



THE RAYMOND F. KRAVIS CENTER
FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

presents in

Alexander W. Dreyfoos Concert Hall
on the Bernard and Chris Marden Stage

December 17

Classical Concert Series

ITZHAK PERLMAN:
IN THE FIDDLER'S HOUSE

ITZHAK PERLMAN, Violin

HANKUS NETSKY, Music Director, Arranger, Saxophone, Piano

LORIN SKLAMBERG, Vocals, Accordion

JUDY BRESSLER, Vocals, Percussion

MICHAEL ALPERT, Vocals, Violin

ANDY STATMAN, Clarinet, Mandolin

FRANK LONDON, Trumpet

KLEZMER CONSERVATORY BAND

ILENE STAHL, Clarinet

MARK BERNEY, Trumpet

MARK HAMILTON, Trombone

JAMES GUTTMANN, Bass

GRANTLEY SMITH, Drums

PETE RUSHEFSKY, Tsimbl

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ITZHAK PERLMAN



Photo credit: Lisa Marie Mazzucco

Undeniably the reigning virtuoso of the violin, **ITZHAK PERLMAN** enjoys superstar status rarely afforded a classical musician. Beloved for his charm and humanity as well as his talent, he is treasured by audiences throughout the world who respond not only to his remarkable artistry, but also to his irrepressible joy for making music.

Having performed with every major orchestra and at concert halls around the globe, Mr. Perlman was granted a Presidential Medal of Freedom – the Nation’s highest civilian honor – by President Obama in 2015, a National Medal of Arts by President Clinton in 2000, and a Medal of Liberty by President Reagan in 1986. Mr. Perlman has been honored with 16 GRAMMY® Awards, four Emmy Awards, a Kennedy Center Honor, a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Genesis Prize.

In the 2023/24 season, Mr. Perlman brings his iconic PBS special *In the Fiddler’s House* program to San Francisco, Houston, Bethesda and Palm

Beach, joined by today’s klezmer stars including Hankus Netsky, Andy Statman and members of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. His orchestral engagements include play/conduct programs with the Houston Symphony on Tchaikovsky’s Symphony No. 5 and Charleston Symphony on Beethoven’s *Eroica* Symphony as well as a series of concerto and conducting appearances with the Israel Philharmonic. He continues touring *An Evening with Itzhak Perlman*, which captures highlights of his career through narrative and multi-media elements intertwined with performance, with dates in Newark, Dallas, Costa Mesa and Stony Brook. He plays recitals across North America including Toronto, Los Angeles and Portland with longtime collaborator Rohan De Silva.

He currently serves as Artistic Partner of the Houston Symphony in a partnership that commenced in the 2020/21 season and culminates at the end of 2023/24. He performs 9 programs across three seasons that feature him in versatile appearances as conductor, soloist, recitalist and presenter.

Mr. Perlman has an exclusive series of classes with *Masterclass.com*, the premier online education company that enables access to the world’s most brilliant minds including Gordon Ramsay, Wolfgang Puck, Martin Scorsese, Ron Howard, Helen Mirren, Jodie Foster and Serena Williams, as the company’s first classical-music presenter.



A multi-instrumentalist, composer, and ethnomusicologist, **DR. HANKUS NETSKY** is chair of New England Conservatory's Contemporary Improvisation Department, a pioneering multi-cultural music department now in its 41st year, and founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band, an internationally renowned Yiddish music

ensemble. He has composed extensively for film, theater, and television, collaborated closely with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Robin Williams, Joel Grey, Theodore Bikel, and Robert Brustein, and produced numerous recordings, including ten by the Klezmer Conservatory Band. He was the recipient of the Yosl Mlotek award and a "Forward Fifty" award for his role in the resurgence of traditional Eastern European Jewish ethnic musical culture and a New England Conservatory Outstanding Alumni award as well as their Louis Krasner and Lawrence Lesser awards for Excellence in Teaching. He has also taught at McGill University, Hampshire College, Wesleyan University and Hebrew College. His essays on Jewish music have been published by the University of California Press, the University of Pennsylvania Press, the University of Scranton Press, Hips Roads, and the University Press of America, and Temple University Press published his book, "Klezmer, Music and Community in 20th Century Jewish Philadelphia" in 2015.



