



*The Yiddish Heart*

## From Shund to Shakespeare

New York Public Library's Dorot Jewish Division: what an amazing collection of Yiddish music and Yiddish theater! Comprising plays, scenarios, sheet music, operettas, radio commercials, serialized dramas, images, and ephemera, The New York Public Library is blessed with a world class trove of treasures. It's fun stuff – and the material that inspired tonight's program, ***The Yiddish Heart***. We hope to give you a taste – a *fress*, if you will -- of the music and theater of one of New York City's great cultural legacies, its Yiddish theater.

Before the program begins, watch a rehearsal in one of the side tents, hear a snatch of song, listen to a soliloquy. Don't forget to ask a question of one of our roving "kishefmakherin," our Yiddish theater magicians, Nahma Sandrow and Debra Caplan. Or simply relax and enjoy the slide show of images from the Dorot Jewish Division demonstrating the magic of NYPL's conservators, who spent two years restoring many of its Yiddish theater materials, thanks to the generosity of Shelby White and the Leon Levy Foundation. While watching, do take a moment to tune into the loop of recordings of radio commercials from the 1940's.

May you leave tonight delighted, satisfied, and curious to know more about the remarkable treasure that is the Dorot Jewish Division.

Enjoy!

Diane Wondisford  
Producer

David Herskovits  
Director, Target Margin Theater

## THE DOROT JEWISH DIVISION

The Dorot Jewish Division of the New York Public Library contains a comprehensive and balanced chronicle of the religious and secular history of the Jewish people in over 300,000 books, microforms, manuscripts, newspapers, periodicals, and ephemera from all over the world.

Primary source materials are especially rich in such fields as the following: Jews in the United States, especially in New York in the age of heavy immigration; Yiddish theater; Jews in the land of Israel through 1948; Jews in early modern Europe, especially Jewish-Gentile relations; Christian Hebraism; anti-Semitism; and world Jewish newspapers and periodicals of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Dorot Division is perhaps the greatest public collection of Judaica and Hebraica in the world open to researchers regardless of academic or other affiliations.

As demonstrated in the Division's recent publication, *Jews in America: From New Amsterdam to the Yiddish Stage*, by Stephen D. Corrsin, Amanda Seigel, and Kenneth Benson, The Dorot Collection's ample primary source materials, thoroughly represent Jews in America from the earliest period to the present day.

**Photograph on the cover:** Performers in Rumshinsky and Thomashefsky's operetta *The Broken Violin*

THE NEW YORK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
THE DOROT JEWISH DIVISION

presents

**THE YIDDISH HEART**

An exuberant evening of Yiddish music and theater excerpts by  
Abraham Ellstein, Kostakowski, Joseph Rumshinsky, William Shakespeare,  
Nahum Stutchkoff, Boris Thomashefsky and others

Directed by  
David Herskovits, Target Margin Theater

Music Direction by  
Frank London

featuring  
Shane Baker, Richie Barshay, Jeremy Brown, Avi Glickstein,  
Frank London, David Mandelbaum, Alon Nechushtan, Eleanor Reissa,  
Miryem-Khaye Seigel, Lorin Sklamberg, Suzanne Toren, Hy Wolfe, Rémy Yulzari

Set Design  
Carolyn Mraz

Lighting Design  
Lenore Doxee

Projection Design  
Gil Sperling

Production Stage Manager  
Darren Brannon

Wednesday, November 6, 2013  
Celeste Bartos Forum  
Stephen A. Schwarzman Building  
Fifth Avenue and 42<sup>nd</sup> Street

We are deeply grateful to the Dorot Foundation for its generous support of  
the Dorot Jewish Division and this evening's *The Yiddish Heart*, one in a series of  
Dorot-sponsored public programs animating the Library's collections.

**Our evening begins with a panoply of Yiddish songs, radio, sketches, learning and imagery.** Want to know more about what you are experiencing? Go to the back inside page of this program, talk with one of our wandering Kishefmakherin, or plan a visit to NYPL's Dorot Jewish Division to learn more about these archival gems.

