



YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH



Leo Zeitlin and the Music of His World

SIDNEY KRUM YOUNG ARTISTS CONCERT SERIES

May 28, 2026 | 7:00pm

PROGRAM

CO-SPONSORED BY
THE AMERICAN SOCIETY
FOR JEWISH MUSIC, WITH
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FROM
STEPHEN DENIO BAKER

*The Sidney Krum Young Artists Concert
Series is made possible by a generous
gift from the Estate of Sidney Krum.*

Ori Marcu — *mezzo-soprano*

Peter Sirotin — *violin*

Daniel Kurganov — *violin*

Colin Brookes — *viola*

Julian Schwarz — *cello*

Marika Bournaki — *piano*

Eli Zion | אלי ציון

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN, ARR. JOSEPH ACHRON

Stempenyu

COMPOSED BY JOSEPH ACHRON

Jewish Melody Op. 43

COMPOSED BY ALEXANDER KREIN

Dwejkuth (Meditation Hebraïque)

COMPOSED BY JOACHIM STUTSCHEWSKY

א ניגון פון שיקע פֿאַפּער

A nign fun Shayke Fayfer | A Melody of Shayke Fayfer

COMPOSED BY MIKHAIL GNESIN

א קליינע ראפסאָדיע

A kleyne rapsodye | A Little Rhapsody

COMPOSED BY LAZARE SAMINSKY

דעם רבינס ניגון

Dem rebns nign Op. 3 | The Rebbe's Melody Op. 3

COMPOSED BY ALEXANDER ZHITOMIRSKY

Elegie Op. 4

COMPOSED BY MICHAEL LEWIN

Yiddish Songs

Subsets of: Voice, String Quartet, and Piano

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

געבעט פֿון ר' לוי-יצחק

Gebet fun rabbi Leyvi-Yitskhok | Rabbi Leyvi-Yitskhok's Plea

קלעזמאָרימלעך

Klezmorimlekh | Dear Klezmer Players

דער פּאַראָם

Der Parom | The Ferry

אלי, אלי

Eyli, eyli | My God, My God

עֲד־אָנָה יְהוָה

Ad ono adoynoy | How Long, O Lord?

א מעשה

Berceuse / A mayse | A Story

שוין ניטאָ דער נעכטן

Shoy nito der nekhtn | Last Night Is Over

פּאַטש, פּאַטש, קיכעלעך

Patsh, patsh, kikhelekh | Patty-Cake, Patty-Cake

דער קדיש פֿון ר' לוי-יצחק

Der kadish fun reb Leyvi-Yitskhok | Reb Leyvi-Yitskhok's Kaddish

Eli Zion | אלי ציון

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

געבעט פֿון ר' לוי-יטחק

Gebet fun rabbi Leyvi-Yitskhok | Rabbi Leyvi-Yitskhok's Plea

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

ריבוננו של עולם, ריבוננו, ריבוננו של עולם!

איך וויל פֿאַר דיר אַ דודקע שפּילן;
איך וויל פֿאַר דיר אַ דודקע שפּילן.
אידיא אַמזאַך וואַידי לאַ אַמזאַך?

וווּ קען מען דיר געפֿינען און וווּ קען מען דיר ניט געפֿינען?
אַז וווּ מען קערט זיך איז דאָך דו;
ניטאָ קיין אָרט אָן דו;
אַלץ דו, רק דו, נאָר דו, דו, דו, דו!

און אַז ס'איז גוט, איז דאָך דו,
חלילה ניט — ווייטער דו!
און אַז דו, איז דאָך גוט,
אַלץ דו, רק דו, נאָר דו, דו, דו, דו, דו!
מיזרח דו, מערבֿ דו, צפֿון דו, דרום דו,
מעלה דו, מטה דו,
אַלץ דו, רק דו, נאָר דו, דו, דו, דו, אַלץ דו.

TRANSLITERATION

Riboyne shel oylem, riboyne, riboyne shel oylem!

