

**Presents**

**Klezmer's Greatest Hits  
From the 16<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries  
With the Tischler Klezmer Orchestra**



*[www.clevelandtko.com](http://www.clevelandtko.com)*

**July 29, 2023**

# Klezmer

**Klezmer is the music of Eastern European Jews, their descendants, and the musicians they influenced around the world.** Originally the music of solo fiddlers and other buskers, Klezmer became a staple at Jewish weddings, life cycle celebrations, and other community gatherings. Klezmer includes lively and slow dances, sometimes with bottles on heads, wordless meditations, tangoes, horas, love songs, and waltzes.

**Klezmer was popular in the NY Yiddish Theaters in the 1920's and 1930's,** but lost favor with American Jews concerned with assimilation until the 1960s when it enjoyed a resurgence that's still going strong with hundreds of Klezmer festivals in North America, Europe, and elsewhere.

**The word Klezmer is rooted in the Hebrew for tools (*Klei*) and melody (*zemer*).** Klezmer puts a unique Jewish stamp on the melodies, harmonies, scales, and rhythms from the Roma (another wandering people), Ukraine, Poland, Russia, Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia, Spain, Turkey, Greece, Syria, and elsewhere. Many of the songs are sung in Yiddish, the cultural dialect of the European Jews.

---

## **Tonight's Program** **Klezmer's Greatest Hits From the 16<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Centuries** *(Audience Participation Encouraged)*

**Doina**—A solo improvisation on the Misheberach Klezmer scale.

**Tradition** - The opening number from Fiddler on the Roof.

**Freylech** - A freylech is a lively, upbeat dance. Think frolic.

**Sheyn Vi Di L'vone** (As Beautiful as the Moon ) is a love song composed in the 1930s by Joseph Rumshinsky, one of the top composers for the NY Yiddish theatre, and popularized in 1938 by The Barry Sisters.

**Odessa Bulgar.** The *Bulgarish* is a popular klezmer dance form that some trace to Bessarabia before it came to Ukraine. The name was shortened to Bulgar in America.

**Ich hob dich tsufil lieb** (I Love You Too Much) is a now classic Klezmer long song composed in New York by Lithuanian-born Yiddish theatre composer Alexander Olshanetsky, for the 1933 musical comedy *Der katerinshtshik* (The Organ-grinder).

**Freylech Fun Der Hupe** (Freylechs from the Wedding Canopy) is a dance that captures the excitement of the entire wedding party.

**Di Mezinke Oysgbeegen**, My Youngest Daughter's Married, another upbeat wedding tune, but this time from a more focused point of view.

**Tum Balalaika**. A traditional Russian song that asks three riddles.

**Miserlou**. "Egyptian Girl" is a centuries-old Greek/Turkish song/dance that's been played around the world in many styles, including Klezmer, Dick Dale's hit Surf Guitar version in the 1960s, and as the opening music in the movie Pulp Fiction.

**Nakht In Gan Eden** – A Night in the Garden of Eden is a freylech that captures the excitement of the newlyweds on their wedding night.

**Tsena** – (Come Out, Come Out), is a popular Israeli circle dance. It was the flip side of the No. 1 1950's US hit, "Goodnight Irene" by Pete Seeger and the Weavers.

**Moscow Nights/Midnight in Moscow** – This 1955 Russian song, now an American jazz standard, is sung widely in Russia, especially on New Year's Eve.

**Mein Shetele Belz** – Composed in 1928 in America for the play Ghetto Song, Mein Shetele Belz (My Little Town of Blez-in the western Ukraine) reflects the longing for Jewish life in the old country.

**Bei Mir Bistu Shein** – "To Me, You're Beautiful" was a global hit in the 1930s after Sammy Cahn arranged it and the Andrew Sisters sang it.

**Moshe Emet** – A classic klezmer tune that celebrates Moses (Moshe) and the truth (Emet) of his prophecies.

**Schmelkes Nigun** – A nigun is an evocative wordless prayer or meditation.

**Hava Nagila** – The world-famous Israeli circle dance typically performed at weddings that is synonymous with Jewish music. The NYT recently reported that it has become a popular song used by secular nightclub acts around the country. OY VEY!

## THE TISCHLER KLEZMER ORCHESTRA

**The Tischler Klezmer Orchestra** has been keeping community Klezmer music alive in the Cleveland area since 1995. Originally known as the Workmen's Circle Klezmer Orchestra, it was renamed in 2019 to honor its late music director, the renowned Cleveland saxophonist Norman Tischler. TKO also performs as a smaller group upon request.

**Music Directors:** Steve Ostrow (Trumpet/Trombone/Violin)  
Moss Stanley (Keyboards)

**Accordions:** Tom Beshara, Anthony Ianetta

**Clarinets:** Maureen Garnett, Brad German, Frank Kasimov, Richard Koletsky

**Drums:** Neil Hirschman

**Flutes:** Melissa Bloom, Marlene Englander, Judith Powers, Edie Ungar

**Horns:** Mark Hoffman (Trumpet), Thad Badowski (Baritone, Tuba)

**Strings:** David Budin (Guitar), Henry Samuels (Bass)

**Vocals:** Aaron Perles, Steve Ostrow



**Steve Ostrow**



**Tischler Klezmer Orchestra**



**Moss Stanley**

*If you want to play Klezmer with a community orchestra, come play with us.  
Find out more at [clevelandtko.com](http://clevelandtko.com) or by emailing [moss@mosstanley.com](mailto:moss@mosstanley.com).*