## THE YIDDISH HEART

*Introduction*.....Shane Baker, Band

*Song: Ich bin an actor*.....Baker  
 Music by Joseph Rumshinsky, Lyrics by Isidor Lillian

*Scene: King Lear* ..... David Mandelbaum, Avi Glickstein,  
 by William Shakespeare Miryem-Khaye Seigel, Baker

*Instrumental music*:..... Band

*Radio: Brenner Brothers Coats*..... Baker, Glickstein

*Scene: Tsores bay laytn*..... Eleanor Reissa, Mandelbaum  
 by Nahum Stutchkoff

*Music from Der yudisher Kenig Lir*..... Band  
 Arrangement by H.A. Russotto

*Scene: Der yudisher Kenig Lir* .....Hy Wolfe, Glickstein,  
 by Jacob Gordin based on the play by W. Shakespeare.. Reissa, Seigel, Toren

*Radio: Manischewitz program "Az der Yid zingt"* ..... Baker, Glickstein  
 by Nahum Stutchkoff

*Song: Welcher jojm tow is der grester*..... Lorin Sklamberg, Reissa, Seigel  
 Music and lyrics by M. Rivesman

Song: Alein oif der velt oder dos elende kind..... Seigel  
Music and lyrics by Abe Schwartz

Scene: The hunchback of Notre-Dame.....Glickstein, Seigel, Wolfe  
by Boris Thomashefsky based on the novel by Victor Hugo

Scene: Tsores bay laytn..... Glickstein, Mandelbaum

Instrumental Interlude: ..... Band

Scene: Tsores bay laytn..... Mandelbaum, Toren

Radio: Brenner Brothers: At Father's Table ..... Baker, Glickstein  
by Nahum Stutchkoff

Song: Zauber Duett (Broken Violin).....Sklangberg, Reissa  
Music by J.M. Rumshinsky, Lyrics by Boris Thomashefsky

Scene: King Lear/Der yudisher Kenig Lir .....Mandelbaum, Wolfe

Song: Yo la-la..... Reissa, Seigel, Sklangberg, Band  
Music by Zavel Zilberts

*The Yiddish Heart* has been made possible through the dedication, research, and the hard work of translation and interpretation, of quite a few individuals. Besides the performers, directors and producer of the program, we would like to thank especially, from the staff of the New York Public Library, Amanda Seigel, Bob Kosofsky (Music Division), Dorot Division Curator Stephen Corrsin, and our steadfast Sr. Library Administrator, Annmarie Starita, Theresa Myrhol, Vanessa Garcia, and Shelly Smith. Thanks also go to the entire staff of the Dorot Jewish Division, and to Victoria Steele and Denise Hibay for their ongoing support of Dorot public programming.

**Alon Nechushtan** (*Piano*). A resident of New York City, Alon has performed in venues such as Carnegie Hall, Central Park Summer Stage, The Blue Note Jazz Club and Joe's Pub frequently with his projects as a band leader of various groups or as an in demand sideman. Alon performed his own compositions at the Yokohama Festival, as well as playing at The Sao-Paolo Brazil Jewish Music Festival with his Quintet Talat, Toronto and Montréal's Rex Hotel with his Jazz Trio and The Tel Aviv New Music Biennale with his Compositions for Large Ensemble.

**Eleanor Reissa** (*Performer*) Broadway performances: *Those Were the Days* (director and performer, Tony Nomination) *Conversations with my Father*; She has performed her one woman show *Eleanor Reissa Sings English* at the Metropolitan Room; *Hip Hamish and Hot* in NYC/national tour. She has sung at international festivals including Warsaw, Israel, Amsterdam, Berlin and around the USA, including Butte, Montana. Most recently she was a guest star on CBS's UNFORGETTABLE; Eleanor has directed and choreographed on Broadway, Off-Broadway and regionally. Currently she is writing the Yiddish musical theatre adaptation of the movie YIDDL MITN FIDDL for Yiddishpiel in Israel. Playwriting credits include *The Last Survivor* at the North light Theatre in Chicago. She was the winner of the Dorothy Silver Prize for her play *Wishful Thinking* and a finalist for Heideman Award at Actors Theatre of Louisville.

