

KlezmerQuerque 2014

February 14th-16th, 2014

R2G Klezmer Trio: Dr. Joel Rubin (clarinet & ethnomusicologist-Charlottesville/Switzerland), Pete Rushefsky (Tsimbalom/Eastern European hammered dulcimer-NYC), & Steven Greenman (violin, vocals & award-winning composer-Cincinnati)



R2G is a dynamic new trio formed by longtime stars of the klezmer revival, Joel Rubin (clarinet), Pete Rushefsky (tsimbalom/hammered dulcimer), and Steve Greenman (violin). R2G performs original compositions and improvisations in addition to their own arrangements of the classic East European Jewish instrumental klezmer music and mystical hasidic nigunim (melodies of spiritual elevation). With its

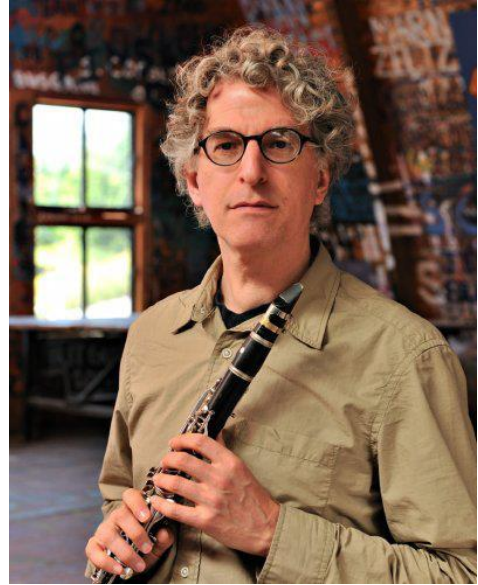
virtuosic style and sumptuous, richly ornamented sound, their music is at once a meditation on the Russian-Jewish musical legacy and an expansion of it into the present. The trio also experiments with extended structures, such as "concert form klezmer" suites that meld the traditional klezmer genres with Ottoman Turkish concepts of art music for listening. The concert form expands the expressive possibilities of klezmer music and provides a pathway for the musicians to create performances that develop more extended musical narratives. But the group can cut it up on the dance floor as well. "Inspiring, jaw-dropping and foot stomping," raved Beth Cohen, director of the annual KlezmerQuerque Festival.

List to the trio:

Beregovski Shers (trad.)
Ahavas Oylom (Greenman)
Bay di toyren fun beys-hamikdosh (trad.)
Peshrev (Rushefsky)
Tish Nign (trad.)
Nign for Sabbath and Holidays

Joe Rubin

Joel Rubin has been one of the leading figures in the international klezmer movement as performer, scholar, author and educator for the past thirty years, earning accolades from sources as diverse as klezmer giants Dave Tarras and Max Epstein, international clarinet soloist Richard Stoltzman, avant garde composer John Zorn, and Nobel Prize Laureate and poet Roald Hoffmann. Dr. Eleonore Büning of Southern German Radio writes, "Rubin ... is the most virtuosic klezmer clarinetist in the world today ... He commands this art like nobody else." He studied clarinet with Stoltzman and Kalmen Opperman and holds a Ph.D. in ethnomusicology from City University (London) for his pioneering work on klezmer music. In addition to performances with traditional musicians such as the Epstein Brothers, Moussa Berlin, Leon Schwartz, Sid Beckerman, and Danny Rubinstein, Rubin was a founding member of the pioneering revival group Brave Old World, the duo Rubin & Horowitz, and has led the Joel Rubin Ensemble since 1994. He has also toured with the Klezmatiks and the Klezmer Conservatory Band, and has performed with Daniel Kahn and The Painted Bird. Rubin has recorded seven albums of his music. *Midnight Prayer (Traditional Crossroads)* was ranked one of the most important recordings of 2007 by the Jewish Week, and *Azoy Tsu Tsveyt (Tzadik)* with acclaimed composer and improviser Uri Caine, was chosen by *exclaim.ca* as one of 10 favorites in the category *Improv & Avant-Garde* for 2011. Rubin has appeared at the Berlin Philharmonic, the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Leipzig Gewandhaus, Cité de la Musique in Paris, the Tonhalle in Zürich, Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. He is Associate Professor and Director of Music Performance at the University of Virginia, where he also leads the UVA Klezmer Ensemble.
www.joelrubinklezmer.com



Rave Reviews for Joel Rubin:

