

## **Klezmatiks to perform Jewish Klezmer music at UCSD's Price Center Ballroom**

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KLEZMATIKS TO PERFORM JEWISH KLEZMER MUSIC FEB. 15 AT UCSD

The Klezmatiks, six young musicians from New York's Lower East Side, will perform Jewish klezmer music at 8 p.m. Feb. 15 in the Price Center Ballroom at the University of California, San Diego.

Masters of the traditional East European Jewish celebration music known as klezmer, the Klezmatiks bring the vitality of jazz, rock, downtown improvisation, and other contemporary touches to an ancestral repertoire of ecstatic Jewish song and dance.

Formed in 1986, the Klezmatiks have played to sold-out audiences in North and South America and across Europe, including appearances at Peter Gabriel's WOMAD festivals, the Montreal Jazz Festival, Wolftrap, Ravinia, the Winnipeg Folk Festival, and award-winning performances at the annual Festival of Klezmer Music in Safed, Israel.

A hallmark of the Klezmatiks is the diversity of its members. "Today's klezmer player," writes The New Yorker, "is not a rube from the shtetl but an eclectic, versatile musician who is as likely to play at a downtown performance space as at a Jewish wedding."

Drummer David Licht has worked with the bands Bongwater and Shockabilly; trumpeter/composer Frank London has recorded and performed with LL Cool J, John Zorn, Mel Torme, Lester Bowie, LaMonte Young, David Byrne, Gal Costa, and They Might Be Giants; clarinetist David Krakauer is a member of the New York Philomusica and the contemporary ensemble Continuum; singer/accordionist Lorin Sklamberg appears on virtually every important new recording of Yiddish song; violinist/ethnomusicologist Alicia Svigals is a specialist in traditional Yiddish and Greek fiddle styles, and bassist Paul Morrisett performs on a variety of traditional folk instruments of the Balkans and Scandinavia.

Making "musical sounds faithful to tradition but rooted in the now," the Klezmatiks have appeared on CBS Nightwatch, the BBC's Rhythms of the World, and MTV News. Their creative collaborations include projects with artists as varied as Israeli singer Chava Alberstein; rockers Elliot Sharp, Marc Ribot, and John Zorn; poet Allen Ginsberg, and members of the Flying Karamazov Brothers. They have provided music for new works by choreographer Twyla Tharp and film makers Jonathan Berman, The Shvitz, and Gregg Bordowitz, Fast Trip, Long Drop.

Last spring, New York's Jewish Museum presented a reprise of the Klezmatiks' performance piece, The Third Seder, a multi-media Passover extravaganza originally staged at La MaMa, featuring the band and other cutting edge New York Jewish artists.

Among the Klezmatics' albums is *Rhythm + Jews*, which reached the top 10 of the Billboard World Music, the European World Music, and the College Music Journal charts, and was awarded the 1992 Deutsche Schallplatten Kritikspreis.

Describing their appeal, *The Village Voice* writes: "The Klezmatics infuse the twisting, tension-filled tunes from the shtetl with an urban 90's drive, revving them with power chords and swinging solo turns."

The Klezmatics' Feb. 15 performance is sponsored by the UCSD University Events Office. General admission is \$16; UCSD staff, faculty, and senior citizens are \$14, and students, \$12. Tickets are available at the UCSD Box Office at 534-6467. For further information, call 534-4090.

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