Lomir Tantsn/Let’s Dance: Teacher & Musician Line-Up

Avia Moore grew up in the British Columbia folk arts scene, and has since come to acknowledge that it rubbed off on her and is evident in almost everything she does. She is currently working on her PhD in Theatre and Performance Studies at York University. Avia’s research examines the ways in which heritage and traditional cultural practices are performed on modern stages and in contemporary life. Other interests include critical heritage studies, cultural memory, cultural policy, performance creation, the director in the devising studio, and photography in/as performance. Avia has worked extensively as a creative producer with festivals and cultural organizations across North America as well as on individual artistic projects in North America and Europe. Avia is also a photographer and graphic designer, and teaches Yiddish dance at festivals around the world.

Adah Hetko is a Yiddish singer, rhythm guitarist and dance leader with the Northampton-based klezmer band, Burikes. A new resident of Somerville, Adah can also be spotted performing Yiddish songs and leading Yiddish dance in the Boston area. Adah is an alum of the Yiddish Book Center’s Graduate Fellowship and the Steiner Summer Yiddish program, and she holds a master’s degree in Jewish Studies from Indiana University, where she wrote a thesis on contemporary Yiddish women singers. She also performs with and writes songs for the Yiddish song duo, Adah and Allison. Adah has studied Yiddish dance with Avia Moore, Jill Gellerman and Asya Vaisman Schulman.

REGISTER: bit.ly/lomirtantsn
Sarah Myerson is a cantor actively working to bridge the worlds of Jewish religion and Yiddish culture. Her love of klezmer music and background in folk dance drew her to study Yiddish dance at festivals and workshops. Since 2008 she has led Yiddish social dancing and taught workshops in Europe, Israel, Canada, Mexico, the USA and Australia. To deepen her connection with Ashkenazi culture, Sarah has studied Yiddish language at YIVO (NY), the Arbeter Ring (NY), Beit Ben Yehuda (Jerusalem) and Tel Aviv University. Sarah received her bachelor’s degree in composition from the Conservatorium of Music in Sydney, Australia. She continues to write and perform new Yiddish and sacred Jewish music, often accompanying herself on banjolele, piano, accordion or percussion. Sarah received her cantorial investiture and Master of Sacred Music degree from JTS (NY). She currently serves the community of Kane Street Synagogue in Brooklyn (NY). Contact her through www.cantorsarahmyerson.com.

Judy Bressler, featured vocalist for 24 years and founding member of Boston’s Klezmer Conservatory Band, is heard on all 10 KCB recordings available on the Vanguard label and Rounder Records. She has lead Yiddish dancing in the aisles in concerts around the world, in formal and informal spaces, in open plazas and in tiny clubs and has both studied and taught Yiddish dance at Klezkamp. Judy was guest vocalist with Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi on City Of The Future, Yiddish Songs From The Former Soviet Union (Arc, 2015). She is part of an ongoing project with Itzhak Perlman called “In The Fiddler’s House” including a studio album by that name on EMI, a live album recorded at Radio City Music Hall (1996), many performances including Moscow (2009), Carnegie Hall for the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene’s 100th Anniversary (2015) and Boston Symphony Hall’s Celebrity Series (2016) and at San Francisco Symphony Hall (2019). From Brooklyn and Queens, Judy is third generation in a family of Yiddish theatre performers who came to NY from Warsaw, Poland in 1920 including Lucy and Misha Gehrman, Menashe and Sara Skulnick, Regina Russakoff and grandfather, Isidore Lipinsky. Judy’s pure, evocative, versatile voice inspired Tony award winning choreographer, Bill T. Jones, to write new Boston Ballet work (The Broken Wedding). Judy Bressler has been acclaimed and loved by critics and audiences worldwide for singing songs that simply touch the heart of what it means to be human.
Clarinetist Nat Seelen studied music theory, history, and composition at Brown University, where he received the Brand Musical Premium, the Buxtehude Premium for Musical Excellence, and departmental honors for his ethnomusicology thesis on klezmer music. An active composer and writer as well as a performer, Nat won first prize in the 2015 Klezmer Company Orchestra Composition Competition and a 2016 Iguana Music Fund grant to write a pedagogical text on klezmer music. Nat reviews concerts for AllAboutJazz and has performed on clarinet, saxophones, and percussion with Hankus Netsky, OktoEcho, The Macrotones, The Longwood Symphony, The Mercury Symphony, and many others. In past lives, he has been a zookeeper, a comic book librarian, a management consultant, and an AP music theory teacher. He lives in Cambridge, MA with his wife.

