

Lilith Bios Of Main Performers



Narrator: Michael Wex

Author of [Born to Kvetch](#), bon vivant and raconteur, Michael Wex has been called “a Yiddish national treasure;” [Born to Kvetch](#), the bestselling book ever written about Yiddish, was hailed by The New York Times as “wise, witty and altogether wonderful.” His other books, among them Just Say Nu and How To Be A Mentsh (and Not A Shmuck) were described as “great for the Jews” by The Literary Review of Canada. His novel, Shlepping the Exile, originally published in 1993, was reissued by St. Martin's Press earlier this year.

A native of Lethbridge, Alberta, Wex has worked in virtually every area of contemporary Yiddish. Some of his songs have been recorded by such klezmer bands as Sukke, The Flying Bulgars, and the Grammy-winning Klezmatics. He has been a columnist for New York's Jewish Week and a commentator on the Yiddish radio show sponsored by The Forward.

Wex's teaching and lecture activities--a unique combination of learning, stand-up comedy and probing investigation into the nature of Yiddish and Yiddishkayt--have taken him from Toronto to Budapest, and to many points in between. His approach is so unique and appealing that his annual series of classes at Klezkamp (a yearly Yiddish cultural event in upstate New York) has been renamed Wexology--and not at Wex's instigation.

Michael Wex's Yiddish translation has been called “the finest around,” and runs the gamut from Mendele Moykher Sforim's [The Wishing Ring](#) to Sholem Aleykhem [Classic Yiddish Stories](#), Itzik Manger, testimony for projected war crimes trials and countless family documents, letters, and unpublished autobiographies. Wex is also an accomplished translator into Yiddish. He has done the only such translation of The Threepenny Opera authorized by the authors' estates, and has also translated songs by such artists as Holly Near, Gloria Gaynor, Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, Bob Dylan and scores of others. His uncredited work lies at the heart of Mandy Patinkin's [Mamaloshen](#) CD.



Lilith: Heather Klein

American soprano Heather Klein follows her passion of “painting pictures” with her voice – interpreting and inhabiting characters, and bringing stories to life.

Heather is a classically trained soprano in San Francisco, and performs Opera, Yiddish classical song, theater and folk music, as well as other styles.

For the past decade, she has performed across the U.S., Canada and Europe, as a soloist and as part of various musical groups and opera companies.

However, Klein has focused on a lesser known genre: Yiddish classical song.

Highlights include singing with mentors Three Yiddish Divas, and touring with the National Yiddish Theatre-Folksbiene alongside, among others, Zalmen Mlotek and Claire Barry of the Barry sisters, as well as working on new music.

Produced and researched, she has released two Yiddish musical albums, including, most recently, "Shifreles Portret: A Yiddish Art Song Project" with her "Inextinguishable Trio." Some songs from the album are influenced by Klein's recent residency in Budapest where she researched sheet music, collaborated in concert with Hungarian musicians and had her residency performance at the Balint Haz JCC on display for several weeks in a notable museum in Budapest.

Heather performed Yiddish art song in New York City at YIVO Institute for Jewish Research for the last 4 years in concert, and as a part of Sidney Krum Young Artist Series. For the last three years, Klein has been invited back to create her own program with colleagues. In addition, she played the role of Rosie in the world-premiere of "Ravensbruek Project," a cabaret opera based on the Holocaust, before a sold-out theater in Boston.

This year she has been performing throughout the San Francisco Bay area to promote her new album, work on her upcoming projects, Shabes Zingt, her yearly charitable program: Hungry for Yiddish, and as usual, is always looking to discover forgotten and unknown songs, with the hope of one day performing them.

Klein is looking forward to an exciting year premiering the title role in a modern Yiddish/English Opera in May, as well as her other exciting project: "Yiddish Spring" in honor of Yom HaShoah at the Contemporary Jewish Museum performing Yiddish songs with Veretski Pass, and working with her own Trio to expose a beautiful Yiddish song cycle: Mameloshn.

Heather earned her Bachelor's and Master's from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. She also works as a cantorial soloist and B'nei Mitzvah tutor at Congregation Beth Am in Los Altos Hills, Calif.



Adam: Anthony Russell

Anthony (Mordechai Tzvi) Russell has worked primarily in the field of opera in the San Francisco Bay and New York Metro areas for the past fifteen years. Highlights include the West Coast premiere of Anthony Davis's *X: The Life and Times of Malcolm X* and the world premiere of Philip Glass's *Appomattox* with the San Francisco Opera Company.

More recently, Anthony has devoted himself to the recital repertoire of Sidor Belarsky (1898-1975), one of the twentieth century's most prolific performers of cantorial music, Chassidic nigunim and Yiddish art song.

Anthony's continuing development of Belarsky's repertoire has brought him to the stages of the JCC in Manhattan, Symphony Space, the Ashkenaz Festival and Ideacity Conference in Toronto, KlezKanada in the Laurentians and the Montreal Jewish Music Festival.

Future engagements include international performances of the one-act opera *Lilith* with Veretski Pass and collaborations with the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco.



Composer, Librettist, Accordion, Piano: Joshua Horowitz

Joshua Horowitz, chromatic button accordion, cimbalom and piano, received his Masters degree in Composition and Music Theory from the Academy of Music in Graz, Austria, where he taught Music Theory and served as Research Fellow and Director of the Yiddish Music Research Project for eight years.

He is the founder and director of the ensemble [Budowitz](#), a founding member of Veretski Pass and has performed and recorded with Itzhak Perlman, The Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Theodore Bikel, Ben Goldberg, Rubin and Horowitz, Brave Old World, Adrienne Cooper and Ruth Yaakov. His music was recently featured in the British film, "Some of my best friends are... Jewish / Muslim", awarded the Sandford St. Martin Trust Religious Broadcasting Award and is also featured in the new film by Jes Benstock, "The Holocaust Tourist".

