

Steven Greenman Jewish and Klezmer Violinist

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Ensemble Descriptions

Stempenyu's Dream

Stempenyu's Dream is a concert performance of violinist Steven Greenman's original Jewish and klezmer compositions. Named after Stempenyu, the legendary 19th century Jewish violinist immortalized in a novella by Sholom Aleichem, *Stempenyu's Dream* is a mystical fantasy reflecting Stempenyu's desire that future generations of musicians continue to compose and create new works for the Jewish violin to be shared by all. The original compositions consist of soulful listening pieces, virtuosic instrumental numbers, haunting violin/cimbalom duets, artistic chamber music and stirring religious vocal hymns drawn from the historical tradition of Stempenyu and the great Eastern European Jewish violin masters. *Stempenyu's Dream* is comprised of some of the finest performers of klezmer music in the world today including: Michael Alpert (sekund violin, vocals), Alan Bern (accordion, piano), Stuart Brotman (bass), Walter Zev Feldman (tsimbl), Alexander Fedoriouk (cimbalom), Mark Rubin (bass) and Pete Rushefsky (tsimbl).

Di Tsvey (The Greenman/Rushefsky Duo - Violin and Tsimbl)

Di Tsvey features the traditional pairing of the violin and tsimbl (Jewish dulcimer) by two of the world's leading klezmer musicians, Steven Greenman (violin) and Pete Rushefsky (tsimbl). For European Jewish professional musicians (*klezmerim*), the Jewish wedding was the showcase to reveal their great musical talents. In addition to the functional dance and ceremonial music performed, the greatest klezmerim also performed at the wedding table (*tish*) for wealthy patrons in a more artistic vein where they could express their great creative artistry. By performing compositions of their own, improvised thoughts (*gedanken*), table songs (*tish nigunim*), pieces of great pyrotechnical expertise and other expressive Jewish music solely for listening, the klezmer artist often brought the audience into deep contact with him, mesmerizing the listeners and often putting them in a soulful trance. The ability to do this revealed the true greatness of these artists who were not mere "klezmers" but instead consummate performers of the music of their Jewish people and heritage. The members of *Di Tsvey* perform in an intimate and pure style reminiscent of these older klezmer artists. By performing such core pieces as the *dobriden*, the *zogekhts*, *tish nigunim*, *shteygers*, other Jewish free-rhythm compositions and their own compositions.

Steven Greenman Klezmer Ensemble

The *Steven Greenman Klezmer Ensemble* is a dynamic group of virtuosic musicians that includes some of the finest musical artists of the klezmer revival who perform the traditional Jewish folk music of Eastern Europe (klezmer) and the shared repertoire of Jews, Roma (Gypsies), Romanians and Moldavians in 19th and 20th century Eastern Europe. The repertoire is enhanced with performances of the original Jewish and klezmer compositions of Steven Greenman. The ensemble is led by Steven Greenman on violin and includes accordion, cimbalom and string bass. Additional clarinet is also possible.

Khevrisa (The Old Jewish Klezmer Ensemble)

Khevrisa's current program, "Under the Canopy of Heaven" is a live performance of the music of the traditional European Jewish wedding.

"The pinnacle of style and sophistication, the members of Khevrisa are among the leading performers of traditional klezmer music in the world today. Four virtuoso musical icons form Khevrisa, the secret Ashkenazic term for a klezmer ensemble: violinist Steven Greenman; Walter Zev Feldman on cimbal (Jewish dulcimer); Michael Alpert on sekund (second/accompanying) violin and vocals; and Stuart Brotman on string bass. These amazing players promise a musically exhilarating night of traditional klezmer music. Their technically brilliant playing is mesmerizing, the result of superb research and inspired performing by some of the founding musicians of the klezmer revival." (Quote by Marc Glassman).