With over 7 million hits on YouTube for his “Subway Sax Battle,” Zach Meyer has performed with John Zorn, Frank London, Michael Alpert, Joey Weisenberg, and Bobby McFerrin. He performs internationally with Zion80, a 10-piece Jewish Afrobeat band inspired by the music of Shlomo Carlebach, and his folk sextet, Night Tree, has toured internationally and has released two albums produced by Seamus Egan of SOLAS. He has been on the faculty at the Brandeis Institute of Music and Art, Laguardia Arts High School in Manhattan, and teaches at Jewish music festivals worldwide. Zach is the musical director of Kahal B’raira, a humanistic Jewish congregation in Cambridge. He received his Masters of Music from the New England Conservatory in Boston.
Michael McLaughlin wears many hats in the Boston music scene. He has been part of the Klezmer and Jewish music world since 1995 as a performer, arranger and composer for The Shirim Klezmer Orchestra, and Naftule’s Dream, more recently with Klezwoods and the Yaeko Miranda Quintet. Performances have included the Helsinki Klezmer Festival, the Berlin Jazz Festival, the Texaco Jazz Festival in NYC and the Ashkenaz New Jewish Music Festival. In the jazz world, McLaughlin is performing evocative, original improvisational music for The Tall Tale Trio, while on many a Saturday afternoons you will find him playing accordion with some of the most talented “roots” and Americana musicians in Boston with Josh Lederman and the CSARS, at the Plough and Stars in Cambridge. McLaughlin holds a D.M.A in Music Composition from the New England Conservatory (’09), a MA in Music Composition from Tufts University (’99), and a BM from Berklee College of Music (’93). He was a recipient of a Mass Cultural Council Artist Grant award in composition. (’01) His works have been performed by The Boston Modern Orchestra Project, Trio Capriccio and the Chameleon Arts Ensemble, and can be heard on Tzadik Records, Newport Classics, Ryko Disc and more. He directs the Tufts klezmer ensemble, The Jumbo Knish Factory where he also teaches courses in musicianship and theory.

Ilya Shneyveys is an international performer, accordionist and multi-instrumentalist, teacher, composer, arranger and producer of contemporary Jewish music, from klezmer and Yiddish folk song to fusion and experimental projects. A founding member of Berlin’s famous Neukölln Klezmer Sessions and Shtetl Neukölln festival, as well as a long-time faculty member at Yiddish Summer Weimar, Ilya has performed and taught at major Jewish festivals around the world, including Yiddish Fest Moscow, Yiddish New York, Klezfest St.Petersburg, Klezfest London, KlezKanada, Montreal Jewish Festival, Toronto Ashkenaz Festival, Krakow Jewish Festival and more. Ilya composes contemporary traditional klezmer pieces and creates original arrangements of traditional Jewish music. He is renowned as an improvisor, accompanist and band leader. Originally from Riga, Latvia, Ilya has been traveling the world for the last 15 years promoting Yiddish music and culture. He is currently based in Brooklyn, NY.
Christina Crowder started playing Jewish music in Budapest, where she lived from 1993 to 2002. She is a founding member of Di Naye Kapelye—an ensemble dedicated to researching and performing traditional Eastern European Jewish music. The group did original research in Hungary and Romania and toured extensively in Europe. From 1999 to 2001, Christina and her husband John DeMetrick pursued Fulbright grants in Romania, working with elderly violinists who had played for Jewish communities before World War II. She continues this research with a project to document connections between klezmer, Moldavian and Greek music with Walter Zev Feldman at NYU Abu Dhabi, and she is the Operations Director of the newly-founded Klezmer Institute.

Christina lives in New Haven, Connecticut, where she performs with her chamber klezmer quartet Bivolița (Bec-vo-lee-cta). She also performs regularly with Michael Winograd and the Honorable Mentschen, Alicia Svigals Klezmer Express, the Alexander Fiterstein Trio, the Goldenshtayn Kompaniye and the Dave Levitt Klezmer Trio. She has been a guest instructor in klezmer accordion and ensemble performance in the U.S., Canada and Europe, and was both musical director and performer in the 2019 Oregon Shakespeare Festival production of the Broadway play “Indecent,” and will reprise both roles with Artist Repertory Theater in Portland, OR in the spring of 2020.