*Ikh vil far dir a dudke shpiln;
Ikh vil far dir a dudke shpiln.
Ayey emtsoekho veayey loy emtsoekho?*

*Vu ken men dikh gefinen un vu ken men dikh nit gefinen?
Az vu men kert zikh iz dokh du;
Nito keyn ort on du;
Alts du, rak du, nor du, du, du, du, du!*

*Un az s'iz gut, iz dokh du,
Kholile nit — vayter du!
Un az du, iz dokh gut,
Alts du, rak du, nor du, du, du, du, du!
Mizrekh du, mayrev du, tsofn du, dorem du,
Mayle du, mate du,
Alts du, rak du, nor du, du, du, du, alts du.*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Riboyne shel oylem [Master of the universe], *riboyne, riboyne shel oylem!*

I'll sing you a *dudele* [little tune], listen;

I'll sing you a *dudele*, listen.

Where shall I surely find Thee, and where shall I fail to find Thee?

Where shall I surely find Thee, and where shall I fail to find Thee?

For where I turn, there art Thou;

and where I go, there art Thou;

only Thou, ever Thou, always Thou, Thou, Thou, Thou, Thou!

When things go well, Thou,

and when things go wrong, Thou,

And since Thou art there, all is well,

only Thou, ever Thou, always Thou, Thou, Thou, Thou, Thou!

East art Thou, west art Thou, north art Thou, south art Thou,

above art Thou, below art Thou,

only Thou, ever Thou,

always Thou, Thou, Thou, Thou, only Thou.

קלעזמאָרימלעך

Klezmorimlekh | Dear Klezmer Players

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

קלעזמאָרימלעך מײנע ליבינקע!
קלעזמאָרימלעך מײנע זיסינקע!
שפילט מיר אַ ביסינקע קודם המיתה.

אוי, אַז איך וואָלט אויפֿן סוף געטראַכט,
וואָלט איך מײן וועלט אַזוי נאַריש ניט פֿאַרבראַכט.
אוי, אַז איך וואָלט אויפֿן סוף געטראַכט,
וואָלט איך מײן וועלט אַזוי נאַריש ניט פֿאַרבראַכט.

קלעזמאָרימלעך מײנע ליבינקע!
קלעזמאָרימלעך מײנע זיסינקע!

TRANSLITERATION

Klezmorimlekh mayne libinke!
Klezmorimlekh mayne zisinke!
Shpilt mir a bisinke koydem hamise.

Oy, az ikh volt oyfn sof getrakht,
Volt ikh mayn velt azoy narish nit farbrakht.
Oy, az ikh volt oyfn sof getrakht,
Volt ikh mayn velt azoy narish nit farbrakht.

Klezmorimlekh mayne libinke!
Klezmorimlekh mayne zisinke!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

My dear klezmer players!
My sweet klezmer players!
Play me a little something before my death.

Oy, if I had thought more about the end,
I would not have wasted my time so foolishly.
Oy, if I had thought more about the end,
I would not have wasted my time so foolishly.

My dear klezmer players!
My sweet klezmer players!

דער פאַראַם

Der parom | The Ferry

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

ביי אַ טיף, וואָס זי איז טיף און ברייט,
איך זע אַן איבערפּאַר ביים ברעג שטייט,
און אַלע צו אים ציען.
פֿון ביידע זייטן, פֿון ביידע ברעגן,
מענטשן, פֿערד און וואָגן אינלנדיק אַהין פֿליען.
די אַלע מענטשן ווינטשן זיך און בענטשן,
זיי זאָלן גליקלעך אַריבער די טיף.

אונדזער לעבן איז דער פאַראַם,
די וועלט איז ביי אונדז דער תּהום:
ברידער, דאָס מיינ איך טאַקע אייך.

TRANSLITERATION

*Bay a taykh, vos zi iz tif un breyt,
Ikh ze an iberfor baym breg shteyt,
Un ale tsu im tsien.
Fun beyde zaytn, fun beyde bregn,
Mentshn, ferd un vogn aylnidik ahin flien.
Di ale mentshn vintshn zikh un bentshn,
Zey zoln gliklekh ariber di taykh.*

*Undzer lebn iz der parom,
Di velt iz bay undz der thom:
Brider, dos meyn ikh take aykh.*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

By a river, that is deep and wide,
I see a ferry standing at the shore,
and everyone is drawn to it.
From both sides, from both shores,
people, horses and wagons hurry to get there.
All the people hope and pray,
that they will cross the river safely.

