

An Inspired Evening of Joyful Music!

30th Anniversary Concert
featuring

**Past and Present Musicians of the
Junior Klezmer Orchestra**
with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band

with Special Guest, JKO Alum Ian Weinberger,
Broadway Musical Director



1990s



2000s



2024

Thursday, May 2, 2024

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

North Suburban Synagogue Beth El

1175 Sheridan Rd, Highland Park, IL



KlezmerMusicFoundation.org

Young musicians in Chicago and North Suburbs:
Meet the Junior Klezmer Orchestra

Learn and perform lively
Jewish music with
members of the Maxwell
Street Klezmer Band



Join a well-known
ensemble, build skills
and make new friends

We welcome 5th thru 12th grade musicians and singers.
We rehearse twice a month on Sunday afternoons in
Glencoe, IL during the school year.

"My years with the band literally cannot be
replaced with any other life experience...
what kept me going the most is how many
people we brought joy to."

- Mark B., Violin, JKO Class of 2021



Email klezmermusicfoundation@gmail.com
or call (847) 675-4800 for details.

Junior Klezmer Orchestra 30th Anniversary Concert Program

Lebedik un Freilech (Lively and Happy) and Freitag Nochn Tzimis (Friday Night after Dessert)

From the repertoire of the Abe Schwartz Orchestra and the Lt. Joseph Frankl Orchestra, 1920s
All Musicians

Oy Mame, Bin Ich Farleibt! (Oy Mama, am I in Love!)

Lyrics: Mollie Picon Composer: Abraham Ellstein
Deborah Bodansky, Class of 2019, Vocals

Firn di Mechtunim Aheyim (Leading the In-Laws Home from the Wedding)

Adapted from a 1923 recording by clarinetist Naftule Brandwein.
Ari Fisher, Class of 2010, Violin

Sheyn vi di Levone (Lovely as the Moon)

Lyrics: Chaim Tauber Composer: Yosef Rumshinsky
Cheryl Graff, Class of 2010, Vocals

Crimean Sketches

Composer: V. Gabayev, arr. Kasura
Allison Zabelin, Class of 2007, Violin; Ian Weinberger, Class of 2005, Drums

Baym Rebn in Palestina (Dancing with the Rabbi in the Holy Land)

As performed by Itzikl Kramtweiss and the Broder Kapelle Dance Orchestra in 1929
Hershel Abraham and Zachary Natenshon, JKO 2024, Clarinets

Mishaela

Lyrics and music by Noa (Achinoam Nini)
Kayla Chinitz, Class of 2017, Vocals

Sammy's Freilech

From the repertoire of Giora Feidman
Sam Sitzmann, Class of 2017, Cello

"Trumpet Sher"

From the Repertoire of Hochman's Jewish Orchestra, 1921, V. Schapiro, Composer
Steve Levin, Class of 2005, Trumpet

Mi Bon Siach

Traditional 15th Century wedding song, often used to greet the bride under the hupa (wedding canopy): *The One Who knows the rose among thorns, the love of a bride and the joy of lovers, He will bless the wedding couple.*
Aaron Alexander, JKO 2024, Vocals

Bei Mir Bistu Sheyn (By Me You're Grand), Yossel Yossel, and Sherele

Margaret Selinger, Class of 2017; Cheryl Graff, Class of 2010, Vocals
and All Musicians

~ Intermission ~

Shtiller Bulgar (The Quiet Dance)

From the repertoire of the Abe Schwartz Orchestra
JKO 2024

And the Angels Sing

Composer: Benny Goodman and Ziggy Elman Lyrics: Johnny Mercer, 1939
Cheryl Graff, Class of 2010, Vocals
Steve Levin, Trumpet, and Ian Weinberger, Class of 2005, Keyboard

Chassidic Dances

From a performance by Di Naye Kapelye of a traditional folk dance (Hangu and Freylachs from Podoly), in an arrangement by Chicago composer Ilya Levinson
Sacha Stickell Khazai, JKO 2024, Violin
and Alexander Levinson, Class of 2016, Cello

Flatbush Waltz

Composer: Andy Statman
Ella Gil, JKO 2024, Cello, and Alex Koffman

Expectation Waltz (Ожидание)

Composed by Herold Lavrentievich Kittler
Celia Goldstein, Class of 2022, Viola

Tumbalalaika (Play, My Balalaika)

Yiddish Folk Song
Allison Zabelin, Class of 2007, Vocals
Aaron Alexander, JKO 2024, Vocals
Deborah Bodansky, Class of 2019, Vocals

