

# Metropolitan Klezmer

**“Anything but stereotypical, and nothing but terrific.”**

COSMIK DEBRIS



PHOTOS: Hank Gans interior/Albie Mitchell exterior

**“Classic klezmer sounds and bold new interpretations”**

JEWISH WEEK

**“Delightfully rambunctious ...hard-swinging, an outstanding group”**

VILLAGE VOICE

**“Influences that range from old school Arabic music to Latin jazz to Motown...modern-day purveyors of time-honored traditions.”**

FLAVORPILL



**BOOKINGS:** [sicular@gmail.com](mailto:sicular@gmail.com) 212 475.4544

151 First Avenue #145 NYC 10003 USA mobile 347 804 4439

[metropolitanklezmer.com](http://metropolitanklezmer.com)



@klezbigal



@evesicular

# Metropolitan Klezmer

“One of the finest American klezmer bands”

SONGLINES MAGAZINE



**METROPOLITAN KLEZMER, plays an exhilarating range of musical treasures with astonishing agility and refreshing depth.**

Formed in 1994 and inspired by the late, great master reedplayer **Howie Leess**, this collaborative adventure of eight exceptional New York musicians combines the best of world music, classical, jam band, and downtown scenes to create inspired neo-traditional interpretations and compositions around a **panoply of eclectic Yiddish repertoire**: rollicking dance, ethereal trance, imaginatively-arranged Yiddish swing and tango, plus genre-expanding originals such as klezmer cumbia. Bandmates bring together stylistic backgrounds from Albanian to Zydeco, and from Latin jazz to bebop to baroque, complete with a panoramic instrumental array and multi-lingual vocals.

Among the octet’s specialties are marvelous repertoire (with multi-media options) from vintage Yiddish film soundtracks, lesser-known gems from Soviet Yiddish culture, choice interpretations of Broadway & West End classics, Latin jazz-inflected and

Balkan-infused exuberance, and Yiddish balladry of the Triangle Fire. “Music from Yiddish Cinema” shows with full eight-piece band & copious film clips have drawn overflow audiences this past year to Manhattan’s Lincoln Center as well as Long Island’s Cinema Arts Centre.

Led by drummer/film historian Eve Sicular, METROPOLITAN KLEZMER 2016-17 seasons also delighted full houses from Colorado’s Mizel Arts & Culture Center to Westchester’s Emelin Theatre, Western audiences from LA’s Torrance to Phoenix’s MIM, outdoor festival fans from Brooklyn Botanic Garden’s Ghouls & Gourds to upstate’s Falcon Ridge Folk Fest (as the first Yiddish music ensemble ever invited to perform at FRFF!) Holiday annual feature favorites at **Santa Klez** NYC, Arts Brookfield, and New Year’s Eve Millbrook have attracted packed houses included Grammy-winner Paquito D’Rivera, sitting in as the group’s repeating surprise guest.

As performer-educators, METROPOLITAN KLEZMER returned by popular demand to the 92nd Street Y’s Musical Introduction

Series at Kaufmann Concert Hall, playing for thousands of diverse students who sang and danced along. Heard on HBO, Public Radio International, and dozens of film soundtracks, the ensembles’s accolades include grant awards from New York State Council on the Arts, NYC’s Department of Cultural Affairs, Sparkplug Foundation, and OUTmusic. The band’s fifth album, **Mazel Means Good Luck** (an acclaimed concert recording by engineer David Merrill) also features live onstage bonus tracks from both Eve Sicular’s musical documentary theater hit **J. Edgar Klezmer: Songs from My Grandmother’s FBI Files** -- and the band’s poignant version of a nearly-forgotten 1911 lamentation of the Triangle Factory Fire, performed for the centenary memorial at Cooper Union’s Great Hall (now part of the The Museum of the City of New York permanent collection). Approaching the quarter-century mark in 2019, the band looks forward to more of this exhilarating mission:

“Metropolitan Klezmer takes a scholarly approach to the genre’s history, yet never skimps on the exuberance at its core.”

—Time Out New York



## METROPOLITAN KLEZMER octet:

**Debra Kreisberg**  
clarinet & alto saxophone

**Pam Fleming**  
trumpet, flugelhorn & kudu shofar

**Reut Regev**  
trombone

**Melissa Fogarty**  
vocals

**Ismail Butera**  
accordion

**Karen Waltuch**  
viola

**David Hofstra**  
double bass & tuba

**Eve Sicular**  
drums | bandleader