

VERETSKI PASS MUSIC FROM THE CARPATHIAN BOW

Workshop and Lecture Series

Veretski Pass offers a series of workshops and lectures on Klezmer music and related topics. The classes are structured according to the number of days allotted and the level of the participants (from beginning to advanced), and emphasize active participation. Workshop participants receive a detailed syllabus containing historical, methodological, and bibliographic materials as well as a discography. The lectures deal with a wide array of themes, and include ample live and recorded demonstrations. The themes listed below are best implemented in combinations rather than individually, and are but a sample of what we teach.

Instrumentation

The members of Veretski Pass play and teach the following instruments:

Cookie Segelstein: Violin, Viola , all strings

Joshua Horowitz: Accordion, Tsimbl (Dulcimer), Piano

Stuart Brotman: Bass, Cello, Drum, Tilinga, Brass

OPTIONAL: Dance teacher/leader

Klezmer Music Classes/Workshops

- **Instrument Classes.** Detailed instruction in each of the represented instruments (violin, accordion, tsimbl, bass, percussion).
- **Melodic Style.** Articulation and phrasing of melodies, melodic ornaments
- **Accompaniment Rhythms and Harmony.** Demonstration and active playing of the basic accompaniment rhythms and harmonies of Klezmer as well related musical traditions.
- **Bandstand Arrangement.** Function of melodies and accompaniments; ornamentation, variation and improvisation. Traditional techniques of ensemble arranging, dealing with alto, tenor and bass lines, fills and turnarounds as well as techniques of combining music to facilitate dances.
- **Playing for Dance.** Discussion of music for Jewish dance, listening and escorting genres of Jewish music. Dance genres including round dances (Freylakhs, Horas, Bulgars, etc.), couple dances (Shers) and solo dances (Khusidls); Listening genres include the Doina, Kale Basetzns, Dobridens, Gute Nakhts, Sey Gezunts, Mazel Tovs and Improvizatsyes; Escorting genres include Gas Nigns, Firen Di Mekhutonims, Fun and Tsu der Khupes.
- **Learning by Ear.** Melodies, rhythms and accompaniment are taught by ear in a way that even the most loyal note reader can succeed. Best for an ensemble.
- **Ear Band.** An ensemble that learns tunes by ear, complete with bass lines, variations, and melodic variations. Very fun!

- **Rocky Rhythm.** Loosening traditional western rhythm sensibilities, to facilitate rhythmic flexibility between melody and accompaniment through a series of fun and challenging exercises.
- **Klezmer Theory.** Discussion and active playing of the modes of Jewish instrumental music, their cadences and harmonic structures.
- **Bandstand 911.** Skills necessary to facilitate a successful stage presence by an ensemble. Drills and exercises in communication, changing tempos, maintaining energy throughout performance. Also emergency procedures to minimize damage due to train wrecks on stage, personality conflicts, assignment of leadership. Popular as a masterclass.
- **Doinas and Kale Bazetsns,** Recitatives and improvisations for instrumentalists.
- **Line Spinning.** Improvisation techniques.

Klezmer Music and other Lectures: Most of these lectures are presented with audio and video examples, both recorded and live.

- **Ask Dr. Klez** (our most popular). Audience Q and A, dealing with virtually all aspects of Klezmer Music and the Jewish Music scene, complete with live and recorded examples.
- **Co-opting Klezmer,** the politicization of klezmer music by various groups and cultures.
- **Grand Theft Ottoman.** Follows melodies throughout many cultures who claim them as their own.
- **Klezmer Music in Germany**
- **If the Tune is Jewish, Why is the Style Hungarian?**
- **The History of the Klezmer Tsimbl**
- **A Galitsian Jewish Wedding**
- **Mahler's Wellspring**
- **A Sleeping Beauty; the effect of the Holocaust on Jewish Music**
- **Jews of the Prairie, growing up with Carpathian Jews in Cowboy country.** Cookie's personal experience growing up in Kansas City Missouri with Holocaust survivor parents in America's Heartland.

For Booking Information:

Please contact Cookie Segelstein,
510-705-1497, cookie@veretskipass.com
www.veretskipass.com