Our life is the ferry,
the world is—for us—the abyss:
Brothers, it's you I'm talking to.

אלי, אלי

Eyli, eyli | My God, My God

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

אלי, אלי, למה עזבתנו?
אלי, אלי, למה עזבתנו?
מיט פֿייער און פֿלאַם האָט מען אונדז געברענט,
איבעראַל האָט מען אונדז געמאַכט צו שאַנד, צו שפּאַט;
אַפּצוטּרעטן פֿון אונדז האָט דאָך קיינער ניט געוואָגט,
פֿון אונדזער הייליקער תּורה, פֿון אונדזער געבאָט.

אלי, אלי, למה עזבתנו?
אוי, אלי, אלי, למה עזבתנו?
טאָג און נאַכט נאָר איך טראַכט און איך בעט;
איך היט מיט מורא אונדזער תּורה און איך בעט:
רעטע אונדז, רעטע אונדז אַ מאָל פֿאַר אונדזערע אַבּות,
אַבּות, אַבּותינוּ.

הער צו מיין געבעט און מיין געוויין,
ווייל העלפֿן קענסטו נאָר גאָט אַליין,
ווייל שמע, ישׂראל, ד' אלהינו, ד' אחד!

TRANSLITERATION

Eyli, eyli, lomo ozavtonu?
Eyli, eyli, lomo ozavtonu?
Mit fayer un flam hot men undz gebrent,
Iberal hot men undz gemakht tsu shand, tsu shpot;
Optsutretn fun undz hot dokh keyner nit gevagt,
Fun undzer heyliker toyre, fun undzer gebot.

Eyli, eyli, lomo ozavtonu?
Oy, eyli, eyli, lomo ozavtonu?
Tog un nakht nor ikh trakht un ikh bet;
Ikh hit mit moyre undzer toyre un ikh bet:
Rete undz, rete undz a mol far undzere oves,
oves, avoyseyynu.

Her tsu mayn gebet un mayn geveyn,
Vayl helfn kenstu nor got aleyn,
Vayl shma, yisroel, adoynoy eloyheyynu, adoynoy ekhod!

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken us?
My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken us?
In fire and flames they burned us,
everywhere they shamed and mocked us;
but no one could turn us away from You,
nor from Your holy Torah, from Your commandment.

My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken us?
Oy, my God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken us?
Day and night I think only of You, my God;
I guard with awe Your Torah and Your commandment:
rescue us, oh, rescue us from danger for the sake of our fathers, fathers, our ancestors.

Hear my prayer and my lament,
because only You, God, can help,
Because, Hear, O Israel, the Lord is our God, the Lord is One!

עַד-אֲנָהּ יְהוָה
Ad ono adoynoy | How Long, O Lord?

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL HEBREW

עַד-אֲנָהּ יְהוָה תִּשְׁכַּחְנִי נִצַּח?
עַד-אֲנָהּ תִּסְתִּיר אֶת-פְּנֵיךָ מִמֶּנִּי?
עַד-אֲנָהּ אֲשִׁית יַעֲצוֹת בְּנַפְשִׁי,
יָגוֹן בְּלִבִּי יוֹמָם?
עַד-אֲנָהּ יָרוּם אִיְבִי עָלַי?
הַבִּיטָה עֲנֵנִי יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵי,
הַאִירָה עֵינַי פֶּן-אִישָׁן הַמָּוֹת.
פֶּן-יֵאמְרוּ אִיְבֵי יִכְלְתוּנִי,
צָרִי יִגִּילוּ בִּי אָמוּט.

וְאֲנִי בְּחַסְדְּךָ בִּטְחֹתִי,
יִגַּל לִבִּי בִישׁוּעֶךָ.
אֲשִׁירָה לַיהוָה, אֲשִׁירָה לַיהוָה, בִּי גֹמַל עָלַי.

