

Interfaith/Intercultural programming: Jewish Choral Music from the Sephardic and Ashkenazic traditions.

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What is Jewish Music: Music that is inspired by the Jewish Experience – for our purposes – divided into sacred and secular. Sacred music is written in the biblical language of Hebrew; Secular music is found in all languages spoken by Jews throughout Israel and the Diaspora: Hebrew, Yiddish, Ladino, Farsi and English.

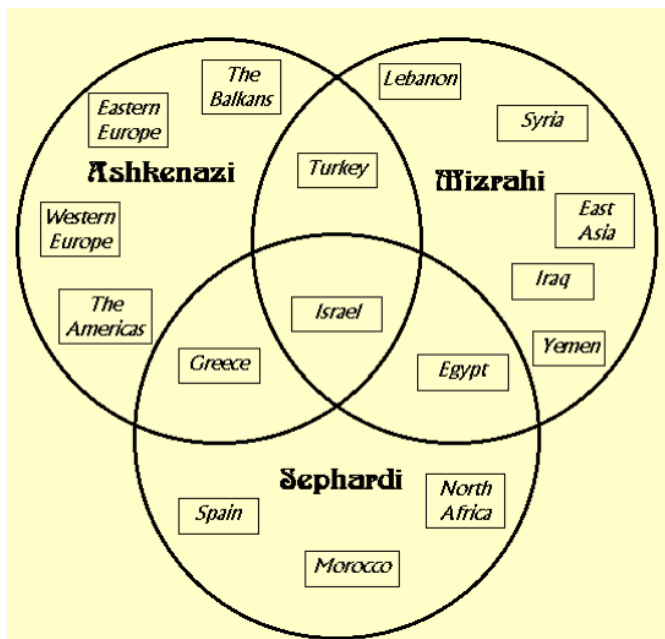
The Three Streams of Jewish Music:

We can describe Jewish Music as having three distinct streams. One is the *Ashkenazi*, or Western stream. This includes *Klezmer*, and is music originating in Eastern Europe and extending to the rest of Europe and the Americas.

The second stream is the *Sephardi*, which refers to Mediterranean cultural sources, including Spain, Portugal, North Africa, Greece, and Turkey.

The third stream is the *Mizrahi*, literally Eastern, and refers to the music of Jewish people who resided over the centuries amidst Arabic cultures.

Of course these three streams are not completely separate, but do in fact intersect in many places (see diagram below).



Many English adaptations of Hebrew prayers can be found. Some of the popular simple texts for interfaith and intercultural programming:

General Prayers:

Oseh Shalom

May He who makes peace in high places,
make peace for us
and for all Israel,
and let us say, amen

Sim Shalom:

Grant peace everywhere goodness and blessing,
Grace, loving kindness and mercy to us and unto all Israel, Your people.

Hinei Ma Tov: (Psalm 133)

Behold how good and pleasant it is for brothers and sisters to live together in unity

Ma Tov:

How lovely are your tents, O Jacob, your dwelling places, O Israel!
As for me, through Your abundant grace, I enter your house to worship with awe in
Your sacred place.
Shalom Chaverim:
Shalom my friends, Till we meet again,
Shalom, shalom.

L'Dor va Dor:

From generation to generation your miracles give us reason to live.
Same as our ancestor's days, we keep on giving praise,
With Your grace we've made it this far, we're so proud of who we are;
Grateful for all who've come before, the circle of life goes on.

Hanukkah:

Al Hanisim:

(Thank you) for the miracles, the salvation
The heroism and the acts of rescue
And for the wars You fought for our ancestors
Back in those years, in these days!

Ocho Kandelikas:

Beautiful Hanukkah is here. Eight candles for me, Oh...
One little candle, two little candles, three little candles,
four little candles, five little candles,
six little candles, seven little candles, eight candles for me.
There will be a lot of parties, with joy and happiness,
There will be a lot of parties, with joy and happiness, Oh...
One little candle, two little candles, three little candles,

four little candles, five little candles,
six little candles, seven little candles, eight candles for me.
We're going to eat little pastries, with small almonds and honey,
We're going to eat little pastries, with small almonds and honey. Oh...
One little candle, two little candles, three little candles,
four little candles, five little candles,
six little candles, seven little candles.

