesman, Craig Judelman, Sasha Lurje, Socalled, Deborah Strauss, Jeff Warschauer, Michael Winograd

Register only for The KlezKanada KlezKids Program

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezkanadas-2021-backwards-march-tickets-161574795563>



Film

Paint What You Remember: Screening and Talk-Back with Barbara Kirshenblatt Gimblett

Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett

Level: All | Friday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

Paint What You Remember (30 min), directed by Slawomir Grunberg, portrays an extraordinary moment in the life of Mayer Kirshblatt. At the age of 73, and 56 years after his 1934 emigration from Poland to Canada, Mayer began to paint his childhood memories of prewar life in Opatow. Before WWII, Opatow had 10 thousand inhabitants, more than half of them Jewish. Nowadays, little is remembered of the shtetl character of the town and of the town's Jewish population that was wiped out entirely by the Holocaust. When, in 2007, 91 year old Mayer came to Opatow and organized a public showing of his paintings, he was welcomed with incredible enthusiasm.

Following the film, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett will talk about what happened after the film was made and what is happening today in Mayer's town as a result of his town's embrace of him and his memories, in words and images, of a world to which they would not otherwise have access. Kirshenblatt-Gimblett is world-renowned a scholar of Jewish and Performance Studies, Cheif Curator of POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, and the daughter of Mayer Kirshenblatt. This film is co-presented by KlezKanada and the Polish Cultural Institute, New York.

Register only for Paint What You Remember: Screening and Talk-Back with Barbara Kirshenblatt Gimblett

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/screening-and-talk-back-with-barbara-kirshenblatt-gimblett-tickets-161025530697>

Shimon's Returns

Level: All | Tuesday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

Shimon's Returns (56 min), directed by Emmy award-winning documentary filmmaker Slawomir Grunberg, tells the story of Shimon Redlich, a Holocaust survivor who returns to places from his childhood as well as different hiding places in his struggle to survive. The film features archival footage from the 1948 Yiddish film "Unzere Kinder," where Shimon played a role as a child actor. A collector of memories and a seeker of good will, Shimon takes us on a journey through Poland and Ukraine, uncovering the brighter sides of dark times. This film is co-presented by KlezKanada and the Polish Cultural Institute, New York.

Register only for Shimon's Returns

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/shimons-returns-tickets-161020118509>



The Komediant

Level: All | Thursday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

The Komediant (1 hr 20 min), directed by Arnon Goldfinger and written by Oshra Schwartz, delightfully documents a golden age of Yiddish theatre through the lives of the legendary Burstein family: Pesach Burstein, his wife Lillian Lux, his son Mike Burstyn, and daughter Susan Burstein-Roth. Made in honour of the Pesach Burstein's 100th birth anniversary, the film received the Israeli Academy's Best Documentary Award.

Can't get enough Burstein? Don't miss Shane Baker interviewing Mike Burstyn himself in a special session on Friday 8/27, 11:15 AM ET.

Register only for The Komediant

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-komediant-tickets-161024288983>

Ver Vet Blaybn?

Christa P. Whitney, Emily Felder

Level: All | Wednesday | PM3 - 5:30-6:30

Attempting to better understand her grandfather Avrom Sutzkever, Israeli actress Hadas Kalderon travels to Lithuania, and uses her grandfather's diary to trace his early life in Vilna and his survival of the Holocaust. Sutzkever (1913–2010) was an acclaimed Yiddish poet—described by the New York Times as the “greatest poet of the Holocaust”—whose verse drew on his youth in Siberia and Vilna, his spiritual and material resistance during World War II, and his post-war life in the State of Israel. Kalderon is determined to connect with what remains of the poet's bygone world and confront the personal responsibility of preserving her grandfather's literary legacy. As Kalderon strives to reconstruct the stories told by her grandfather, the film examines the limits of language, geography, and time.

Following the screening, join co-directors Christa P. Whitney and Emily Felder as they share how Sutzkever's life and his poetic works compelled them to share his story through the making of Ver Vet Blaybn?, and continue to inspire them today.

Register only for Ver Vet Blaybn?