TRANSLITERATION

Ad ono adoynoy tishkokheyni netsakh?
Ad ono tastir es ponekho mimeni?
Ad ono oshis eytsoys bnafshi,
Yogoy bilvovi yoymom?
Ad ono yorum oyvi oloy?
Habito aneyni adoynoy eloyhoy,
Hoiro eynay pen ishan hamoves.
Pen yoymar oyvi yekholtiv,
Tsoray yogilu ki emoyt.

Vaani bekhaskdekho votakhti,
Yogeyl libi biyshuosekho.
Oshiro laadoynoy, oshiro laadoynoy, ki gomal oloy.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

How long, O Lord, wilt Thou forget me for ever?
How long wilt Thou hide Thy face from me?
How long shall I take counsel in my soul,
having sorrow in my heart by day?
How long shall mine enemy be exalted over me?
Behold Thou, and answer me, O Lord my God,
lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death.
lest mine enemy say: "I have prevailed against him,"
lest mine adversaries rejoice when I am moved.

But as for me, in Thy mercy do I trust,
my heart shall rejoice in Thy salvation.
I will sing unto the Lord, I will sing unto the Lord, because He hath dealt bountifully with me.

אַ מעשה

Berceuse / A mayse | A Story

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

אַ מאָל איז געווען אַ מעשה,
די מעשה איז גאַר ניט פֿריילעך,
די מעשה הייבט זיך אָן,
מיט אַ גרויסן ייִדישן מלך.

ליולינקע, מיין זונעניו,
ליולינקע, מיין קינד,
איך האָב אָנגעוויירן אַזאַ ליבע,
וויי איז מיר און ווינד.

אַ מאָל איז געווען אַ מלך,
דער מלך האָט געהאַט אַ מלכה,
די מלכה האָט געהאַט אַ ווינגאַרטן,
דעם שענסטן אויף דער וועלט.

ליולינקע, ...

אין גאַרטן איז געווען אַ ביימעלע,
דאָס ביימעלע האָט געהאַט אַ צוויגעלע,
אויפֿן צוויגעלע איז געווען אַ נעסטעלע,
אין נעסטעלע האָט געלעבט אַ פֿייגעלע.

ליולינקע, ...

דער מלך איז אָפּגעשטאַרבן,
די מלכה איז געוואָרן פֿאַרדאַרבן,
דאָס צוויגעלע האָט זיך אָפּגעבראַכן,
דאָס פֿייגעלע איז פֿונעם נעסט אַנטלאָפֿן.

ליולינקע, ...

TRANSLITERATION

[1.] A mol iz geven a mayse,
Di mayse iz gor nit freylekh,
Di mayse heybt zikh on,
Mit a groysn yidishn meylekh.

[Refrain] Lyulinke, mayn zunenyu,
Lyulinke, mayn kind,
Ikh hob ongevoyrn aza libe,
Vey iz mir un vind.

[2.] A mol iz geven a meylekh,
Der meylekh hot gehat a malke,
Di malke hot gehat a vayngortn,
Dem shenstn oyf der velt.

Lyulinke, ...

[3.] In gortn iz geven a beyemele,
Dos beyemele hot gehat a tsvaygele,
Oyfn tsvaygele iz geven a nestele,
In nestele hot gelebt a feygele.

Lyulinke, ...

[4.] Der meylekh iz opgeshtorbן,
Di malke iz gevorn fardorbן,
Dos tsvaygele hot zikh opgebrokehn,
Dos feygele iz funem nest antlofn.

Lyulinke, ...

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

[1.] Once upon a time, there was a story.
The story is not very happy.
The story begins
with a great Jewish king.

[Refrain] Sleep, my son,
sleep, my child,
I have lost such a love,
woe is me, alas!

[2.] Once upon a time, there was a king.
The king had a queen.
The queen had a vineyard,
the most beautiful in the world.

Sleep, my son, ...

[3.] In the vineyard, there was a little tree,
the little tree had a little branch,
on that little branch, there was a little nest,
in the little nest there lived a little bird.

Sleep, my son, ...

[4.] The king died, all of a sudden,
the queen became desolate,
the little branch got broken,
the little bird flew away from the little nest.

Sleep, my son, ...

שוין ניטאָ דער נעכטן *Shoyn nito der nekhtn* | Last Night Is Over

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

שוין ניטאָ דער נעכטן,
נאָך ניטאָ דער מאָרגן,
פֿראַנען נאָר אַ פּיצעלע היינט,
שטערט עס ניט מיט זאָרגן.