**Miryem-Khaye Seigel** (*Performer, live and recorded*) is a Yiddish singer, songwriter, actor, and researcher in Yiddish culture. She has performed, lectured and taught throughout North America, Australia, and Poland. She is an original member of the Folksbiene Troupe (National Yiddish Theater-Folksbiene). Her research project *The Broder Singers: Forerunners of the Yiddish Theater* received the Joseph Kremen Memorial Fellowship at YIVO. Miryem-Khaye is recording her first Yiddish album, to be released in 2014.  
<http://www.amks.wordpress.com>

**Lorin Sklamberg** (*Performer*) is a member of the Grammy Award-winning Yiddish-American roots band the Klezmatics. He has been heard on innumerable recordings and live shows, solo and in collaboration. He has composed and performed for film, dance, stage and circus, has produced a number of recordings of world and theater music, and teaches Yiddish song from São Paulo to St. Petersburg. Lorin is the Sound Archivist of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

**Suzanne Toren** (*Performer*) has appeared on and off Broadway, in regional theatres, and occasionally on TV. She has performed in classics, as well as new works, playing Jewish mothers, Italian aunts, Spanish queens, French revolutionaries, Russian misfits, American lawyers, and British aristocrats, among others. This past summer, she played Yente the Matchmaker in "Fiddler on the Roof", in Vermont. Suzanne is a multi-award-winning narrator of audio books, has recorded close to 1000 over a career spanning several decades, and currently works for the major audio book publishers, as well as for the Library of Congress Talking Book program.

**Hy Wolfe** (*Performer*) is an actor, singer and director. His first language is Yiddish having been born to holocaust survivors. He has performed in commercials, voiceovers and film. His Yiddish performances include *Yankl der Shmid* (*Yankl the Blacksmith*); *Grine Felder* (*Green Fields*); *Di Ludmirer Moyd* (*Maiden of Ludmir*); *Stempenyu* (*Stempenyu*); *Mirele Efros* (*Mirele Efros*); *Shop* (*Shop*) & *The World of Sholem Aleichem*. He has toured the east coast with several Yiddish one-man shows and performed on tour with Leon Liebgold, Shifra Lerer, Zypora Spaisman Mina Bern, David Rogow, and Emil Grovetz, to name but a few.

**Rémy Yulzari** (*Double Bass*) studied double bass, chamber music, accordion, violin, piano, composition, orchestration, counterpoint, conducting, music history and musical analysis at Paris and Lyon Conservatoires. He received a Master of Education (2011), giving numerous master classes and teaching regularly at international academies in France and Japan. Rémy was the first-ever double bassist to be invited into the Juilliard School's prestigious Artist Diploma Performance program in New York City. As a composer Rémy has written for theater shows, TV and movies including *Aux Marches du Palais*, and appears in the film movie *L'autre Dumas* with Gérard Depardieu.

**Debra Caplan** (*Kishefmakherin*) is an Assistant Professor of Theatre at Baruch College, CUNY. She recently completed her PhD dissertation on the interwar Yiddish art theater movement, in the department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University. She is the Supervising Dramaturg for Target Margin Theater's "Beyond the Pale" Yiddish Theater program. Her work has appeared in *Comparative Drama*, *New England Theatre Journal*, *The Encyclopedia of Greek Tragedy* and is forthcoming in *Yiddish Women Writers* and *The Routledge Companion to Dramaturgy*. Debra is the former Executive Director of the Mellon School of Theater and Performance Research at Harvard and the former artistic director of the Harvard Yiddish Players, where she directed *Di gantse velt iz a teater* and *Shulamis* (produced in cooperation with the Folksbiene).

**Nahma Sandrow** (*Kishefmakherin*) wrote *Vagabond Stars: A World History of Yiddish Theater*, as well as other books and articles on other aspects of theater history. She has published numerous articles and critical reviews on theater and other subjects. She wrote the book for the musical *Kuni-Leml*, which won Outer Critics Circle awards for Best Musical and Best Book of a Musical and continues in revivals and tours, as well as the book for the award-winning musical *Vagabond Stars*. A number of her translations of Yiddish (and French) plays have been staged. She has lectured at such venues as the Young Directors Lab of Lincoln Center, the Smithsonian Institution, Oxford University, and Harvard University.

