

# JAHM JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH



WEITZMAN NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF AMERICAN  
JEWISH HISTORY 

 The  
Kennedy  
Center

 RECORDING  
ACADEMY

Official Program of  
JAHM 

## JAHM Concert from the Nation's Capital

Wednesday, May 15 at 6 pm

LIVE AT THE MILLENNIUM STAGE

John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

and Livestreamed Worldwide

Celebrate the rich tapestry of traditional Jewish music from Eastern Europe, Turkey, Spain, Cuba, South America, the Levant, and the Arabian Peninsula.

# THE ARTISTS

**Yoni Avi Battat (he/him)** brings Arab music into the soundscape of American Jewish life through composition, education, prayer, and performance on viola, violin, oud, and vocals. Described as "an education for the ear and the soul," his debut album *Fragments* seeks to find new pathways to connect with ancestry and find healing around our fragmented identities. Yoni's newest project is *Kedmah: The Rising Song Piyyut Project*. Their first album *Simu Lev* released in April, 2024 on Rising Song Records. From 2021-2022 Yoni toured nationally as an actor and violinist with the Tony Award-winning musical, *The Band's Visit*. Yoni lives in Boston, MA, working locally and nationally to uplift Mizrahi identity in American Jewish communities.

**Susana Behar (she/her)** is a Miami-based folk singer who shares her distinct Jewish, Sephardic, and Cuban heritage from the stage. Susana has performed in numerous projects, festivals, and concerts throughout North and South America, Israel, and Japan, collaborating with musicians from diverse backgrounds and musical traditions.

She is the recipient of the 2015 Individual Artist Fellowship Award from the Florida Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, in the Folk and Traditional Arts. In 2020, Susana served as Artist-in-Residence at the HistoryMiami Museum and is currently the Artist-in-Residence at the Deering Estate in Miami, Florida. Susana has recorded three albums: *La Galana i el Mar* (2009), *At The Crossroads, Live* (2016) and *TAPIZ* (2019).

**Yosef Goldman (he/him)** is a leading facilitator of Jewish communal music and prayer. He weaves devotional music from his Mizrahi and Ashkenazi heritage to foster healing, connection, and social change. His original compositions are sung in synagogues and camps across the world. Yosef has collaborated on over a dozen albums with a diverse array of voices in the world of Jewish music across North America and Israel, including recording two albums of his original music, *Open My Heart* (2019), and *Abitah* (2023). Yosef's latest project of Mizrahi Jewish music and heritage, *Kedmah*, released their first album *Simu Lev* April, 2024 on Rising Song Records. Yosef serves as senior advisor for Hadar's Rising Song Institute and co-leads Shaare Torah Congregation in Montgomery County, Maryland with his wife, Rabbi Annie Lewis.

**Frank London (he/him)** is the founder and leader of Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars, a group of musicians that celebrate Jewish culture and life through a multicultural lens. Frank co-founded the Klezmatics and has honed this particular style of music through his research as a musician at Hasidic weddings and collaborations with the Markovic Brothers in Budapest and The Hasaballa Brass Band in Cairo.

Frank, a Grammy Award winner, has been featured on HBO's *Sex and the City* and the North Sea Jazz Festival. He has also co-founded the Klezmer Conservatory Band and collaborated with Itzhak Perlman, Simon Shaheen, Iggy Pop, Yaakov Lemmer, They Might Be Giants, Michael Winograd, and John Zorn.

# TONIGHT'S PROGRAM

- 1. Ekhod Mi Yodea - Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars** | A traditional melody from the great Jewish ethnomusicologist Moshe Beregovski with original Yiddish lyrics by vocalist Sarah Gordon. A thoughtful & fun update of the Passover game song, *Who Knows One?*
- 2. Wedding In Crown Heights - Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars** | A rocking traditional Hasidic *nigin* (wordless spiritual melody) often played at weddings. Sometimes sung to the text "L'chu Neranena" or others-most often sung as a *nigin*.
- 3. Shabbos in Feld - Frank London's Klezmer Brass Allstars** | Composed by the great Hasidic Yiddish songwriter Yom Tov Ehrlich and set to a driving melody. This song tells of how all the different animals in the field celebrate the joyful *Shabbos* (Sabbath).
- 4. Anderleto\*- Susana Behar** | This romance, prevalent in the Sephardic 'romansero', is based on an episode from the French epics. *Sarajevo, Bosnia*
- 5. Ya Salio de la Mar, Alboreá Gitana, Ashugar de Novia Galana\*- Susana Behar** | Two Sephardic wedding songs combined with the *Alboreá*, a flamenco style that is sung at Gypsy weddings and praises the beauty of the bride. *Salonica, Greece; Andalucía, Spain; Sofia, Bulgaria*.
- 6. Gülpembe\*- Susana Behar** | This love song is an example of the development of the Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) language. Sephardic Jews incorporated words from languages spoken in their lands of residence. This refrain is sung in Turkish.
- 7. Adon Olam - Yoni Avi Battat and Yosef Goldman** | *Adon Olam* (Master of All Eternity) is one of the oldest known *piyyutim* and is still used broadly in liturgy across Jewish communities. The meter and mode are both traditional to Arabic music.
- 8. From the Fragments - Yoni Avi Battat and Yosef Goldman** | Texts from two Iraqi-Jewish writers in dialogue with Yoni's English lyrics. The text speaks to the writer's love for Iraq.
- 9. Dim'ati (My Tears) - Yosef Goldman and Annie Lewis** | A setting of Psalms 56:9, which captures hope and prayer that there is meaning in our suffering, that God is with us, listening even when we feel most alone.
- 10. Adio Kerida - All Ensembles Together** | This song, a staple of the Sephardic music repertoire, talks about unrequited love and a bitter farewell.
- 11. Ya'alah Ya'alah - All Ensembles Together** | Ya'alah Ya'alah is a *piyyut* by writer and kabbalist Rabbi Yisrael Najara. It is sometimes interpreted as a cry from the Sephardic diaspora to the lands that rejected and expelled Jews.
- 12. Sholem Lid - All Ensembles Together** | This traditional *nigin* and *Shabbos* song was reclaimed from the archives by the late, great Yiddish singer, Adrienne Cooper, who adapted the words to give it a more intentional universal message: "If I had the strength, I'd run in the streets, yelling 'Peace!, Peace!, Peace!'" It will be sung in multiple languages. Everyone is invited to join in - in Yiddish, English, Ladino, Arabic, Hebrew, or with a wordless 'di-di-di'.



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Celebrate the vibrant and varied stories of American Jewish life from the dawn of our nation to the present day this May...and every day!



Visit [JewishAmericanHeritage.org](https://JewishAmericanHeritage.org) for a treasure trove of resources from more than 200 JAHM Coalition partners from around the country. Find special events, tools for teachers, family history resources, ways to stand up to antisemitism, and more!



The Weitzman leads the national Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM) effort, which celebrates the inspiring history of Jewish Americans, serving as an antidote to antisemitism by amplifying the true, joyful, and powerful stories of Jewish life in America. The Weitzman—through JAHM and throughout the year—celebrates the diversity of the American Jewish community.



SPECIAL THANKS TO THE KENNEDY CENTER SOCIAL IMPACT PROGRAM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF DEI AT THE RECORDING ACADEMY.

**[JewishAmericanHeritage.org](https://JewishAmericanHeritage.org) for resources, events, and more!**

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