טריי-לאַ-לאַ, טריי-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ,
טריי-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ,
טריי-לאַ-לאַ, טריי-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ,
טריי-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ.

טריי-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ,
טריי-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ,
טריי-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ,
טריי-לאַ-לאַ, לאַ-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ.

כאַפט אַרײַן אַ שנעפּסל,
בל־זמן איר זײַט ביים לעבן.
אימ־ירצה־השם, אויף יענער וועלט,
וועט מען אײַך ניט געבן.

טריי-לאַ-לאַ, טריי-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ-לאַ, ...

TRANSLITERATION

[1.] *Shoyn nito der nekhtn,
Nokh nito der morgn,
F'ranen nor a pitsele haynt,
Shtert es nit mit zorgn.*

[Refrain] *Tray-la-la, tray-la-la-la-la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la-lam,
Tray-la-la, tray-la-la-la-la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la-lam.*

*Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la-la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la-lam.*

[2.] *Khapt arayn a shnepsl,
Kol-zman ir zayt baym lebn.
Im-yirtse-shem, oyf yener velt,
Vet men aykh nit gebn.*

Tray-la-la, tray-la-la-la-la, ...

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

[1.] Last night is over,
Tomorrow isn't here yet,
there's only a little bit left of today,
don't spoil it by worrying.

[Refrain] *Tray-la-la, tray-la-la-la-la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la-lam,
Tray-la-la, tray-la-la-la-la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la-lam.*

*Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la-la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la, la-la-la, la,
Tray-la-la, la-la-la-lam.*

[2.] Grab yourself a drink
as long as you're alive.
God willing, in the next world,
they won't give you any.

Tray-la-la, ...

פאַטש, פאַטש, קיכעלעך
Patsh, patsh, kikhelekh | Patty-Cake, Patty-Cake

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

פאַטש, פאַטש, קיכעלעך,
דער טאַטע ט'קויפֿן שיכעלעך.
שיכעלעך וועט ער קויפֿן,
און אין חדר וועט דאָס קינד לויפֿן.

לויפֿן וועט דאָס קינד אין חדר,
לערנען וועט ער דאָרט כסדר,
דאָרט כסדר עטלעכע שורות,
טאַטע-מאַמע וועלן הערן גוטע בשורות.

פאַטש, פאַטש, קיכעלעך,
דער טאַטע ט'קויפֿן שיכעלעך.
שיכעלעך וועט ער קויפֿן,
און אין חדר וועט דאָס קינד לויפֿן.

אַה, אַה, אַה.

TRANSLITERATION

*Patsh, patsh, kikhelekh,
Der tate t'koyfn shikhelekh.
Shikhelekh vet er koyfn,
Un in kheyder vet dos kind loyfn.*

*Loyfn vet dos kind in kheyder,
Lernen vet er dort keseyder,
Dort keseyder etlekhe shures,
Tate-mame veln hern gute bsures.*

*Patsh, patsh, kikhelekh,
Der tate t'koyfn shikhelekh.
Shikhelekh vet er koyfn,
Un in kheyder vet dos kind loyfn.*

Ah, ah, ah.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Patty-cake, patty-cake,
daddy will buy you shoes.
Shoes he will buy,
and the child will run to *kheyder* [religious primary school].

The child will run to *kheyder*.
There he'll study as he should.
There, as he should, a couple of lines,
and the parents will get good reports.

Patty-cake, patty-cake,
daddy will buy you shoes.
Shoes he will buy,
and the child will run to *kheyder*.

Ah, ah, ah.

דער קדיש פֿון ר' לוי-יצחק

Der kadish fun reb Leyvi-Yitskhok | Reb Leyvi-Yitskhok's Kaddish

COMPOSED BY LEO ZEITLIN

ORIGINAL YIDDISH

אַ גוט-מאָרגן דיר, רבוננו של עולם!
איך, לוי-יצחק בן שרה מבארדיטשעוו,
בין צו דיר געקומען מיט אַ דין-תורה פֿון דין פֿאַלק ישראל.
און וואָס האָסטו צו דין פֿאַלק ישראל?
און וואָס האָסטו זיך אָנגעזעצט אויף דין פֿאַלק ישראל?
אַז ווי נאָר אַ זאַך, איז דבר אל בני ישראל.