**Lenore Doxsee** (*Lighting Designer*) Recent designs include Target Margin's *The (\*) Inn*, *Uncle Vanya* and *The Tempest*, *And lose the name of action* with Miguel Gutierrez. *We are Proud to Present...* at Soho Rep, and *Sumeida's Song* (dir. David Herskovits) for Prototype Festival. Bessie Awards for Miguel Gutierrez' *Last Meadow* and *Retrospective Exhibitionist/Difficult Bodies*. Other favorite designs: Morgan Thorson's *Heaven*, *Cunning Little Vixen* at Lyric Opera of Chicago and *Faustus, the Last Night* at Spoleto USA. Lenore is Associate Artistic Director of Target Margin.



**Carolyn Mraz** (*Set Designer*) is a proud Associated Artist of Target Margin Theater. Selected credits include: *The Hatmaker's Wife* (Playwrights Realm), *The (\*) Inn* (Target Margin), *SPACEMAN* (Incubator Arts), *Love Lab* (Lee Strasberg Institute), *A History of Launching Ships* (Polybe & Seats), *Barking Girl* (E. 4th St. Theater), *Life is Happening to Us Again* (A Host of People), *Acquainted With The Night* (NYU), *Once In A Lifetime* (NYU), *The Puppet Show* (Target Margin Lab, The Bushwick Starr), *Thisisitsthisit [ ]: A Map Of The Known World* (The Bushwick Starr), *TIME! (and/or progress?)* (Ida Nowhere, Berlin, Germany), and *The Name Means Public Spirited* (HERE). Carolyn is an Oberlin alum with an MFA in design from NYU Tisch.

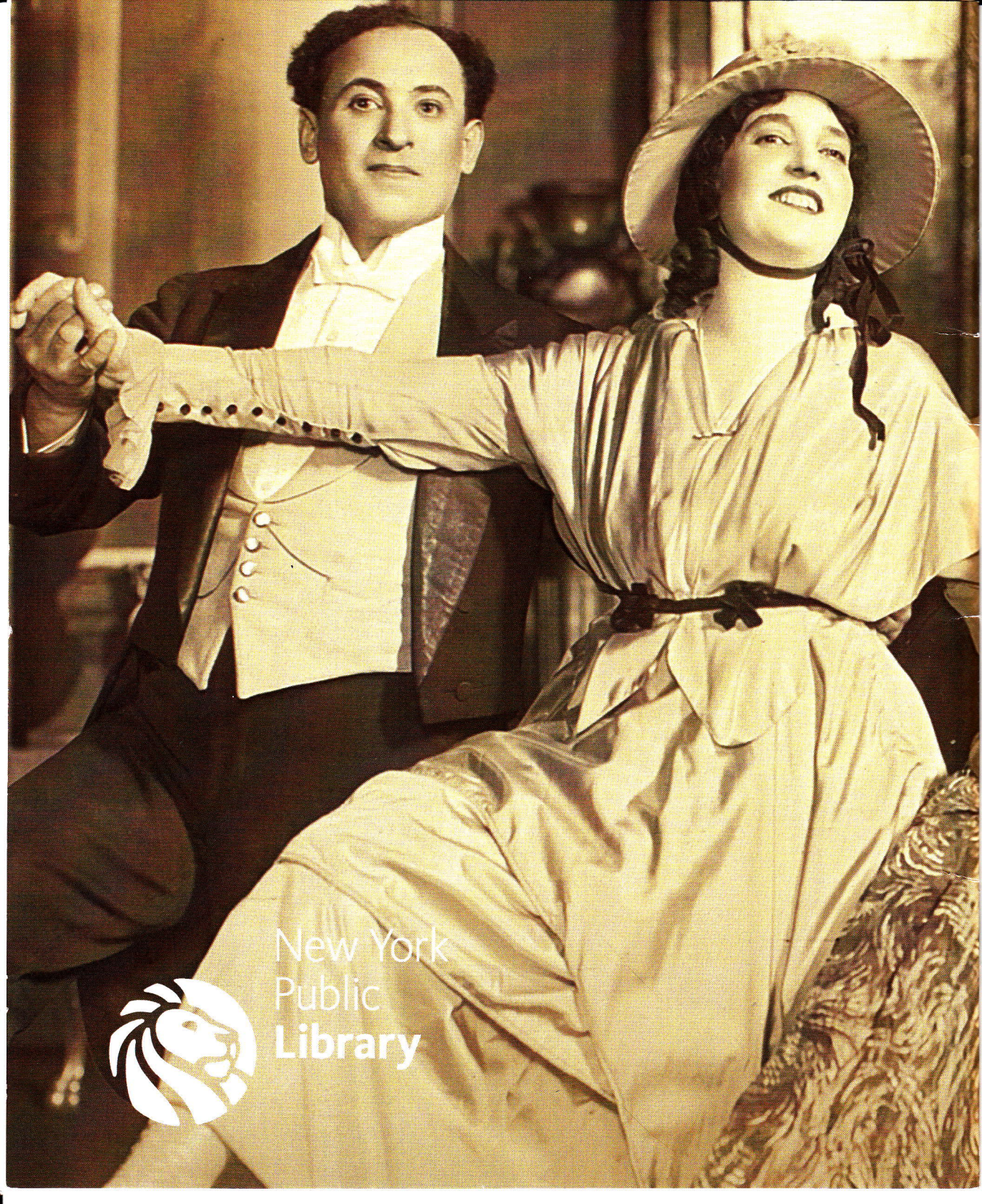
**Gil Sperling** (*Projection Designer*) Both a multimedia artist and projection designer, Gil studied at the school of visual theater, Jerusalem and at the academy of media arts, Cologne (KHM). Recent projection design works include: *Don Giovanni* at the Cologne opera; *Trafficked* and *9mm America* at the Planet Connections Theater Festivity, New York; *One Night* at Cherry Lane Theater (2013). As a multimedia director: *Sotto Voce* at the Berlin new music festival; the operetta *Shulamis, or the well and the pussycat* at the Target Margin Lab, New York (2012). Video installations: *SVA* westside gallery, New York; *Kampo* Museum, Kyoto, Japan; *Hellerau Arts Center*, Dresden, Germany.