Zol Zayn Gelebt (Live it Up)

Abraham Ellstein and Dave Tarras, Composers, in a transcription by Maxwell
Street Klezmer Band
Jacob Shapiro, Class of 2019, Clarinet
Daniel Shapiro, Class of 2014, Keyboard

Abi Gezunt (Be Healthy)

Lyrics: Mollie Picon Composer: Abraham Ellstein,
from the 1938 movie *Mamele* (Little Mama)
Margaret Selinger, Vocals, Class of 2017

Yoshke/Tantz Yidelech

Yoshke: Chassidic Folk Song Tantz Yidelech: Abe Schwartz Orchestra, 1917
All Vocalists and Musicians

The Band Leaders



Lori Lipptz

Lori founded the JKO in 1994 with Roz Ebstein z"l, under the sponsorship of the Board of Jewish Education. In 1996, the JKO became an independent entity, and Lori has been managing the JKO since then, as well as running rehearsals and coaching JKO vocalists. In her other hat, she is the founder and Artistic Director of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, as well

as the Founder and Executive Director of the not-for-profit organization, the Klezmer Music Foundation.



Alex Koffman

Alex received his Master's Degree from the Conservatory of Minsk in Belarus, and conducted a military orchestra in the Red Army. Trained in both performance and pedagogy, Alex has been leading the JKO for the past two decades with heart and a Yiddishe neshome (Jewish soul).

As Band Leader and violinist of Maxwell

Street Klezmer Band, Alex brings a wealth of knowledge, skills, and enthusiasm to rehearsals.

In Memoriam



Sam Margolis

Sam was the trombonist of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band in the 1990s, and JKO's First Conductor. With a gentle manner, a quirky sense of humor, and love of kids, Sam taught and nurtured the first wave of JKO musicians.



Ralph Wilder

Ralph was a clarinetist with Maxwell Street Klezmer Band since 1989, and JKO's second conductor, in the 2000s. Ralph was adept in many styles including orchestral, ballet, Broadway musicals, rock, pop, jazz, Dixieland, New Age, and, of course, Klezmer. With the highest standards and musicianship, Ralph demanded and brought out the best in his students.

About Special Guest Ian Weinberger (JKO Class of 2005)



Ian Weinberger is the music director of *Hamilton* on Broadway. He is a proud member of the hip-hop improv group Freestyle Love Supreme, with whom he performed on Broadway and Off-Broadway, at the Kennedy Center, and on the Tony Awards. New York credits include *Chess*, *A New Brain*, *Titanic* (Lincoln Center), *Nobody Loves You*, and the premiere presentation of *The Eyes of the World: From D-Day to VE Day* at Carnegie Hall. Other new works include *The Secret of My Success* (Paramount Theatre) and *Titanic* (Hangar Theatre).

His arrangements and orchestrations of *Titanic* and Disney's *Moana Jr.* have been heard in productions around the world. Other Broadway and Off-Broadway orchestras he has conducted and/or served as keyboardist include *The Book of Mormon*, *Kinky Boots*, *Rocky the Musical*, *Side Show*, *Chaplin*, and *Little Miss Sunshine*. Television credits include *Fosse/Verdon*, *Peter Pan Live!*, and *The Sound of Music Live!*. Cast recordings include *The Christmas Schooner*, *A New Brain*, and *The Theory of Relativity*. He holds a bachelor's degree in music education and percussion performance from Northwestern University and a master's degree in jazz piano from New York University.

Ian writes: "I entered the Junior Klezmer Orchestra as a drummer sometime around age eleven. It was my first experience playing in an organized band or musical ensemble of any kind! I remember how welcoming Lori and all of the musicians were, and how quickly I felt like "one of the family." I had so much fun getting to know klezmer as a genre and improving as a klezmer musician.

But, the surprising bonus was that klezmer offered me a new way to experience Judaism and my connection to the Jewish community. Suddenly, I found that my enthusiasm for and appreciation of the music became a large part of my identity as a young Jewish person. Lori and her colleagues know so much about klezmer music, and they care so deeply about it – and their willingness to share the knowledge and the joy of playing klezmer is a true gift to a young musician like I was. Their excitement was, and is, infectious.