His recordings with Veretski Pass, [Budowitz](#), the Vienna Chamber Orchestra, Rubin & Horowitz and Alicia Svigals, have achieved international recognition and he is the recipient of more than 40 awards for his work as both composer and performer.

He was one of the co-founders of the Austrian experimental composer collective, "Die Andere Saite" and received the Prize of Honor by the Austrian government for his orchestral composition, "Tenebrae." Following his children's Opera, "Der Wilde Man", Joshua received The "Award for Outstanding Talent in Composition" from the

City of Graz and was twice finalist in the National American ASCAP competition. While teaching at the Graz Academy of Music he was awarded both The David Herzog and Fritz Spielman Awards, and received ongoing support from Louise M. Davies for his dedication to music creativity and education.

In 2001, Joshua's group, Budowitz was chosen by the Austrian government to represent the country in the International Celebration of World Culture's held at the "House of the Cultures of The World" in Berlin.

Joshua taught Advanced Jazz Theory at Stanford University with the late saxophonist Stan Getz and is a regular teacher at [KlezKamp](#), [Klezkanada](#), [KlezCalifornia](#) and the [Klezmer Festival Fürth](#). His musicological work is featured in four books, including The Sephardic Songbook with Aron Saltiel and The Ultimate Klezmer, and he has written numerous articles on the counterpoint of J.S. Bach.



Violin, Viola, additional compositions: Cookie Segelstein

Cookie Segelstein, violin and viola, received her Masters degree in Viola from The Yale School of Music in 1984. Until moving to California in 2010, she was principal violist in [Orchestra New England](#) and assistant principal in [The New Haven Symphony](#), as well as on the music faculty at Southern Connecticut State University. She is the founder and director of Veretski Pass, a member of [Budowitz](#), The Youngers of Zion with Henry Sapoznik, has performed with Kapelye, The Klezmatics, Frank London, Klezmer Fats and Swing with Pete Sokolow and the late Howie Leess, Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys, and The Klezmer Conservatory Band.

Cookie has presented lecture demonstrations and workshops on klezmer fiddling all over the world, including at Yale University, University of Wisconsin in Madison, Marshall University in Huntington, West VA, University of Virginia in Charlottesville, University of Oregon in Eugene, Pacific University, SUNY-Cortland, and at Klezmerwochen in Weimar, Germany.

She is a regular staff member at Living Traditions' [KlezKamp](#), [KlezKanada](#), [KlezCalifornia](#), [Klezmer Festival Fürth](#), [Klezfest London](#), and has been a performing artist at Centrum's Festival of American Fiddle Tunes in Port Townsend, Wash.

She was featured on the ABC documentary, "A Sacred Noise," heard on HBO's "Sex and the City", appears in the Miramax film, "Everybody's Fine" starring Robert De Niro, and is heard on several recordings including *Veretski Pass*, *Trafik* and *The Klezmer Shul*, *Budowitz Live*, the Koch International label with Orchestra New England in *The Orchestral Music of Charles Ives*, *Hazònes* with Frank London, *A Living Tradition* with the late Moldovan clarinetist, German Goldenshteyn and [Fleytmuzik](#) with Adrienne Greenbaum.

She is also the publisher of "The Music of..." series of klezmer transcriptions. Active as a Holocaust educator and curriculum advisor, she has been a frequent lecturer at the Women's Correctional Facility in Niantic, CT. She is on the boards of both the North California Viola Society, and the American String Teacher Association, Bay Area chapter. Cookie is also an Apple Certified Support Professional, and owns and operates [The Macmama](#). Cookie lives in Berkeley, California with her husband, Josh Horowitz, 2 cats, a dog and her occasionally visiting adult children.



**Cello, Bass, Drum, Tiling, Slide whistle, additional compositions:
Stuart Brotman**

Stuart Brotman, bass, basy (cello), tiling and baraban, has been an accomplished performer, arranger and recording artist in the ethnic music field for over 50 years. A founding member of Los Angeles' Ellis Island Band, he has been a moving force in the klezmer revival since its beginning, and has defined klezmer bass ("It's a large instrument that plays really low and has an accent.")

He holds a B.A. in music with a concentration in Ethnomusicology from the University of California at Los Angeles, and has taught at [KlezKamp](#), Buffalo on the Roof, the Balkan Music and Dance Workshops, [Klezkanada](#), [KlezCalifornia](#), and numerous European festivals and institutes, including Oxford University, Klezfest London, Yiddish Summer Weimar, [Klezmer Festival Fürth](#), and the Krakow Jewish Festival.

Stu has been recording, touring, and teaching New Jewish Music with world class ensemble, [Brave Old World](#) since 1989, and is featured in the PBS Great Performances film and CD, "Itzhak Perlman, in the Fiddler's House," and in the 2010 documentary, "Song of the Lodz Ghetto, with the music of Brave Old World."

Long admired as a versatile soloist and sensitive accompanist in traditional and pop music circles, he has toured and recorded with Canned Heat, Kaleidoscope, and Geoff and Maria Muldaur, and played cimbalom on Ry Cooder's celebrated recording, "Jazz," which premiered at Carnegie Hall.

Stu appeared in the Los Angeles production of Joshua Sobol's "Ghetto," the San Francisco production of "Shlemiel the First," by Isaac Bashevis Singer, played cimbalom in "The Postman Always Rings Twice," and contrabass balalaika in "Love Affair."

He produced The Klezmerim's Grammy nominated album, "Metropolis," has recorded with The Klezmerim, Kapelye, Andy Statman, the Klezmer Conservatory Band, Davka, The San Francisco Klezmer Experience, and Khevrisa. Stuart lives in Berkeley, California.