

Michael Winograd and The Honorable Mentshn to perform Sunday, April 30, 2023 at 7 PM at Temple Israel in Charleston, W.Va.

The concert is sponsored by Temple Israel, B'nai Jacob Synagogue and Federated Jewish Charities of Charleston

Info, photos and YouTube links provided by Michael Winograd

Klezmer, Eastern European Jewish celebration music, has had a long, fascinating journey.

With roots that pre-date the Middle Ages, Klezmer music incorporates many of the sounds that surrounded the wandering Jews as they relocated from place to place. It is no surprise that the DNA of Klezmer music includes Slavic, Middle Eastern and Balkan sounds glued together with the rich

modalities and melodic tendencies of *Khazones*, Jewish cantorial music from the Synagogue.

In the 1920s and '30s, the music saw great popularity in New York City, filling the halls of the Yiddish Theater, on the radio airwaves, and at hundreds of wedding halls throughout the Five Boroughs.

Interest in Yiddish culture faded following the Second World War, but in the 1980s young musicians throughout the US revived the music, and in the decades since it's become an international and multicultural phenomenon. Today, Klezmer and Yiddish music is played all over the world.

And at the forefront of today's Klezmer landscape is clarinetist Michael Winograd and his band The Honorable Mentshn. "Winograd is one of the most inspired klezmer musicians of his generation. His current band is the best thing going at the moment. The level of

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Winograd's cadre of musicians is kind of astronomical." (Dr. Hankus Netsky, *Jerusalem Post*, Feb. 2023.)

Winograd has collaborated and performed with many of today's leading voices in Jewish music including Itzhak Perlman, Frank London, Adrienne Cooper, Daniel Kahn and countless others.

Recently he co-produced an 80-minute collection of discovered and re-created music from Helsinki's forgotten Yiddish Cabaret with Klezmatics vocalist Lorin Sklamberg. He was a featured soloist on the popular band Vulfpeck's 2016 *The Beautiful Game*, and appeared with them at a sold-out concert at Madison Square Garden in 2019.

In 2022 he launched a new Klezmer supergroup, *Yiddishe Pirat*, with multi-instrumentalist Socalled and Vulfpeck founder Jack Stratton. He works regularly with Pakistani star Zeb Bangash, creating never-before-heard sounds that marry Jewish and Muslim traditions, and makes records and tours internationally with the Honorable Mentshn, spreading the klezmer wherever they go.

In 2022 Michael and the band released their newest album *Early Bird Special*. They toured the music throughout North America with packed performances at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Mass., The Toronto and Ottawa Jazz festivals, Pop Montreal, and the North Carolina Folk Festival.

In 2023 they look forward to returning to the Jewish Culture festival in Krakow Poland, and their first ever concerts in West Virginia.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6HRC50M69fY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8yXtF60U8EI>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZJ-qMyRqKCU>