

Martin Harris Centre for Music and Drama

Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Monday 24 March 2025, 13.10

**The Michael Kahan Kapelye - The University
of Manchester Klezmer Ensemble**



Although Lunchtime Concerts and Recitals are free, you are invited to make a voluntary donation towards their running costs.

Making donations to support our free concerts at the Martin Harris Centre

If you wish to support our free concerts, we are using JustGiving as an alternative to collecting cash donations at events.

Voluntary donations can be made by scanning the QR code or visiting Just Giving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/page/mhc-donate>



Photography and/or recording of this performance are strictly prohibited.

Would patrons please ensure that mobile phones are switched off. Please stifle coughing as much as possible and ensure that watch alarms and any other electronic devices which may become audible are switched off.

The Michael Kahan Kapelye (15th Generation)

Co-directed by Daniel J. Mawson and Richard Fay

Programme

1. Skrivskaya (khosidl), trad.
 2. Sirba (by Arian Morin
 3. Flatbush Waltz, Andy Statman
 4. Nakht En Gan Eydn, trad.
 5. Yiddishe Mama, Jack Yellen/Lew Pollack
 6. Oriental Hora / Mekhutonim Tsum Tish, trad.
 7. Tumbalalaika, trad.
 8. Varshaver Freylekhs, trad,
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The Klezmer Ensemble

The Michael Kahan Kapelye (MKK) is the Music Department's klezmer ensemble. The historical roots of klezmer lie in the wedding music of Eastern European Ashkenazi, Yiddish-speaking Jewry. Its survival owes much to its move from this Old World to the New World (in the early part of the twentieth century) and the US-led klezmer revival (beginning in the 1970s). Currently, klezmer is a dynamic world genre as well as Jewish heritage music.

The University ensemble is named after a prominent Manchester musician (Michael Kahan) who, much like the current and former members of MKK, performed in the classical and klezmer genres amongst others. Michael was tragically killed in 2008, and the ensemble was formed in 2011 by Ros Hawley and Richard Fay to celebrate Michael's contribution to music in the city generally, and to klezmer performance in particular. Since 2018, the ensemble has been led by MKK-alumnus Daniel Mawson, alongside Richard, who tutor each cohort of ensemblists.

Each year, the ensemble reforms with a new set of students whose ensemble performance is partly assessed through their MKK performance. For almost all of them klezmer is an unfamiliar genre when they start working together in October. Many of them will develop a passion for this music from which new ensembles form.

The Michael Kahan Kapelye forms a central part in a now flourishing klezmer scene in Manchester where, as led by Daniel and Richard, current and former ensemblists join with members of the wider community to perform for: the bi-annual Halle Klezmer Evenings of Music and Dance, the monthly Klezmer Tune Club, the monthly KlezJam session, and regular visits to perform for reminiscence and well-being sessions in local Jewish Care Homes (Heathlands Village, Belong Morris Feinmann). These klezmer activities have been “highly commended” and “commended” in the university’s making a difference in Social Responsibility Award scheme in 2021, 2022, and 2023.

In today’s lunch-time concert, the current members of the 15th generation of the ***Michael Kahan Kapelye*** will who be performing are:

<u>Performer</u>	<u>Instrument</u>
Rishi Bhalla	Violin, Percussion
Rosie Edwards	Clarinet
Lily Fowke-Green	Violin, Voice
Jim Gibson	Flugelhorn, Piano
Lois Hunt	Cello
Gabriel Longbotham	Piano, Voice
Jowan Mankel	Cello
Trisha Matthews	Violin
Helena Potter	Oboe, Percussion
Marcus Renshaw	Clarinet, Percussion
Ben Salwey	Percussion, Voice
Susie Tucker	Violin, Percussion
Charley Whelan-Hicks	Guitars, Voice

The ensemble would like to thank the following for their support during the year:

1. Sue Cooper (klezmer cultural roots);
2. Ilana Cravitz (historically-informed performance workshop);
3. Judith Plowman and Adrian Dobson (klezmer for dance);
4. Susi Evans and Szilvia Csaranko (performing the archives);
5. Chris Emerson/Halle (performance workshop);
6. Gemma Meeks and colleagues (Manchester Jewish Museum).

Coming up at the Martin Harris Centre

For more information about upcoming events and to join our mailing list please visit:

www.arts.manchester.ac.uk/martinharriscentre

WCLC: The Quatuor Danel

Date: Thursday 27 March 2025

Venue: Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Time: 13:10

Price: FREE

MUMS: Public Lunchtime Concert - Student Composers

Date: Friday 28 March 2025

Venue: Cosmo Rodewald Concert Hall

Time: 13:10

Price: FREE

The Quatuor Danel: The Quatuor Danel Evening concert at The Stoller Hall

Date: Friday 28 March 2025

Venue: The Stoller Hall (Chetham's School of Music)

Time: 19:30

Price: Under 18's and Students = £5.50 // Full Price = £19.50

**University of
Manchester Linktree**



THE MARTIN HARRIS CENTRE
FOR MUSIC AND DRAMA

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