I also loved being a member of JKO because the music was FUN! It was such a blast to get to experience playing in a band with other young people my age from around Chicagoland. That experience only deepened my love for playing music and made me more eager to pursue playing in ensembles as I moved through high school, and eventually as I entered college as a music student. Today, I'm proud to be the music director and conductor of *Hamilton* on Broadway. It's a dream job, and I know my love for being in a band – collaborating on making music together – started in the JKO."

Concert Performers

JKO Alumni Performing Tonight:

Class of 2000

Rachel Fischer, Flute

Class of 2003

Matt Temkin, Percussion

Class of 2004

Aaron Silverman, Guitar (formerly Clarinet)

Class of 2005

Ian Weinberger, Percussion

Steve Levin, Trumpet

Class of 2007

Allison Zabelin, Vocals, Violin

Class of 2010

Ari Fisher, Violin

Cheryl Graff, Vocals

Class of 2014

Daniel Shapiro, Piano

Class of 2016

Alexander Levinson, Cello

Class of 2017

Kayla Chinitz, Vocals

Margaret Selinger, Vocals

Sam Sitzmann, Cello

Class of 2019

Deborah Bodansky, Vocals

Jacob Shapiro, Clarinet

Class of 2020

Jeremy Livshots, Alto Sax

continued...

Class of 2021

Daniela Ostrov, Piano
Leo Kleban, Bass Guitar

Class of 2022

Celia Goldstein, Viola

JKO 2023-2024

Hershel Abraham, Clarinet

Aaron Alexander, Vocals, Bass Guitar

Jonah Chalom, Violin

Daphne Gil, Keyboard

Ella Gil, Cello

Oren Gil, Alto Sax

Caleb Goldstein, Clarinet – Graduating 2024

Mason Jacobson, Violin

Sacha Stickell Khazai, Violin – Graduating 2024

Micah Natenshon, Alto Sax

Zachary Natenshon, Clarinet

David Yurov, Alto Sax

Maya Zacks, Alto Sax

Maxwell Street Klezmer Band

Lori Lippitz, Vocals, Guitar, Artistic Director

Alex Koffman, Violin, Vocals, Musical Director

Shelley Yoelin, Clarinet, Tenor Sax, Flute

Ivo Braun, Trumpet

Bob Samborski, Trombone

Gail Mangurten, Keyboard

Jim Cox, Bass

Justin Kramer, Percussion

Robert Zilligen, Sound Engineer

We would like to acknowledge that there were many of our JKO alumni who would have loved to have performed tonight, but were unable to due to conflicts in scheduling and/or distance from Chicago. They are all an essential part of JKO history, whether they are able to be here tonight or not.

Thank You!

Thank You to Our Concert VIPs!

David Beach, Lisa & Lee Bloom, Eric Selinger & Rosalie Murphy, Barbara & Seth Goodman; Rhita, Michael, and Riki Lippitz; Laura Hodes Zacks, Fran & Len Zacks

Thank You to Our Concert Donors!

Megan Abraham, Sandra Axelrad, Jill Bishop, Barbara Goodman, Meir & Yehudis Hecht, Ilya Levinson, Herbert & Adrienne Levy, Susan Marks, Rita Miller, Jordan Plawner, Shannon Roth, Barbara Sared-Zabelin, Estelle E. Schragar, Andrea Simonson, Mark Shapiro, Shimon Unterman, Rabbi Raysh Weiss. *Thank you to the many supporters who have contributed through the years to allow us to continue our work.*

Thank You to Our Organizing Committee!

Megan Abraham, Fundraiser; Rebecca Jacobson, Adam and Debra Natenshon, Lina Ostrov, Alona Ramati, Hedley Stickell, Allison Zabelin

Thank You to Our Volunteers!

David Beach, Kayla Chinitz, Marc Chinitz, Debbie Eisenstein, Steven Franklin, Steve Levin, Dino Lewan, Photographer; Riki Lippitz, Oren Gil, Ari Jacobson, AV Technician; Julia Olen and David Yurov. Thank you to the volunteers who are not on this list but who jumped in to help since we began planning this event in 2023 until the day of the concert!

Thank you to our Klezmer Music Foundation Staff!

Lori Lippitz, Event Manager
Hannah Frank, Event Coordinator, Graphic Artist, and House Manager
David Harris, Press Outreach, Research and Design, Box Office and Volunteer Manager
Doris Klein, Financial Coordinator
Robert Zilligen, Sound Engineer
Dmitriy Yakubov, Videographer

And thank you...

...To all JKO parents, going back to 1994, who have poured so much time and energy into supporting and sustaining the orchestra through the years! The musicians-drivers, snack-bringers, video-shooters, and all around supporters—we couldn't do it without you!