אַז וואָס נאָר אַ זאַך, איז צו את בני ישראל.

אַז ווען נאָר אַ זאַך, איז אמור אל בני ישראל!

טאַטעניו! כמה אומות בעולם?

פרסיים, בבליים, אדומיים.
די דייטשן, וואָס זאָגן זיי:
אונדזער קעניג איז אַ קעניג.
די ענגלענדער, וואָס זאָגן זיי:
אונדזער מלכות איז אַ מלכות.
און איך, לוי-יצחק בן שרה מבארדיטשעוו, זאָג:

יתגדל ויתקדש שמא רבא!

און איך, לוי-יצחק בן שרה מבארדיטשעוו, זאָג:
לא אָזו ממקומי,
איך וועל זיך פֿון מיין אָרט ניט רירן,
און אַ סוף זאָל דאָס נעמען,
און אַן עק זאָל דאָס זיין.
יתגדל ויתקדש שמא רבא!

TRANSLITERATION

*A gut-morgn dir, riboyne shel oylem!
Ikh, Leyvi-Yitskhok ben Sore mi-barditshev,
Bin tsu dir gekumen mit a din-toyre fun dayn folk yisroel.
Un vos hostu tsu dayn folk yisroel?
Un vos hostu zikh ongezetst oyf dayn folk yisroel?
Az vi nor a zakh, iz dabeyr el bney yisroel.*

Az vos nor a zakh, iz tsav es bney yisroel.

Az ven nor a zakh, iz emoyr el bney yisroel!

Tatenyu! Kamo umoys booylom?

*Parsiyim, bavliyim, adoymiyim.
Di daytshn, vos zogn zey:
Undzer kenig iz a kenig.
Di englander, vos zogn zey:
Undzer malkhes iz a malkhes.
Un ikh, Leyvi-Yitskhok ben Sore mi-barditshev, zog:*

Yisgadal veyiskadash shemey rabo!

*Un ikh, Leyvi-Yitskhok ben Sore mi-barditshev, zog:
Loy ozuz mimkoymi,
Ikh vel zikh fun mayn ort nit rim,
Un a sof zol dos nemen,
Un an ek zol dos zayn.
Yisgadal veyiskadash shemey rabo!*

ENGLISH TRANSLATION

A good morning Lord, Master of the universe!
I, Leyvi-Yitskhok son of Sarah of Berdichev,
I come to you with a *din-toyre* [legal dispute] for your people Israel.
What do you want of your people Israel?
What do you demand of your people Israel?
Everywhere I look it says, "Speak unto the children of Israel."
And every other verse reads, "Command the children of Israel."
And over and over it says, "Say unto the children of Israel."

Father, sweet Father in heaven! How many nations are there in the world?

Persians, Babylonians, Edomites!
The Germans, what do they say?
That the Czar is the almighty Emperor.
The English, what do they say?
That their King shall reign supreme.
And I, Leyvi-Yitskhok son of Sarah of Berdichev, what do I say?

"*Yisgadal veyiskadash shemey rabo*, magnified and sanctified be His great Name!"

And I, Leyvi-Yitskhok son of Sarah of Berdichev, say,
"I shall not budge from this point,
from this stand I shall not be moved,
and let there be an end to our suffering,
and may our suffering come to an end.
Oh, *yisgadal veyiskadash shemey rabo!*"

ABOUT THE PERFORMERS

Ori Marcu is celebrated for her compelling acting and distinctive sound. In 2025, *The Washington Post* praised her as the “favorite singer of the evening” for her performance as Erika in Heartbeat Opera’s *Vanessa*. A versatile performer, she has appeared as Bradamante in Händel’s *Alcina* and Tara in Anthony Davis’ *Lear on the 2nd Floor*. Her accolades include first prizes in the Kyrenia Opera Competition and the inaugural Portland Opera Guild Competition, as well as top honors in the Friends of Eastman Opera Competition and the Mildred Miller and Camille Coloratura competitions. Recent credits include Ohio Light Opera’s 45th season, performing Adelaide (*Guys and Dolls*), Liesl (*The Sound of Music*), and Tessa (*The Gondoliers*). She has been a resident artist with Palm Beach Opera, Amherst Early Music Festival, and Lakes Area Music Festival and has also worked as an assistant director and stage manager with leading opera organizations.

