

Metropolitan Klezmer

Our 25th year! Latest CD: "Mazel Means Good Luck"



photo: Hank Gans

"Classic klezmer sounds and bold new interpretations" *Jewish Week (NYC)*

"One of the finest American klezmer bands" *Songlines*

"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*

"Metropolitan Klezmer takes a scholarly approach to the genre's history, yet never skimps on the exuberance at its core." *Time Out NY*

"Anything but stereotypical, and nothing but terrific" *Cosmik Debris*

"New York's best klezmer band, the music is breathtakingly good." *Lucid Culture*

"Metropolitan Klezmer rocks!!" *Barry Reisman, WW DB Philadelphia*

"Exhilarating... high-voltage... deliciously shapeshifting... with a love for resurrecting obscure treasures from across the decades ...[an] outside-the-box sensibility informs the band's originals, which is what distinguishes this group from others in their field: their repertoire is vibrant and in the here and now, and often irreverent." *New York Music Daily*

"One of America's most accomplished & inventive klezmer bands" *Gay City News*

"Joyous, evocative & marvelously eclectic music!" *Remember the Triangle Fire Coalition*

METROPOLITAN KLEZMER 151 First Avenue #145 NYC 10003 USA
MetropolitanKlezmer.com Twitter @klezbigal *sicular@gmail.com*
phone 212 475 4544 mobile 347 804 4439

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HAILED AS “ONE OF THE FINEST AMERICAN KLEZMER BANDS” by Songlines Magazine (UK), Metropolitan Klezmer performs an exhilarating range of musical treasure with astonishing agility and refreshing depth. Celebrating their 25th anniversary in 2019, the group’s delicious approach is both authentic in sound and polished in performance, with a dazzling array of Yiddish-rooted repertoire by turns poignant and jubilant, swinging and powerful. Vibrant neo-traditional favorites, acclaimed original compositions, and nearly-forgotten, gorgeously re-grooved vintage gems all feature on the band’s latest album, *Mazel Means Good Luck*; MK recordings on five CDs to date have also been broadcast and featured from HBO to London’s Covent Garden.

An octet in full, this collaborative adventure of exceptional New York musicians combines the best of World Music, downtown and classical scenes who impart ethereal trance, rollicking dance, lush takes on Second Avenue swing and Eastern European tango, klezmercumbia, Soviet Yiddish theater melodies, drinking songs, unexpected showtune revelations, and even retro TV underscores. MetropolitanKlezmer’s “Music from Yiddish Cinema” combines live concert program with multi-media to present soundtrack tunes from vintage films set in Eastern Europe and the Lower East Side, all with musical, historical and filmographic angles presented by cinema scholar/bandleader Eve Sicular. As Time Out New York extols the group: “Metropolitan Klezmer takes a scholarly approach to the genre’s history, yet never skimps on the exuberance at its core.”

Metropolitan Klezmer bandmates bring together stylistic backgrounds from Albanian to Zydeco, complete with panoramic instrumental array and multi-lingual vocals. The ensemble also explores such important yet nearly-forgotten projects as Yiddish balladry of the Triangle Factory Fire (their live concert recording of “Di Fire Korbunes” is now in the permanent collection of The Museum of The City of New York). Honored by awards from NYSCA, NYC’s Department of Cultural Affairs, and The Sparkplug Foundation, Metropolitan Klezmer has recently appeared live from coast to coast: JAAMM Fest/Denver, Falcon Ridge Folk Festival, The Emelin Theatre, and Scottsdale Center for the Arts, with Hanukkah season 2018 California premieres at Palo Alto’s Oshman Center and Carlsbad’s Museum of Making Music, and snowbird concert at Miami’s Jewish Museum of Florida. The band’s eight members have also been featured with such artists such as Andy Statman, Wilco, Yemen Blues, Indigo Girls, Li’l Jimmy Scott, Government Mule, Marshall Crenshaw, Miramar, and the Metropolitan Opera. Flavorpill extols Metropolitan Klezmer as “not only exuberantly eclectic but also very danceable... Influences that range from old school Arabic music to Latin jazz to Motown... modern-day purveyors of time-honored traditions.”

Ismail Butera: [accordion](#)
Pam Fleming: [trumpet, flugelhorn](#)
Melissa Fogarty: [vocals](#)
Dave Hofstra: [bass, tuba](#)

Debra Kreisberg: [clarinet, alto sax](#)
Reut Regev: [trombone](#)
Eve Sicular: [drums, bandleader](#)
Karen Waltuch: [viola](#)

DISCOGRAPHY:

MAZEL MEANS GOOD LUCK Best Albums of 2014, NY Music Daily, TRAVELING SHOW Best CDs of the Year, Jewish Week; 5 stars, LA Jewish Journal, SURPRISING FINDS Worldbeat Top 30, The Phat Planet (UK); Outmusic Award, MOSAIC PERSUASION Outmusic Award; Top Ten, Jewish Week, YIDDISH FOR TRAVELERS Top 10 Klezmer CDs, Moment Magazine & The Essential Klezmer