Chanukah, Chanukah, Chag Yafeh Kol Kach:

Chanukah is a great holiday.
Surrounded with lovely light.
Fun for little children.
Dreidel, spin, spin, spin.
How wonderful!

Ner Li:

Oh I have a candle, a candle so thin,
On Chanukah, my candle I'll light.
On Chanukah my candle will glow bright;
On Chanukah my song I shall sing.

Banu Choshech:

Though the night is cold and dark.
In our soul, there lies a spark.
Each of us, is one small light.
All together, we shine bright.
Do a Mitzvah – light your spark.
Let your glow shine through the dark.
Do a Mitzvah – light your spark.
Let your soul shine through the dark

Jewish Sub- groups:

Ashkenazic:

Descendants of Jews from Eastern Europe, Germany and France.

Yiddish – Vernacular language spoken by Ashkenazim; combination of German and Hebrew

Sephardic:

Descendants of Jews from Spain, Portugal, North Africa and the Middle East.

Ladino or Judezmo - Vernacular language spoken by Sephardim;
combination of Castilian Spanish, Turkish, Hebrew, Arabic

Mizrachi:

Descendants of Jews from North Africa and the Middle East
Jews from Persia – speak Farsi

Other sub-groups: **Yemenite, Ethiopian,**

Favorite Yiddish Songs:

Tumbalalaikah:

A young lad is thinking, thinking all night
Would it be wrong, he asks, or maybe right,
Should he declare his love, dare he choose,
And would she accept, or will she refuse?

Chorus:

Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika,
Tumbala, tumbala, tumbalalaika
tumbalalaika, play Balalaika,
tumbalalaika - let us be merry.

Maiden, maiden tell me again
What can grow, grow without rain,
What can burn for many years,
What can long and cry without tears?

Silly young lad, why ask again?
It's a stone that can grow, grow without rain,
It's love that can burn for many long years,
A the heart that can yearn and cry without tears.

Oifn Prepitchik:

A fire burns on the hearth
And it is warm in the little house.
And the rabbi is teaching little children
The alphabet.

Remember, children,
Remember, dear ones,
What you learn here.
Repeat and repeat yet again,
Komets alef-o.

Learn, children, don't be afraid.
Every beginning is hard.
Lucky is the Jew who studies Torah.
What more do we need?

When, children, you will grow older
You will understand,
How many tears lie in these letters
And how much crying.

Learn, children, with enthusiasm,
As I instruct you.
The one who learns Hebrew better
Will receive a flag.

Bai Mir Bist du Shein

I will say to you so that you would hear
"I love you."

When you speak with your eyes,
I would fly with you wherever you wish -
I do not care where."

When you have a bit of sense
And when you show your childlike little smile

When you are wild as an Indian
Even if you were a Galitzyaner,

I say: It doesn't bother me.

To me, you are lovely,

To me, you are charming.

To me, you are the only one in the world.

To me, you are lovely,

To me, you are charming,

To me, you are more precious than money.

Many pretty girls

Wanted me for a husband

But among them all I chose only you.

Favorite Ladino Songs:**Cuando el Rey Nimrod:**

When King Nimrod went out to the fields
Looked at the heavens and at the stars
He saw a saint light at the Jewish quarter
A sign that Abraham, our father, was about to be born.

Abraham Avinu, dear father
Father who blessed the light of Israel.

Then he told all the mothers
That every pregnant woman
Who did not give birth to her baby was going to be killed
because Abraham our father was going to be born.

Abraham Avinu, dear father
Father who blessed the light of Israel.

