Klezmorim

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Transplanted to America by Jewish immigrants, klezmer music thrived - particularly in New York City. The period between 1905 and the Great Depression was the Golden Age of klezmer music. The advent of sound recording and the rise of the Yiddish Theatre provided the economic and cultural foundations for a refined klezmer sound. As the klezmer bands received wider acceptance they grew bigger and brassier in sound, and the music began to exchange influence with ragtime, vaudeville and jazz. Thusly, klezmer music became an important historical component of American jazz and popular music.

In the early 1930's, when social and economic factors brought an end to the klezmer tradition, many second and third generation klezmorim became important innovators in the musical worlds of Broadway, Hollywood and Tin Pan Alley. The klezmer sound can be heard in many jazz hits such as Benny Goodman's "And the Angels Sing," Sidney Bechet's Egyptian Fantasy," and Artie Shaw's "Don't Fall Asleep." The works of Prokofiev and Gershwin also show significant klezmer influence. And, great throngs of American movie-goers saw Betty Boop singer, swaying and gesticulating to a klezmerized soundtrack recorded by musicians who brought to the American entertainment industry a centuries old musical tradition.

The ensemble, like the genre for which it is named, is an amalgam of musicians trained in a wide variety of musical forms and styles. Each individual brings his own musical flavor and skill to the whole.

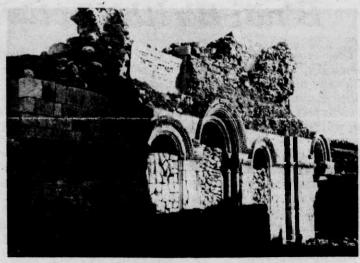
Founded in 1976 by Lev Liberman, David Julian Gray and David Skuse, the original Klezmorim featured strings, flute and accordian. When David Skuse left, the group was transformed into

a brass band.

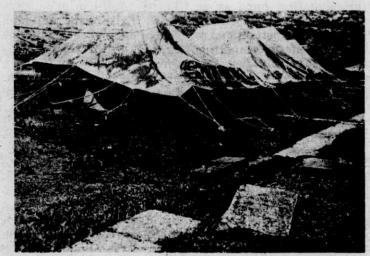
The group now is composed of Lev Liberman: saxophones, flute, vocals; David Julian Gray: clarinets, mandolin, piano, vocals; John David Raskin: percussion, xylophone, mandolin and strange noises; Kevin Linscott: trombone; Brian Wishnefsky: trumpet; Donald Thornton: tuba.

"They create excitement. Hearing them you want to stamp your fee and shake your fists for joy," Norman Melnick wrote in the San Francisco Examiner. Robert Palmer said in The New Y o r k T i m e s: "Delightful...melodious and energetic enough to appeal to just about anyone."

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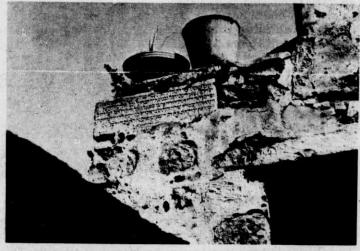
A SYNAGOGUE WHICH WAS DESECRATED AND SEALED BY THE JORDANIANS.



AN ARAB ARMY DESECRATES A JEWISH CEMETERY WITH AN ENCAMPMENT.



A JEWISH TOMBSTONE TAKEN FROM THE MOUNT OF OLIVES AND USED BY THE JORDANIANS TO BUILD A FENCE.



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The second would "guarantee freedom of religious practices" for all religions in the Jerusalem holy places.

In his recent visit to the United States, King Hussein of Jordan described the East Jerusalem issue as the "essence of peace" to the Arab world.

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Jerusalem, only the first of these points existed.

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