...To all of the JKO Alumni, especially those who flew in from out of state to be with us today. We also thank all of the many Alumni who couldn't make it to the show but are still such an important part of our history.

...To JKO Alumni Mark Burman, Yael Smith, Rabbi Raysh Weiss, and Rachael Young who could not be here today, but who sent tribute videos expressing their appreciation of the JKO.

Thank You to North Shore Suburban Synagogue Beth El for generously hosting this event!



**From the
Junior Klezmer Orchestra...**

**...to the orchestra of
Hamilton on Broadway!**



Mazel tov, Ian Weinberger!

**We love you,
Mom & Dad**

**Mazel tov to Zachary (clarinet)
and Micah (saxophone) and the whole
JKO (beautifully led by Lori and Alex)
for sharing your musical voices
and bringing so much freilach!**



**Love,
Mom, Dad, Gabi, Grandma, Grandpa, Saba and Safta**

Where Words Fail, Music Speaks



Maya Zacks, on the Sax

Grams and Pops think she's Tops!



We are so grateful to the Junior Klezmer Orchestra for providing incredible opportunities for our children **Avi, Ben and Yoni** to perform and shine; and being an important part of their music education. Their parents and grandparents are their most enthusiastic fans.

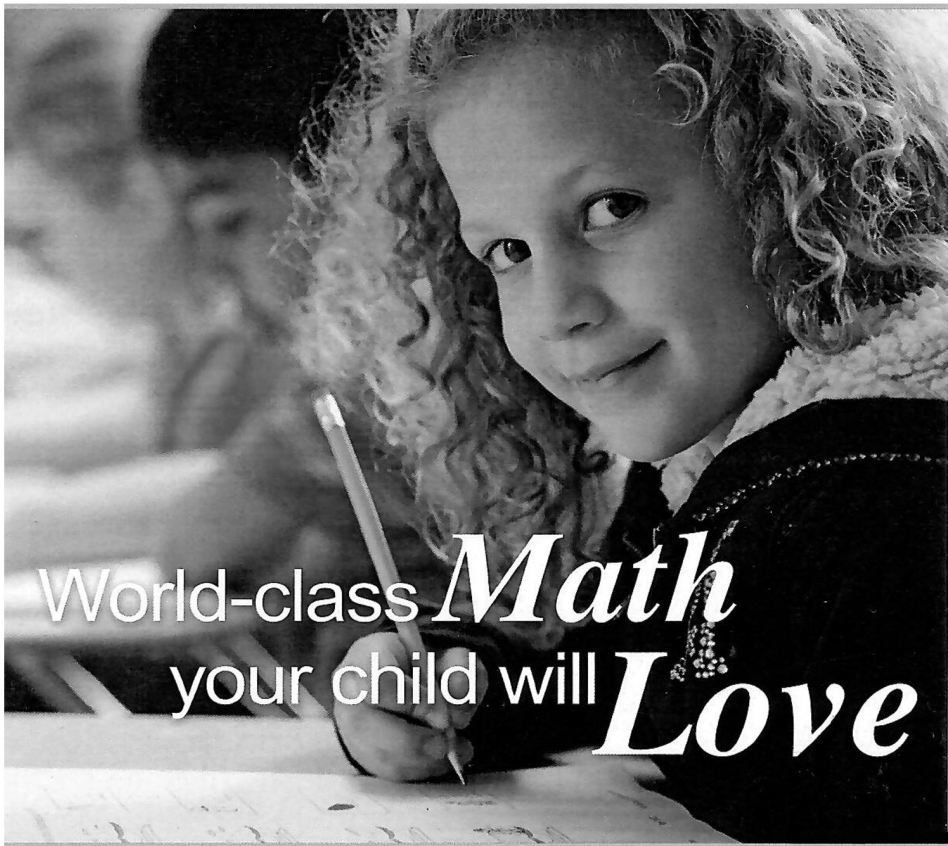
~ Debbie and Dan Eisenstein



Dear Lori and Alex,

Thank you for giving the Joy of Klez to our children. Your love and dedication to Jewish music have left an indelible mark on the younger generations, strengthening their bond with their heritage and culture. Your efforts and commitment have not only enriched our children's lives, but have also fostered a sense of belonging and connection among our children, instilling in them a sense of pride in their Jewish roots.