LORIN SKLAMBERG is a founding member of the Grammy Award-winning Yiddish-American roots band the Klezmatics; his composition *Happy Joyous Hanukkah* with lyrics by Woody Guthrie has been published in choral arrangements by Hal Leonard. He has been heard on innumerable recordings and live shows, solo and in collaboration with such diverse artists as Jane Siberry, Odetta,

Chava Alberstein, Emmylou Harris, Tracy Grammer, Neil Sedaka, Natalie Merchant and Tony Kushner. He has written and performed for film, dance, stage and circus, and has produced a number of recordings of world and theater music. He also teaches Yiddish song from São Paulo to St. Petersburg. His and Frank London's Hasidic "spiritual" programs have resulted in three critically-acclaimed recordings. Projects include *Saints and Tzadiks* with Dublin-born chanteuse Susan McKeown, the score for Erik Anjou's documentary *Deli Man* (USA, 2014); the *Semer Ensemble*, a celebration of Jewish recordings made in Berlin 1933-38; the award-winning Yiddish-Bavarian *Alpen Klezmer* with Andrea Pancur and Ilya Shneyveys; *Sklamberg and the Shepherds* (traditional and original Yiddish, Russian and South Mediterranean music); and composer Jocelyn Pook's *Drawing Life*, a multi-media song cycle commissioned by the Jewish Music Institute of London (JMI). By day Lorin serves as the Sound Archivist of New York's YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. "One of the premier American singers in any genre."



JUDY BRESSLER recorded as a special guest singer on ARC in 2015 with Yale Strom and Hot Pstromi presents City Of The Future-Yiddish Songs From the Former Soviet Union. Judy Bressler is a founding member of Boston's Klezmer Conservatory Band and is the featured vocalist on all 10 KCB CD's. A third generation Yiddish performer, she was seen in the PBS documentary film A Jumpin' Night In The Garden Of Eden and was featured hilariously with Joel Grey in Borscht Capades '94. Being part of In The Fiddler's House with Itzhak Perlman and company since 1996, the first studio album, the second album "live" at Radio City Music Hall, Mexico City, Moscow, klezzing the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall (debut) in 2015 for 100th anniversary of the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene and Symphony Hall, Boston (debut) 2016 were all highly memorable events, acclaimed and loved by critics and audiences alike.



MICHAEL ALPERT is a pioneer of the worldwide Klezmer/ Yiddish renaissance since the 1970s and a National Heritage Fellow of the United States—the nation's highest honor for traditional and heritage artists. He is internationally known as a soloist and for his award-winning performances and recordings with Brave Old World, Itzhak Perlman, Theodore Bikel, David Krakauer, Daniel Kahn, Frank

London, and others. A native Yiddish speaker and one of the few contemporary singers in the traditional style of pre-WWII Eastern European Jewish generations, he is also a celebrated innovator in Yiddish song, with original compositions on contemporary themes. Alpert was music director of the Emmy Award/Rose D'Or-winning PBS special Itzhak Perlman: In the Fiddler's House and is featured in film and media worldwide. An essential link to Old World Jewish musicians, he has documented Jewish music and dance throughout the globe and published scholarly work on Eastern European Jewish performance traditions. He is a leading teacher of the Yiddish cultural arts worldwide and plays a central role in transmitting Ashkenazic music and dance to younger generations. Alpert is a research associate of NYC's Center for Traditional Music and Dance and the Center for Art and Politics at the University of St. Andrews and has taught at Oxford, Columbia, and Indiana universities and the New England Conservatory of Music. He is married to literary scholar Emily Finer and lives in Scotland.



Born into a family with a long line of cantors, composers, and both classical and vaudeville musicians, **ANDY STATMAN** grew up in Queens, New York. His early musical memories include 1950s rock and roll, big band jazz, and classical music; family get-togethers where the celebrants danced to klezmer melodies and Tin Pan Alley and Broadway tunes; and the rabbi