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/ver-vet-blaybn-tickets-161021265941>



Community

Backwards March

Level: | Friday |

August 27, 2020 6:30pm

We wrap up this summer's retreat as we did last year, with a virtual Backwards March. Last summer's march included over 85 contributing instrumentalists and singers from around the world, blended together to emulate our annual pre-Shabes event. In this year's event we will use the opportunity to reflect on the year that's passed, and look forward into the future. With our voices blending together, we will close out this second virtual retreat with this special melody that brings us together each year.

Register only for Backwards March

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezkanadas-2021-backwards-march-tickets-161574795563>

Come Socialize! BYOLunch: the Virtual Dining Hall

Level: | Tuesday - Friday | Lunch - 12:45-1:45

Tuesday - Friday, August 24-27th:

12:45-1:45 PM ET

No waiting on line for CBB food - bring your own. Share experiences. Meet friends old and new at KlezKanada's virtual dining hall. All who wish to be together are welcome. If there are enough of us, we may split up into breakout rooms. For complaints about the food, please speak to the chef in the mirror. Your presence will be our pleasure.

Register only for Come Socialize! BYOLunch: the Virtual Dining Hall

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/come-socialize-byolunch-the-virtual-dining-hall-tickets-161035803423>

Lomir Ale Zingen af Zoom! A Yiddish sing-along led by Sarah Mina Gordon

Sarah Mina Gordon

Level: All | Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday | Sing-a-long 7:30-8:15

Lomir zingen a yidish lid...af Zoom. A beloved KlezKanada tradition, our daily after-dinner sing-a-long goes digital again! We'll be singing old favourites and soon-to-be new favourites using our ever-expanding "KlezKanada Sings" songbook. Will there be special guests? Yes, there will be! Will there be fun? Yes, especially if you join! All voices welcome, encouraged, and accepted. Come make a joyful Yiddish noise.

Register only for Lomir Ale Zingen af Zoom! A Yiddish sing-along led by Sarah Mina Gordon

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/lomir-ale-zingen-af-zoom-a-yiddish-sing-along-led-by-sarah-mina-gordon-tickets-161520898355>



Late Night

The Late-Night KlezKabaret

Shane Baker, Rachel Weston

Level: All | Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday | Late Night - 10:00 - 11:00

Come to the KlezKabaret! Your chance to shine! Late at night after the sensible folk have gone to bed, the exotic and the strange parade until the wee small hours. You never know what you'll see or hear at the cabaret unless you perform it yourself. So show us the song, scene, or dance you've been working on at home, or share the secret skill no one knows about, and make your bones as a KlezKanader. Join hosts Shane Baker and KlezKanada Freed Fellow Rachel Weston for your nightly dose of entertainment... and then some.

Register only for The Late-Night KlezKabaret

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-late-night-klezkabaret-tickets-161536848061>

KlezKanada Literary Salon

Lisa Mayer, Adah Hetko

Level: All | Tuesday | Late Night - 10:00 - 11:00

The KlezKanada Literary Salon cordially invites you to come and enjoy listening, or take a turn reading a poem, play excerpt, story, or any other text that relates to Yiddish culture and life. All languages are welcome!

The optional theme of the evening is...Royt (Red)! Choose a text that connects with red (interpreted in any way you'd like), wear something red, or prepare a red drink to sip as you enjoy the salon!

Hosted by writer and Maine Rebbetzin Lisa Mayer and Multidisciplinary Programs Coordinator Adah Hetko. This event was inspired by a Late Night Literary Salon at Yiddish New York 2020.

Register only for KlezKanada Literary Salon

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/klezkanada-literary-salon-tickets-161522571359>



Shtiler Ovnt: A Quiet Night in Yiddish Culture

Nikolai Borodulin

Level: All | Thursday | Late Night - 10:00 - 11:00

During this quiet time on Thursday night, we will share poetry, songs, and stories in memory of our beloved Peysakh Fiszman z"l. Coordinated by Kolya Borodulin and featuring KlezKanada faculty and close friends of Peysakh Fiszman. This program will be conducted in Yiddish.

This session is presented as part of the Ruchla Ferdman Yiddish Program, made possible thanks to the generous support of the Tauben family.

Register only for Shtiler Ovnt: A Quiet Night in Yiddish Culture

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/shtiler-ovnt-a-quiet-night-in-yiddish-culture-tickets-161524156099>