Peter Sirotin is a violinist who has performed as a chamber musician, soloist, and concertmaster since his debut at age 14, performing Paganini’s *Concerto No.1* with the Kharkiv Philharmonic in Ukraine. With his wife, pianist Ya-Ting Chang, he founded the Mendelssohn Piano Trio, which has performed over 600 concerts worldwide, recorded 15 CDs, and was featured on NPR and WETA. As concertmaster, he has performed in venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to National Cathedral. Recently, he performed as a soloist with the Harrisburg Symphony, Williamsport Symphony, as well as Gettysburg and Baltimore Chamber Orchestras. As part of the Sirotin-Chang Duo, he had given world premieres of Jeremy Gill’s *Duo for Violin and Piano* and Ching-Ju Shih’s *Double Concerto for Violin and Piano* in Taipei, Taiwan. Sirotin is co-director of Market Square Concerts and concertmaster of the Harrisburg Symphony, as well as visiting artist at the Gettysburg College Sunderman Conservatory, where he teaches violin and viola.

Daniel Kurganov, a violinist praised for his “extraordinary fervor, commitment, and technical prowess” (*Classics Today*), stands in the direct lineage of Jascha Heifetz through mentor Rudolf Koelman. Recent performances include Merkin Hall and the Harvard Musical Association. He has participated in the Violins of Hope project on an instrument rescued from Auschwitz and was recently loaned the “ex-Kneisel” 1714 Stradivari. He has given master classes at major institutions worldwide and is faculty at the Shkolnikova Academy in France. Voted “Best of The Strad 2021,” he runs a 100,000-subscriber YouTube channel and founded *Arco.app*, a platform that reimagines how musical knowledge is preserved. His recordings include world premieres by Lera Auerbach and Richard Beaudoin (Orchid Classics) and the complete Brahms *Violin Sonatas* on historical instruments (Hänsler Classics), earning 10/10 from Jed Distler.

Colin Brookes is a violist from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he made his solo debut with the Pittsburgh Symphony at age 17. A founding member of the award-winning Ulysses Quartet, he performed with them from 2015 to 2023. He regularly performs with A Far Cry, The Knights, and other renowned ensembles. His festival appearances include Kneisel Hall, the Appalachian Chamber Music Festival, the Geneva Music Festival, the Rockport Chamber Music Festival, Manchester Summer Chamber Music, and Tanglewood. In June 2013, he performed a solo recital with pianist Euntaek Kim for the St. Gaudens Concert Series in Cornish, New Hampshire.

Julian Schwarz is a cellist who was awarded first prize at the inaugural Schoenfeld International Competition in 2013 and has since made over 250 concerto appearances in the US and abroad. He performs in a duo with Marika Bournaki as winners of the 2016 Boulder International Competition’s “The Art of Duo,” and is a founding member of the Frisson Ensemble. A devoted teacher, Schwarz serves as Associate Professor of Cello at Shenandoah Conservatory and on the artist faculty of New York University and Eastern Music Festival. He received BM and MM degrees from The Juilliard School under Joel Krosnick. A Pirastro artist, he endorses Pirastro “Perpetual” cello strings. Learn more about his work at JULIANSCHWARZ.COM.

Marika Bournaki is a pianist committed to distinctive interpretations of standard repertoire, commissioning works by younger composers and collaborating with artists from various fields. Bournaki was featured in the award-winning documentary, *I Am Not a Rock Star*, directed by Bobbi Jo Hart, and her performances can be heard on Radio-Canada, Radio-France, BBC, WQXR in New York City, and Toronto’s Classical 96.3 FM. She has been featured on television networks, such as ERT, TF1, France 2, CTV, Global, Radio-Canada, CBC, and Canal+. Bournaki holds a bachelor’s degree from the Juilliard School of Music in New York.

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