in his afternoon religious school who sang Hasidic songs. Statman started playing bluegrass at the age of twelve and was soon performing with local bands at colleges, on radio, in clubs, and Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village. At seventeen, after hearing avant-garde jazz saxophonist Albert Ayler, he began studying saxophone. He became a protégé of legendary klezmer clarinetist Dave Tarras, for whom the master wrote a number of melodies and bequeathed four of his clarinets. Andy Statman has appeared on over 100 recordings. His *Between Heaven and Earth* album was picked as one of the Top-Ten CDs of the Year by the *New York Times*. He has recorded and toured with the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, Dr. John, Ricky Skaggs, Béla Fleck, David Grisman, and Itzhak Perlman, among others. A Grammy Award nominee and recipient of grants from the NEA Fellowship and NY State Council on the Arts, Statman has performed at Carnegie Hall, Town Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Met, and at major venues throughout the United States, Europe, Canada, Japan, and Israel. In 2012 Statman received the National Heritage Award from the National Endowment for the Arts—the highest honor given to tradition-based musicians and artists in the United States.

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FRANK LONDON is a Grammy-award winning trumpeter and composer, a member of the **Klezmatics**, and leads the Hungarian - New York band, **Glass House Orchestra**, the bhangra funk group **Sharabi** (with Deep Singh), and his **Shekhinah Big Band**. He has performed and recorded with John Zorn, Pink Floyd, Mel Tormé, Lester Bowie's Brass Fantasy, LaMonte Young, They Might Be Giants,

David Byrne, and is featured on over 400 CDs.

His own recordings include *Invocations* (cantorial music); Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars' *Di Shikere Kapelye, Brotherhood Of Brass; Nigunim* and *The Zmiros Project* (Jewish mystical songs, with Klezmatics vocalist Lorin Sklamberg); *The Debt* (film and theater music); *The Shekhina Big Band*; the soundtrack to *The Shvitz*; the soundtrack to Perl Gluck's *Divan* and four releases with the Hasidic New Wave. His first symphony, *1001 Voices: A Symphony for Queens* (with text by Judith Sloan & video by Warren Lehrer) for orchestra, chorus, soloists, tabla, erhu, narrator, actors and film premiered in 2012.

He is currently composing a Yiddish opera in a Cuban nightclub, *Hatuey: Memory of Fire* with Elise Thoron, and his latest collaboration is an exploration of klezmer and cantorial music with Cantor Yaakov Lemmer and clarinetist Michael Winograd. London's other projects include the folk-opera *A Night In The Old Marketplace* (based on Y.L. Peretz's 1907 play), and the multi-media work *Salomé, Woman of Valor* (with Adeena Karasick).



You will note a vase with a single red rose on the left side of the stage and a vase with one pink and one white rose on the right side.

The pink and white roses are in tribute to the *Classical Concert Series* Foundation founders Leonard and Sophie Davis, a gift of the Blanche S. Levine Foundation.

The red rose is in tribute to the *Classical Concert Series* founder Clyde Fyfe for his ritual presentation of a single red rose to the artist

KLEZMER CONSERVATORY BAND



ILENE STAHL always wanted to play in a rock and roll band but “says she didn’t know” she picked the wrong instrument. Nevertheless, she’s been called the

“Jimi Hendrix of klezmer clarinet” for her pyrotechnic performance style and soulful interpretations of traditional Yiddish music.

Ilene has been the clarinetist with The Klezmer Conservatory Band since 1987. She came to Boston immediately after graduating from Hampshire College where she did her Division III thesis, “Special Oy-fects The Art of Klezmer Clarinet.” With the KCB, Ilene has performed extensively throughout the United States and on all international tours. She has been featured on numerous recordings and on radio and TV broadcasts, including the Great Performances program “In The Fiddler’s House” with Itzhak Perlman as well as both recordings based on that collaboration. In 1998 Ilene founded Klezperanto - along with music director and accordionist Evan Harlan - to create a new kind of dance music that would combine the irresistible rhythms of zydeco, cumbia, funk, second-line, and Romanian brass band surf music with klezmer.

Ilene also teaches clarinet. Many of her students from Boston, Klez Kamp, and Klez Canada have gone on to form klezmer bands of their own.



MARK BERNEY is hailed as one of New England’s most handsome and versatile middle-aged trumpeters. He joined the Klezmer Conservatory Band in 1998 and has appeared at the Hollywood Bowl, Carnegie Hall, and the Sharon Public Library. Professor Berney teaches trumpet, improvisation, and music history at the University of Rhode Island. He has been known to perform a lively wedding celebration on a Saturday night, then run a full marathon the following morning.