Los Bilbilicos:

The nightingales sing
with sighs of love
my spirit my luck
they're in your power
the rose blooms
in the month of may

my spirit feels only darkness
suffering from the love
come faster my dove
come faster with me
come faster dear
run and save me

Durme, Durme:

Sleep, sleep; mother's little boy
Free from worry and from pain,
Free from worry and from pain.
Listen joy to your mother's words,
The words of Shema Israel,
The words of Shema Israel.
Sleep, sleep; mother's little boy
With the beauty of Shema Israel,
With the beauty of Shema Israel.

Scalerico de Oro:

Little golden stairs
[Made] of gold and ivory
So that the bride can climb them
to take their wedding vows.
We came to see, we came to see
May they enjoy and achieve
And may they have much abundance.
The bride doesn't have money.
May they have good fortune.
May they have plenty of good fortune.
The bride has no wealth.
May they have good fortune
May they have plenty of good fortune.

Useful Web Articles:

http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Folk_Songs

<http://www.jewishfolksongs.com/en/jewish-folklore>

<http://www.guymendilow.com/about/an-entirely-too-brief-overview-of-ladino-song.html>

<https://findmyheritage.wordpress.com/2011/03/09/sephardic-music-stories-and-histories-in-the-diaspora-hispanic-jews/>

Resources:

Transcontinental Music Publishers

<https://www.transcontinentalmusic.com/home.php>

Dr. Joshua Jacobson

<http://zamir.org/>

Dr. Michael Isaacson

<http://www.michaelisaacson.com/>

Sheet Music and Recordings

<http://www.oysongs.com/>

Tara Publications

<http://www.jewishmusic.com/>

Milken Archive of Jewish Music

<http://www.milkenarchive.org/>

Selected Choral pieces:

Durme Durme, Arr. By David Ludwig
From "Four Ladino Folk Songs"
Publisher David Ludwig Music
Difficult level

Durme, Durme Arr. by Alice Parker
Published by Transcontinental
Medium level

La Rosa Enflorece arr. by Elliot Z. Levine
Published by Shadowpress
Easy with good soloist

La Rosa Enflorece arr. by Alice Parker
Published by Transcontinental
Medium level

Ladino Suite arr. by Tamar Bronstein
Shabbat Songs
2 voices and instruments
Easy level

Avre Tu Puerta Serrada arr. by Michael Isaacson
Men Only
Easy to Medium Level
Published by Transcontinental

Por Que Llorax (based on a Sephardic folksong)
Composed by Yeheskel Braun arr. by Joshua Jacobson
Easy to Medium level
Published by Transcontinental

Adijo, Kerida Arr. by Joshua Jacobson
Easy-Medium Level
Plank-Road Publishing

Ocho Kandelikas by Flory Jagoda
Arr. by Joshua Jacobson
Easy
Published by Transcontinental

Cuando el Rey Nimrod Arr. by Matthew Lazar
Easy – Medium with good soloist
Published by Transcontinental

O, ir kleyne likhtelekh Arr. by Mark Zuckerman
Moderate- Difficult
ECS Publishing

Der Fidler composed by William Sharlin
For women's voices and solo violin
Easy
Not published

Djankoye Arr. by Michael Isaacson
English Lyric by Pete Seeger
Published by Eggcream Music

Dery Zikh Dreydele Avrom Goldfaden
Arr. by Elliot Z. Levine
Easy –Medium
Published by Transcontinental

Shtiler, Shtiler

S'Brent

Zog Nit Keyn Mol

From Cradle of Fire Arr. by Michael Isaacson

Treble voices (Orchestrations available)

Published by Transcontinental

Zog Nit Keyn Mol Arr. by Julius Chayes

Easy-medium

Published by Transcontinental

Farlorn Alemen Andrea Clearfield

Difficult

Published by composer

Tirtel Troyben Michelle Green Willner

Difficult, need excellent soprano soloist

Published by composer

Bai Mir Bisti Shein Shalom Secundo

Arr. by Joshua Jacobson

Medium

Published by Transcontinental

Beloved Yiddish Folk Songs

Arranged for Mixed choir -acapella

By Yakov Dubravin

All my favorites, Easy-Medium

Book at Amazon.com