

Final Conference

Oxford Seminar in Advanced Jewish Studies
“Between Sacred and Profane - Jewish Musical Cultures
in Early Modern Europe”

15-18 March 2020

Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
Clarendon Institute, Walton St, Oxford OX1 2HG

Convenors: Dr Diana Matut and Dr Deborah Rooke



Conference Programme

Sunday, 15 March 2020

Concert with the ensemble *simkhat hanefesh* [Joy of the Soul]

**'A Journey Through Ashkenaz.
The Travels of Abraham Levie, 1719-1723. Early Yiddish Music'**

Holywell Music Room, 7pm
35 Holywell Street, Oxford OX1 3SU

In 1719, the young Abraham Levie began a journey through the German-speaking lands, Italy, Elba and the Netherlands. His memoirs, written in Western Yiddish in his later years in Amsterdam, have been preserved in manuscript form and tell about his adventures and musical encounters.

Simkhat hanefesh will be travelling with Abraham Levie, presenting Yiddish and Hebrew songs as well as instrumental Jewish music from the Renaissance and Baroque connected to places he visited. Short excerpts from his travelogue will be read in translation.

www.simkhat-hanefesh.com

Entrance free; no registration necessary

Monday, 16 March 2020

10.00-10.30 Welcome

Martin Goodman (University of Oxford)
Diana Matut (University Halle-Wittenberg)

Panel 1: Music in Early Modern Jewish Thought

10.30-11.15 Alexandre Cerveux: *'Isn't Music Beautiful?'*
An Inquiry in the Perspective of Early Modern Jewish Thought

11.15-12.00 Yael Sela: 'Poetry and Music in Early Modern Jewish Thought:
Myth, Intuition, Scepticism'

12.00-12.15 Coffee break

Panel 2: Envisioning the Other, Creating the Self

12.15-1.00 Suzanne Wijsman: 'Envisioning Music in the Iconography of Early Jewish
Books: Exposition, Development and Recapitulation'

1.00-2.30 Lunch

- 2.30-3.15 Ruth HaCohen: 'Jews – Nomad, "Noisy", and "Harmonious": The "Music Libel" in the Age of Exploration'
- 3.15-4.00 Judit Frigyesi Niran: '*Walls built of prayer* — Sound and Space in the East-European Prayer Chant'

4.00-4.30 Coffee break

Panel 3: Between Vernacular and Art Music

- 4.30-5.15 Walter Zev Feldman: 'Profession and Musical Style of the Klezmer'
- 5.15-6.00 David Conway: 'Two Tribes: Jewish and Roma Musicians in Eighteenth-century Hungary'

Tuesday, 17 March 2020

Panel 4: The Elusive Art – The (Semi-)Liturgical Sphere During the Early Modern Period

- 9.30-10.15 Geoffrey Goldberg: 'Tracing the Music of Jewish Worship and Life Cycle in Early Modern Europe: The Diachronic Testimonies of *Sifrei minhagim* (Books of Customs)'
- 10.15-11.00 Matt Austerklein: '*Tendat Shlomo*: Cantorial Theology and Musical Professionalization in an Eighteenth-century Cantor's Manual'
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-12.15 Naomi Cohn Zentner: '*Kol mekadesh shevii*: Resounding Synagogue and Home in Early Modern Ashkenaz'

Panel 5: Vernacular Musics and Dance

- 12.15-1.00 Diana Matut, 'The Yiddish Art of Lamentation. Between *memento mori* and Communal Memory'
- 1.00-2.30 Lunch
- 2.30-3.15 Franz-Josef Holznagel: '*Between Sacred and Profane*. German Strophic Forms in the so-called "Wallich-manuscript" as Indicators of Cultural Exchange'
- 3.15-4.00 Avery Gosfield: '*A Song for Serlina*: Secular Poetry and Vocal Performance in Ms. Oxford Canon. Or. 12'
- 4.00-4.30 Coffee break
- 4.30-5.15 Michael Lukin: 'Yiddish Old Ballad as a Phenomenon of the Early Modern Eastern Ashkenaz'

5.15-6.00 Andreas Schmitges: 'Ethnochoreology in Early Modern Ashkenaz.
An Approach Through Iconography, Ethnography, Music and Jewish Thought'

7.30pm The Congress Dances



Klezmer Ceilidh
@OJC

Line up: Piano/clarinet: **Michael Winograd**, Violin: **Jake Shulman-Ment**, both klezmer super stars from NYC. Dances will be led by **Walter Zev Feldman**, author of *Klezmer. Music, History and Memory* (OUP, 2016) and one of the most prolific vernacular dancers and **Andreas Schmitges**, dance leader/caller, musician, musicologist who (like Zev) has taught Yiddish dance all over the world.

Wednesday, 18 March 2020

Panel 6: *InterPolare?! Music for the Synagogue and its Contemporary Contexts*

- 9.30-10.15 Piergabriele Mancuso: 'The Ghetto, the Synagogue, and the Temple: Music Interactions and Conflicts in the Venetian Ghetto'
- 10.15-11.00 Enrico Fink: '*Reshimu* – Traces of the Passage of Lurianic Qabbalah in Italian Minhagim'
- 11.00-11.30 Coffee break
- 11.30-12.15 Alexander Knapp: 'Some Questions Arising from Christoph Schilling's Four-part Harmonization of Johannes Reuchlin's Early Sixteenth-century Ashkenazi Pentateuchal Chant Transcription'
- 12.15-1.00 Deborah Rooke: 'The Hebrew Oratorio: *Esther* According to Lidarti'

***** End of conference *****

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