MARK HAMILTON has been a member since 1985. As the only trombone player “In the Fiddler’s House,” he appeared, with Itzhak Perlman, on *The Late Show*

with David Letterman. A talented educator, Mark is on the jazz faculty at Blue Lake Fine Arts Camp in Michigan. He is the former Instrumental Music Director at Applewild School in central Massachusetts, where his bands consistently won top honors at the International Association of Jazz Educator’s festivals. Both an arranger and composer, he specializes in klezmer and jazz music for concert bands and other ensembles. He created HamiiTunes in order to publish this music and make it available for school and adult bands. Mark is a busy freelancer (even though he plays the trombone) and has performed with Joe Williams, Victor Borge, Robin Williams, and Joel Grey among others. A proud graduate of New England Conservatory and the University of Delaware, he is also a founding member of the ensembles Brass Planet and jKlezperanto!



From Carnegie Hall to smoky dives, from the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam to legendary folk music venue Club Passim in Cambridge, Massachusetts, bassist **JIM GUTTMANN** has played everything from klezmer to classical — and most styles in between. He joined the Klezmer Conservatory Band at its inception and as a member of the band has toured

nationally and internationally, performed and recorded with Itzhak Perlman and Joel Grey, performed on all the band’s recordings and coordinated the production of the last five. He has recorded and performed klezmer music with Andy Statman, Alicia Svigals’ *Klezmer Fiddle Express*, Art Bailey’s *Orkestra Popilar* and with Michael Winograd and Pete Sokolow’s *Tarras Band*, a tribute to the great klezmer clarinetist Dave Tarras.

Jim is a founding member of the *Really Eclectic String Quartet* and has worked with renowned entertainers and musicians, including singers Eartha Kitt and Mark Murphy, the Really Eclectic String Quartet, blues masters Johnny Shines and James Cotton, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Texas swing legend Tiny Moore, new acoustic music guitar virtuoso Russ Barenberg, the Artie Shaw Orchestra, and many more. In 1986 he organized and served as the musical director and bassist for the Tufts University Jazz Festival’s *Soul to Soul: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin*. He was a member of the 2004 Grammy Award winning ensemble that recorded Yehudi Wyner’s “The Mirror”. In 2010 he released *Bessarabian Breakdown*, his first CD as a leader.



GRANTLEY SMITH studied drumset with Alan Dawson, frame drum with Jamie Haddad, tabla with Kazi Jalal, Afro-Cuban percussion with Enrique Pla, and Handance with Glen Velez. The Boston Globe called him a “brilliant improviser.”

Mr. Smith has toured globally from Krakow to Thailand and New Zealand. He has performed with Yo-Yo Ma, Don Byron, the Violent Femmes, Garrison Keillor, and Jane Wang.



PETE RUSHEFSKY is a leading performer, composer and teacher of the tsimbl (cimbalom), the traditional hammered dulcimer of klezmer music, and is the developer of Concert Form Klezmer, a performance system that draws upon Near Eastern and Central Asian classical musics. He serves as Executive Director of the Center for Traditional Music and Dance

(CTMD), which has worked to preserve and present immigrant performing arts traditions in New York City since 1968. Pete has performed internationally at major venues and festivals such as New York’s Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Town Hall and Symphony Space, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw, Paris’s Cité de la Musique, Cleveland’s Severance Hall, Krakow’s Jewish Culture Festival, Vienna’s KlezMore Festival, Fürth’s (Germany) International Klezmer Festival and Toronto’s Ashkenaz Festival. He has concertized and recorded with classical violinist Itzhak Perlman and with many of Jewish music’s leading performers, including Klezematics fiddler Lisa Gutkin, Steven Greenman, Joel Rubin, Cantor Yitzchok Meir Helfgott, Andy Statman, Klezmer Conservatory Band, Alicia Svigals, Michael Alpert, Adrienne Greenbaum, Alan Bern and Jake Shulman-Ment. A popular instructor of klezmer who has taught at institutes and camps across North America and Europe, Pete is the author of a pioneering instructional book on adapting the American 5-string banjo for klezmer as well as an upcoming book on klezmer performance for hammered dulcimer. He frequently publishes and lectures on ethnic music in America.