- "Few, if any, would deny [Joel Rubin] the title of the greatest living klezmer musician" (Jewish Quarterly, London)
- "without a doubt one of the greatest klezmer musicians in the world" (Radio DRS 2, Switzerland)
- "master clarinetist" (Wall St. Journal Europe)
- "Rubin ... is probably the most virtuosic klezmer clarinetist in the world today" (Dr. Eleonore Büning, S2 Kultur/Southern German Radio)
- "I can barely see Rubin's hands move, but he's going wild. Listen to him, hopping octaves and bending notes so smoothly! Man, that dude shreds like Eddie Van Halen." (C-Ville Weekly)

- "the researching intellect among the klezmer players" (Stuttgarter Zeitung)
- "Rubin ... is clearly an important figure in the rediscovery of the Ashkenazic musical tradition" (Jewish Herald-Voice)
- "[Rubin] ... has driven the art of Jewish clarinet playing to new heights ... The listener who has experienced Rubin's breathtaking solos once, is not surprised about the spontaneous outbreaks of applause at every concert." (Folksblatt)
- "Clarinetist Rubin is considered to be the most important contemporary interpreter of klezmer music." (Volkszeitung, Leipzig)
- "Joel Rubin has been acclaimed as the greatest clarinetist of the klezmer revival" (Jewish Socialist, London)
- "With a flawless tone that would make many classical interpreters jealous, Rubin playfully and improvisationally drew forth ever new facets, allowing the sound to rejoice and wail in the high register..." (Münstersche Zeitung, Münster, Germany)
- "... Rubin, more than any other I've heard, captures the authentic fibrous roughness of a klezmer clarinet..." (San Francisco Examiner)
- "Rubin ... [is] now counted among the world's foremost klezmer musicians." (The Oregonian, Portland)
- "sheer ability to swing ... witness the wailing tone of clarinetist Joel Rubin ... – there's one link with jazz and Gershwin." (Los Angeles Weekly)
- "[Rubin] has played a leading role in the revival of Jewish music in America, has performed with many East European immigrant musicians and appeared often in radio show and films. Whoever has heard his clarinet playing will never forget it!" (Allgemeine Jüdische Wochenzeitung, Bonn)

Steve Greenman



Steve Greenman is recognized internationally as one of the finest practitioners of traditional East European Jewish klezmer violin. Described by the Washington Post as "particularly impressive," and as "extraordinary" by the Pittsburgh Post Gazette, Greenman is also the creator of a substantial body of new traditional Jewish and klezmer music that has been performed

and researched by musicians and scholars worldwide. He is the producer and lead performer of the landmark recordings *Stempenyu's Dream* and *Stempenyu's Neshome*,

which contain his original klezmer and Jewish spiritual compositions while two of his Jewish liturgical melodies have been recognized and published by the Shalsholet Foundation for New Jewish Liturgical Music. As a Smithsonian Folkways recording artist, Greenman is a co-producer and lead performer of the recording, *Khevrisa: European Klezmer Music*. Greenman currently leads the *Stempenyu's Dream* ensemble, *Di Tsvey* with tsimbalist Pete Rushefsky, and the *Steven Greenman Klezmer Ensemble*, and has performed internationally with *Khevrisa*, the *Joel Rubin Ensemble*, the *R2G Klezmer Trio*, the *Klezomatics*, *Budowitz*, the *Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band*, and *Kapelye*. He has led masterclasses at *KlezKamp*, *KlezKanada*, *KlezFest London*, *Yiddish Summer Weimar* (Germany), and *Master Class de Música Tradicional Santiago de Compostela* (Spain), and has performed at the *Jewish Culture Festival in Krakow, Poland*, at *Toronto's Ashkenaz – A Festival of New Yiddish Culture*, and at the *International Klezmer Festival in Fürth, Germany*. In addition to klezmer music, Greenman is an accomplished performer of Hungarian *nota* and urban East European *Romani* ("Gypsy") music and is a performer and recording artist with the ensemble *Harmonia*. As a concert performer, he has been a guest soloist with the *Cleveland Pops Orchestra*, the *Canton Symphony* and the *Akron Symphony*, performing his own arrangements of traditional East European *Romani* ("Gypsy") violin music and klezmer music. In 2013, Greenman explored classical Chinese music and was the violin soloist for the *Cleveland, Ohio* premiere of the famous *Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto*, performing with the *Chagrin Falls Studio Orchestra*. As a local music educator, Greenman has been a "teaching-artist" with the *Cleveland Orchestra's "Learning Through Music"* educational program since 2001 and has founded and directed student klezmer ensembles with several of *Cleveland's* local synagogues and temples. Greenman received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in Violin Performance from the *Cleveland Institute of Music*.