**Darren Brannon** (*Production Stage Manager*) *Wit*, NYC and National Tour; Boston Lyric Opera - *Flight*, *The Little Prince*, *Tosca*; Boston Early Music Festival - *Niobe: Regina di Tebe*, *Acteon*, *Acis & Galatea*; Long Wharf Theater - *Big Love*, *Arms and the Man*, *High Dive*, *The Waverly Gallery*; American Repertory Theater - *No Exit*; Huntington Theater - *Dead End*; GFour Productions, National Playwright's Conference, Berkshire Theater Festival, Dallas Theater Center, International Festival of Arts & Ideas.

**Lily Haje** (*Assistant Stage Manager*) is an interdisciplinary theater artist with a focus on directing new, devised work. Stage Managerial highlights include *Devotedly*, *Sincerely Yours* and *The Loneliest Whale*. Recent directing credits include *Fire + Bone*, *The Idol of the Cyclades* and *Someone Who'll Watch Over Me*. She is a recent graduate of Wesleyan University, where she studied Theater and Religion. You can also hear Lily's voice on tonight's radio recordings.

## DETAILS ABOUT THE PROGRAM (CONTINUED)

- Tsores bay laytn* Nahum Stutchkoff  
Scenes 1,2 & 3 Excerpts/summaries from Episodes 86-87
- Music from Der yudisher Kenig Lir*  
Music arrangement by H. A. Russotto. Katzenelenbogen & Rabinowitz, 1899
- Scene from Der yudisher Kenig Lir - Jacob Gordin*  
based on the play by William Shakespeare
- Manischewitz program: Az der Yid zingt* - Stutchkoff
- Welcher jojm tow is der grester?*  
Music and lyrics by M. Riwesman, arrangement by P. Lwow.  
From Liderbukh far shul un familye, Berlin: Yuval, 4<sup>th</sup> Ed.
- Alein oif der velt oder dos elende kind*  
Music & lyrics by Abe Schwartz  
New York: Hebrew Publishing company, 1921
- The hunchback of Notre Dame*  
Adapted by Boris Thomashefsky  
from the novel by Victor Hugo
- Brenner Brothers* Nahum Stutchkoff  
*At Father's Table*
- Zauber duett* music by Joseph Rumshinsky, lyrics by Boris Thomashefsky.  
From the operetta *The Broken Violin*.  
New York: Hebrew Publishing Co., 1917
- King Lear Compilation* King Lear & Der yudisher Kenig Lir
- Yo la-la: A khabadske nign - Ju-la-la (Chasidil Song)*  
A Hasidic song of Habad. Music by Zavel Zilberts.  
New York: 1921. Ios. P. Katz.



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