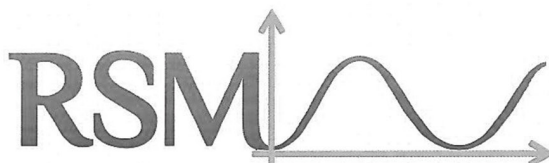
~ Ash, Bodansky, Burman, Goldstein, Livshots, Ostrov, and Shapiro families



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Stickell and Carol Khazai



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our Community Klezmer Bands.



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*"Mishaela, what do you see?
What is in your heart?"*



Kayla,
What we see is a heart full of
music and love.
We're SO proud of you and JKO!
Mazal Tov!

*Grandma Rhita Lippitz
Uncle Mike Lippitz
and Tanta Riki Lippitz*



To Kayla Renee:

Mom: The years we spent sharing JKO rehearsals and performances together were a highlight of my parenthood!

As you did then, you do now:
You work hard and shine brightly.

Dad: We have so many great memories of you as a JKO singer.

Watching you sing at the 30th anniversary is such a blast!

Mom and Dad: We love you!



Keep the klezmer music growing.

Love from Bubbie and George
to Hersh, Clarinetist extraordinaire

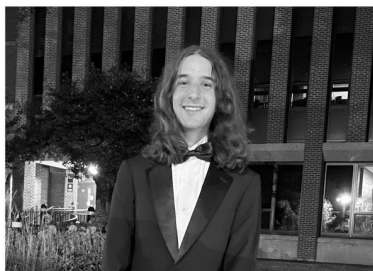


**mazel
tov
Hershel**

We are so proud of you!
Dan, Emily, Nathan, & Gabe

Hershel: we are so
proud of your
commitment to your
Jewish heritage by
being part of JKO!

Love,
The Abraham Family



**From Kim Erwin
and Tom Mulhern:**

**Mazel Tov to all the
musicians, but
especially to
Hershel Abraham!**



**Hershel, We are
incredibly proud
of you and so
impressed with
your continued
musical passion.**

Mazel Tov!

**Love, Lev & Teddy
& Max & Katie & Jake**



**MAZEL TOV!
HERSHEL B. ABRAHAM
and
ALL HIS KLEZMORIM**

**With love,
Richard and Stephanie Abraham**



**In Memoriam of
Moisey and Irma Raskin
& Nina Persits**



**May their love for music and Yiddishkeit
continue to live in the music
performed by their grandchildren.
L'Dor Vador - from Generation to Generation
from Bodansky and Ostrov families**



The way it should be.

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**Mazel Tov
JKO 2024!**

Hershel Abraham,
Aaron Alexander,
Jonah Chalom,
Daphne Gil,
Ella Gil, Oren Gil,
Caleb Goldstein,
Mason Jacobson,
Sacha Stickell Khazai,
Micah Natenshon,
Zachary Natenshon,
David Yurov,
Maya Zacks

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1451.4.2024

**A BIG Mazel Tov
to our talented
grandson
Mason Jacobson!**



**Love,
Bubbie and Poppy**



**To Hershel and
the JKO:
Mazel Tov!
Bravo on 30
years.**

- Robert Roth





OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

207 STATE HOUSE
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706

JB PRITZKER
GOVERNOR

May 2, 2024

Klezmer Music Foundation
4025 Harvard Terrace
Skokie, IL 60076-3641

Greetings,

As Governor of the State of Illinois, I am pleased to welcome everyone gathered for the Junior Klezmer Orchestra 30th Anniversary Celebration. This occasion offers an exciting opportunity for everyone in attendance to join fellow members of your association and celebrate this impressive accomplishment. I encourage you to remain passionate and dedicated in all that you do. Illinois is proud to have enjoyed your service to our state.

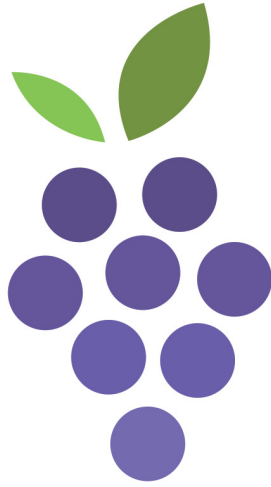
Your longevity is truly a testament to the impact and relationships you have fostered through the years. I have no doubt your organization will continue to excel for years to come. As you reflect on your accomplishments, I urge you to make plans for the future of your association that will build on your past successes. You should be immensely proud.

On behalf of the people of Illinois, I offer my best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JB Pritzker". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Governor JB Pritzker



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