

12-9-1996

## Klezmer Conservatory Band

Department of Music, University of Richmond

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.richmond.edu/all-music-programs>

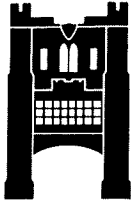
 Part of the [Music Performance Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Department of Music, University of Richmond, "Klezmer Conservatory Band" (1996). *Music Department Concert Programs*. 627.  
<https://scholarship.richmond.edu/all-music-programs/627>

This Program is brought to you for free and open access by the Music at UR Scholarship Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Music Department Concert Programs by an authorized administrator of UR Scholarship Repository. For more information, please contact [scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu](mailto:scholarshiprepository@richmond.edu).



Monday, December 9, 1996 8 PM

Camp Concert Hall, Booker Hall of Music  
George M. Modlin Center for the Arts  
at the University of Richmond

## **Klezmer Conservatory Band**

---

Hankus Netsky, Director

*featuring*

Judy Bressler, vocals and tambourine

Ilene Stahl, clarinet

Miriam Rabson, violin

Gary Bohan, cornet

Dave Harris, trombone

Jeff Warschauer, banjo, mandolin and guitar

Evan Harlan, accordion

Javier Perez-Saco, piano

James Guttmann, bass

Dan MacDonald, drums and percussion

Tonight's selections  
will be announced from the stage

The Klezmer Conservatory Band appears by arrangement with  
The Aaron Concert Management, Boston, Massachusetts.



---

**THE KLEZMER  
CONSERVATORY BAND**  
Hankus Netsky, Director

From the shtets of Eastern Europe, through the emigration to America, from the jazz clubs of cities and the stages of Yiddish theatre comes the music of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. Klezmer music began in medieval Europe, where bands of itinerant Jewish musicians went from town to town playing for Jewish festivals and special events. By the 19th century, klezmer music had become a well-developed musical style, taking its inspiration not only from the synagogue, but from the

non-Jewish culture that surrounded it. In America, immigrant Jewish musicians adapted this music to the new rhythms and instruments they found, creating new klezmer forms.

Until the 1940's, klezmer orchestras flourished, but with the new styles of music, and the immigrant Jews' desire to appear "American," the klezmer tradition faded. Today, however, a klezmer revival is in full swing, with the Klezmer Conservatory Band playing a prominent role.

Fueled by a desire to return to his roots, and the inherent appeal of the music, Hankus Netsky, the band's founder, discovered that both a grandfather and an uncle were in

Philadelphia klezmer orchestras in the 1920's. In 1980, while an instructor at the New England Conservatory of Music, he formed the band.

Now entering its seventeenth season, the Band has performed concerts from coast to coast and has seven albums: *Yiddishe Renaissance*, *Klez*, and *A Touch of Klez* on the Vanguard label; *Oy Chanukah*, *A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden*, *Old World Beat* and their latest release, *Live! The Thirteenth Anniversary Album* on Rounder Records.

The band was featured in the 1988 documentary film, *A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden* and was also featured in the film *Enemies, A Love Story*. The KCB filmed a children's video for Rabbit Ears Productions entitled *The Fool and the Flying Ship*, with narration by Robin Williams and an original score composed by Hankus Netsky, which aired nationwide on Showtime Cable Network. The KCB was also featured in Joel Grey's Yiddish music revue, "Borschtcapades '94" for which Hankus Netsky served as musical director and arranger.

In April of 1990, the Klezmer Conservatory Band made its debut tour abroad, performing several concerts in Germany and giving a remarkable performance at the first-ever International Yiddish Festival in Krakow, Poland. The band now regularly tours Europe, and has also appeared at Australia's Adelaide Festival, New Zealand's International Festival of the Arts and the Dranouter Folk Festival in Belgium.

The KCB recently appeared in a PBS special with renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman called "In the Fiddler's House," filmed in Krakow and New

York. The special traced the Klezmer roots of Perlman's artistry and featured the soulful sounds of the KCB. A joint recording on EMI was released last fall, and "In the Fiddler's House" concerts were performed in major venues this past summer, including Wolftrap, Great Woods, Radio City Music Hall, the Ravinia Festival, the Saratoga Music Festival, and the Mann Music Center (Philadelphia). Last November, the band also appeared on Minnesota Public Radio's *A Prairie Home Companion*, with Garrison Keillor.

---

Featured vocalist **Judy Bressler**, born and raised in New York, is a third generation Yiddish performer whose family includes such luminaries as Lucy Gehrman, Menashe Skulnick, and grandfather Isadore Lipinsky. A member of the band since its inception, Judy brings her much acclaimed interpretations of Yiddish theatre and folk music to the program.

---

Acting as musical director in Mr. Netsky's absence this evening is **Mimi Rabson**. A violinist, violist, composer and arranger, Ms. Rabson is a founding and current member of the Klezmer Conservatory Band. She was featured in the documentary about Klezmer music called *A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden*.

Her klezmer expertise can be heard in the soundtrack to "A Stranger Among Us" -- a major motion picture by Sidney Lumet that stars Melanie Griffith. Ms. Rabson was chosen by

the composer, Jerry Bock ("Fiddler on the Roof") to be a featured soloist on that soundtrack.

In 1994 Ms. Rabson served as musical director to academy award-winner, Joel Grey, in the production of "Borschtcapades '94." Ms. Rabson can be heard on the nationally syndicated PBS radio show called "Jewish Stories from Eastern Europe and Beyond" hosted by Leonard Nimoy.

Ms. Rabson has performed with the

Grammy-winning New England Ragtime Ensemble and in orchestras for Robert Plant and Jimmy Page, Steve Allan, Steve Lawrence and Edyie Gourmet, Sammy Davis, Jr., Smokey Robinson, and Dionne Warwick. Her playing is featured in numerous television commercials including Pampers, Ford Motors, Tufts Health Plan, Humana, Delta/Bank of New England, Keeno in Rhode Island and Bank of Texas.

## Modlin Center for the Arts Staff

---

Kathleen Panoff  
Richard Waller  
Samantha Sawyer

Bill Luhrs  
Justin Poroszok  
Dave Howson  
Annie Mason  
Donna Case

Director  
Director, Marsh Art Gallery  
Marketing Associate/  
Ticket Operations Manager  
Technical Director/Facilities Manager  
Administrative/Technical Assistant  
House Manager  
House Manager  
Artist Coordinator

*Please remember to silence digital watches and paging devices before the performances. Doctors expecting emergency calls should register with the House Manager. The use of cameras - with or without flash - recorders or other electronic devices inside the theatres is strictly prohibited. No eating, drinking or smoking is allowed inside the theatres or galleries.*