

OXFORD SCHOOL OF RARE JEWISH  
LANGUAGES: MUSIC COURSE  
Week 2  
YIDDISH MUSIC FOR THE STAGE

OPEN CLASSROOM:

Dr Alan Bern introduces his composition  
'Megile fun Vaymar' (The Megile of Weimar).  
A Purimplay for the 21st Century

Libretto: Itzik Manger & Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, adapted by Yuri Vedenyapin & Alan Bern

In his *Megile Lider*, the great Yiddish poet Itzik Manger (1901-1969) fused biblical narratives and 19th-20th-century Yiddish culture to create a wild and dramatic retelling of the Book of Esther.

Manger's masterpiece served as the basis for this project: a contemporary *purimshpil* created by Alan Bern and a team of international artists. This large-scale production blends traditional Yiddish genres with the creative spirit of the 1920s and 30s - the newest link in a centuries-old chain of *purimshpiln*.

Dr. Alan Bern is the co-founder and chair of Other Music Academy e.V. and creator and artistic director of Yiddish Summer Weimar. He is a composer/arranger, pianist, accordionist, educator, cultural activist and philosopher. He is the recipient of the prestigious Weimar Prize and the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

As co-founder and director of 'Brave Old World,' 'The Other Europeans' and 'Diaspora Redux,' he performs on international stages. He wrote music for and performed with Itzhak Perlman for *In the Fiddler's House*.

**Monday, 23 January 2023**

6-7 pm (UK time), Online via Zoom

Please register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArcuCtrTsoG9NwNAui9lbjnJZsjmvXTmp3>

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