- Rave Reviews for Steve Greenman:
- Tom Feren - *Cleveland Plain Dealer*: "Greenman is a violinist, which is a bit like saying LeBron James is a basketball player. Greenman....might even have more moves."
- Carl Topilow - *Conductor/Founder of the Cleveland Pops Orchestra*: "One of the greatest performers of Eastern-European music anywhere anyplace in the world."
- Marylynn Uricchio - *Pittsburgh Post Gazette*: "....the extraordinary klezmer violinist Steven Greenman."
- Stacy Phillips - *Strings Magazine*: "Greenman, my current klez fiddle fave...."
- Don MacLean - *Washington Post*: "....Steven Greenman....particularly impressive."
- Alan Watsky - *Participant of the KlezKanada Festival 2003* - Steven Greenman is the best composer of
- *Niggun* on the scene. Hear a melody of his once and remember it for life."

- Mindy Aloff - Danceview Times: "Yet another was to hear the Klezmer fiddle virtuoso and Khevrisa cofounder Steven Greenman tease from his instrument songs without words that wept their forebodings of bridal suffering in honey-drenched slides."
- Deborah Strauss - Internationally acclaimed klezmer violinist - "Steven's original compositions are an extraordinary extension of who he is and who he's become as a musician and a performer. Steven has always played beautifully and with great sensitivity, but in these new compositions, Steven is expressing his own thoughts, feelings and knowledge in a new and exciting way. He's written compositions that are fresh, yet stem from the finest music of the Yiddish instrumental tradition. They are a tremendous gift to us all."
- Janusz Makuch - Director of Jewish Culture Festival of Krakow, Poland - "Steven Greenman is a poet of the fiddle, a demiurge of sound. When he plays, the landscape of the Jewish shtetl and the Hasidic courts comes to life."
- Wilma Salisbury - Cleveland Plain Dealer: "Violinist Steven Greenman took the spotlight for some high-flying Gypsy fiddling." "Violinist Steven Greenman....dazzled in bravura numbers by Grigoras Dinicu."
- Charmaine Millott - Management of Cercel Productions, Vancouver, B.C., CANADA - "Incredibly crisp clarity and timing! I could listen all afternoon to this music! Musical master pieces a treasure to have!"
- Ari Davidow - KlezmerShack: "With this recording, Steven Greenman is revealed as the foremost composer of music in a style based on what we know of these Jewish violin traditions of 100 years ago. ...the music Greenman has composed is of such striking beauty..." "Greenman's violin demonstrates that he could teach
- Vassar Clements a thing or two about country klezmer." "Diving deep into the past, Greenman has created a contemporary Jewish music of spellbinding beauty. It should only start a trend."
- Violet Spivak - Cleveland Jewish News: "Violinist was Steven Greenman, a seasoned performer of traditional East European violin music, a soloist with symphony and pops orchestras and a rising star."
- "Violinist Steven Greenman captivated everyone...."
- "Superb were the musical interludes by violinist, Steven Greenman.....performed with dashing romantic flourish."
- Roger Reid - Jewish Music List: "What surprised me most was that much of what was being played were compositions of Steven's, which strike you as 'a great old tune you've never heard before' including a deliciously beautiful 'heart yearning niggun' that he composed in Lubavitch style." (from his review of a concert at New York's TONIC (April 2003) on the Jewish Music List (jewish-music@shamash.org).

See more reviews at: www.stevengreenman.com

Pete Rushefsky

Pete Rushefsky is a leading performer, composer and teacher of the tsimbl (cimbalom), the traditional hammered dulcimer of klezmer music. He has performed internationally at venues such as Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, the Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) and Cité de la Musique (Paris).

Rushefsky has concertized and recorded with classical violinist Itzhak Perlman and has played with many of klezmer and Jewish music's leading performers, including Cantor Yitzchok Meir Helfgott, Andy Statman, the Klezmer Conservatory Band, Alicia Svigals, Michael Winograd, Lisa Gutkin, Michael Alpert, Adrienne Greenbaum, and Jake Shulman-

Ment. He performs regularly in the duo Di Tsvey with Steve Greenman and with the Joel Rubin Ensemble. His CD with violinist Elie Rosenblatt, *Tsimbl un Fidl: Klezmer Music for Hammered Dulcimer and Violin*, was ranked a "gem" by Rainlore's World of Music, which "must be considered essential in any klezmer collection." A popular instructor at workshops such as KlezKanada, KlezKamp and Yiddish Summer Weimar, Rushefsky is the author of a pioneering instructional book on adapting the American 5-string banjo for klezmer, and frequently publishes and lectures on ethnic music in America. He also serves as Executive Director of the Center for Traditional Music and Dance in New York City, dedicated to maintaining the vitality of immigrant performing arts traditions. The Center's An-sky Institute for Jewish Culture works to research and preserve Jewish.

www.facebook.com/prushefsky

