

Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth

presents

Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi

Yale Strom, violin

Elizabeth Schwartz, vocals

Norbert Stachel, woodwinds

Peter Stan, accordion

Bam Rodriguez, contrabass

David Licht, percussion

Wednesday, January 31, 8 pm

Church of Christ at Dartmouth College • 2024

Programmed in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the rediscovery and safekeeping of the Czech Torah scrolls that survived the Holocaust. In partnership with the Upper Valley Jewish Community, which are co-trustees of one of the 1,600 rescued scrolls.

Funded in part by the Sidney Stoneman 1933 Fund and the Patricia S. and Robert A. Levinson 1946 Fund.

Program

Approximate duration: 90 minutes

<i>Svajlava</i>	Trad. from the Carpathian Ukraine
<i>Szól a kakas már</i> (“The Rooster Crows”)	Trad. from Hungary, Yale Strom
<i>Stoliner Nign</i>	Trad. from Belarus
<i>Stained Red</i>	Yale Strom
<i>My Yiddishe Mama</i>	Jack Yellen and Lew Pollack
<i>7/8</i>	Yale Strom
<i>Nature Boy</i>	George Alexander Aberle (eden ahbez) Yiddish lyrics by Hershl Hartman and Yale Strom
<i>Song of Bihar</i>	Trad. from Transylvania
<i>The Wolf and The Lamb</i>	Lyrics from Burgenland, Austria Music by Yale Strom
<i>Pinsk Floyd</i>	Yale Strom
<i>Vizhnitser Nign</i>	Trad. from Ukraine Additional Yiddish lyrics by Yale Strom
<i>Kolomeyke</i>	Trad. from Ukraine

From our Collaborators at the Upper Valley Jewish Community

Tonight’s event is a celebration of survival and renewal. In 1942, during one of the darkest hours of Jewish history, the curators of the Jewish Museum in Prague achieved the impossible: safeguarding over 1,600 sacred Torah scrolls that had belonged to Jewish communities in Czechoslovakia. Were it not for the prescience and initiative of the Westminster Synagogue in London, England, 22 years later, these scrolls would have irreparably deteriorated. On February 5, 1964, the first shipment of Czech scrolls arrived in London, and so began a new chapter for these sacred objects. Today, Czech memorial Torah scrolls are cherished by Jewish communities throughout the world. Here in Hanover, our scroll from the town of Breclav in southern Moravia has been lovingly restored to *kosher* status and is regularly read during religious services. We are delighted that you have joined us tonight to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the acquisition of the Czech Torah scrolls and the resiliency of Jewish life.

Thomas Cochran and David Hoffer
co-chairs of the Upper Valley Jewish Community Memorial Torah Scroll Committee

About the Artists

Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi have been performing klezmer and Romani music around the world since 1982. Dubbed “a supergroup,” the band has moved beyond tradition, playing original compositions and incorporating heavy doses of improvisation. Considered one of the world’s leading artist-ethnographers in the field, Strom has done extensive research among the remnant Jewish and Romani populations in Eastern Europe, particularly in the Carpathian Mountains and many of the “folk” tunes the band plays come from Strom’s field research. The concert at Dartmouth College will range from slow contemplative pieces to rousing fast melodies that get people to move in their seats or even get up and dance. In addition to the instrumental pieces, vocalist Elizabeth Schwartz will sing songs in Yiddish, Romani, Romanian, Hungarian and English that tell stories of love, pain, loss and hope. Their newest recording on the Naxos-Arc Music label, *The Wolf and The Lamb: Live at the Shakh*, has been garnering excellent reviews since its release this summer. Here is a link where you can read about the new recording and listen to some excerpts of some of the tunes: www.moorsmagazine.com/muziek/wereldmuziek/klezmer/yale-strom-and-hot-pstromi-the-wolf-and-the-lamb

Elizabeth Schwartz has been called “The Edith Piaf of Yiddish” and “a revelation” with a superb mastery of klezmer ornamentations. As the vocalist for Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi and as a soloist, she has performed at festivals, synagogues and concert halls on every continent except Antarctica (she’s working on that). Her myriad acclaimed recordings of Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew and English have been released on the Naxos World, Arc Music UK, Global Village and Transcontinental Music record labels. On March 18, 2012, Schwartz was invited to become the first woman in history to sing at the 125-year-old Eldridge Street Synagogue in Manhattan, effectively breaking the ban of kol isha in this landmark cultural venue. Schwartz is the subject of the Romanian documentary film, *Searching for Schwartz*, by Radu Gabrea (z”l).

Bam Rodríguez is a Grammy award-winning bass player and composer, educator and social activist. Has performed with the likes of Arturo O’Farrill, Chucho Valdés, Paquito de Rivera, Deepak Chopra, to name a few, in stages all over the world, like Carnegie Hall, The Barbican, North Sea Jazz Festival, Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, Blue Note. In Parallel, Bam is the founder and director of We Are Starting a School, a free educational program that pairs students from disadvantaged places throughout the world with teaching artists based in NYC to receive free music lessons.

Norbert Stachel is a multi-instrumentalist, recording and performance artist, composer, arranger, lecturer and teacher. He specializes in playing and teaching saxophones, clarinets and flutes in all genres of music. He has recorded and performed with Aerosmith, Tower of Power, Roger Waters, Tony Toni Toné, Clarence “Gatemouth” Brown, Prince, Tito Puente, Diana Ross, Boz Scaggs, Neil Diamond, En Vogue, The Temptations, Sheila E, Quincy Jones, Les McCann, Don Cherry, Freddie Hubbard, Roy Hargrove, Andrew Hill and many others. Norbert has also performed as a saxophone soloist in a classical music setting with many orchestras including the St. Louis Symphony, Jacksonville Symphony Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, Richmond Symphony Orchestra and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra.

David Licht, percussion, is a founding member of the Grammy award-winning Klezmatics, and of the rock bands Shockabilly and Bongwater. He is currently recording and touring with Michael Winograd’s Honorable Mentshn. In the early ’80s, he also performed with Ned Rothenberg, John Zorn and Tom Cora. Other collaborations include composing for choreographer Karen Heifetz, and performing with Kapelye, Giora Feidman, David Krakauer’s Klezmer Madness, Shekhina Big Band, The Chadbourne’s and When People Were Shorter And Lived Near The Water. Licht has been a painter/plasterer since the 1970s,

About the Artist *continued*

which has allowed him to raise a family while continuing to be a drummer! Licht's drumming is singular and expressive.

Peter Stan is an accomplished professional accordionist who both performs and teaches. His heritage is Romani Balkan, although he was born and raised in Australia prior to coming to the US when he was 12 years old. At an early age, he began to learn to play the accordion from his father, also an accordionist,

for many years. He plays a broad range of musical styles including Balkan, classical, French, Klezmer, popular and contemporary. He has performed in movies, on radio, cable television, off-Broadway and for the Mark Morris dance group. Stan has performed in Hong Kong, France, Germany, Sweden, Poland, Turkey, Denmark, Serbia and throughout the United States. He is featured on Yale Strom & Hot Pstromi's newest recording, *The Wolf and The Lamb*, produced by Arc.

Connecting Artists to the Community

During his time on campus, Yale Strom will present his film *Carpati: 50 Miles, 50 Years* on Tuesday, January 30, which will include a pre-screening discussion and a Q&A after the film. He will also have a multi-faith lunch discussion with students at the Tucker Center and visit classes in the Music Department.

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