A ONE-DAY CONFERENCE TO LAUNCH
STUDIES IN POLISH JEWRY: POLIN 32

Jews and Music-Making in the Polish Lands

Thursday 23rd January 2020
9.30am - 5.00pm

Embassy of the Republic of Poland
47 Portland Place, London W1B 1JH
The conference will look at Cantorial Music, Jews and Polish popular culture, and Klezmer in Poland today. And there will be music!

Thursday 23rd January 2020
9.30am - 5.00pm

Embassy of the Republic of Poland,
47 Portland Place, London W1B 1JH

Organised by the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies and the Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL. Co-organised and supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London and the Polish Cultural Institute, London with the support of Ślipaczek Chartered Financial Planners.
The astounding variety of music of all genres and styles produced by musicians of Jewish heritage in Europe since 1750 has been examined almost entirely in the context of German-speaking Europe or in studies of a group of composers who strongly self-identified as Jews.

In five thematic sections, this multi-disciplinary volume presents rich coverage of the main genres produced by musicians of Jewish origin in the Polish lands: Cantorial and Religious Music, Jews in Polish Popular Culture, Jews in the Polish classical music scene, The Holocaust reflected in Jewish music, and Klezmer in Poland today. This volume explores the activities and great creativity of musicians of the ‘Mosaic persuasion’, covering the area of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and its successor states from 1750 to the present.

Conference convenors:
Professor Antony Polonsky
(Brandeis University/UCL) and
Dr François Guesnet (UCL).

Conference coordinators:
Sara Ben-Isaac (Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL) and
Susan Storring (IPJS).

Enquiries:
Sara Ben-Isaac, Institute of Jewish Studies,
University College London. Email: ijs@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/institute-jewish-studies

Registration, programme and tickets:
https://jewishmusicians.eventbrite.co.uk

Conference tickets: £15, concessions £10 + booking fee.
Includes tea, coffee and a kosher lunch.
9.30am  Registration

10.00am  Welcome

H.E. Arkady Rzegocki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
Mr Vivian Wineman, President of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies
François Guesnet, Chairman of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies

10.15am  Session 1: General introduction to the topic and the volume and discussion of changes in Jewish cantorial practice in the nineteenth and twentieth century

Benjamin Matis, spiritual leader of the Agudath Achim Congregation, Altoona, Pennsylvania, USA, in discussion with Antony Polonsky. Cantor Matis will also perform some examples of cantorial music

10.45am  Coffee break

11.15am  Session 2: Jews in Polish Popular Music

Chair: François Guesnet, University College London (UCL), UK

Popular music in the interwar period: Polish, Jewish, shared
Tamara Sztyma, POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews, Warsaw, Poland

The Jews in the Band: Anders Army’s Special Troupes
Beth Holmgren, Duke University, North Carolina, USA

12.45pm  Lunch (provided)

continued...
continued...

2.00pm **Session 3: Yiddish Folk Song and Klezmer**

**Chair:** Antony Polonsky, Brandeis University, USA; UCL, UK

**Gimpel’s Theatre, Lemberg: The sounds of a popular Yiddish theatre preserved on gramophone records 1904 – 1910**
Michael Aylward, Maidstone, Kent, UK

**Klezmer for all occasions. The consumption of ‘Jewish music’ in contemporary Poland**
Magdalena Waligórska, University of Bremen, Germany

3.30pm **Tea break**

4.00pm **Concert**

**Polish-Jewish songs from the interwar period**
Katy Carr, London, UK

Please note that the programme may be subject to change.

The **Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies** wishes to thank the **Embassy of the Republic of Poland in London**, the **Polish Cultural Institute, London** and Ślipaczek **Chartered Financial Planners** for their generous support of this event.

**Conference convenors:**
Professor Antony Polonsky (Brandeis University/UCL) and Dr François Guesnet (UCL).

**Conference coordinators:**
Sara Ben-Isaac (Institute of Jewish Studies, UCL) and Susan Storring (IPJS).
NOTES ON SPEAKERS

Michael Aylward graduated in German from the University of Sussex and spent the next eight years working as a peddler, market-trader, lorry driver and hospital porter before succumbing to the false charms of the insurance industry in which he spent fifteen years as an inter-departmental manager before becoming an insurance translator. In 1994, in an ultimately unsuccessful attempt to preserve his sanity, he started work on a Discography of European Recordings of Jewish Music. He estimates that he has now documented about 15,000 recordings made between 1899 and 1956 and that this probably represents the bulk of the total output. He is now examining the options for making his findings readily accessible to the public. In recent years he and Julian Futter have produced three critically acclaimed CDs of historical recordings of Jewish music: Wandering Stars - Songs From Gimpel’s Lemberg Yiddish Theatre 1906-1910, Chekhov’s Band - Eastern European Klezmer Music from the EMI Archives 1908-1913 and Warsaw’s Jewish Mermaid: Syrena Recordings from the Orvomaa Archive 1909-1933. His non-insurance translations include: Revolution or Reform? A Confrontation [Herbert Marcuse in conversation with Karl Popper] and Beyond Recall - A record of Jewish musical life in Nazi Berlin, 1933 - 1938.

Katy Carr is an award-winning British recording artist with Polish roots. She is a performer, singer, songwriter, aviator and multi-instrumentalist (piano, ukulele, banjolele, vintage keyboard). She loves writing songs and performing music composed in Great Britain and Poland during the 1920s, 30s and 40s with her band, ‘Katy Carr and The Aviators’. As an independent musician, she has released five albums on her label Deluce Recordings, among them Paszport (2012) and Polonia (2015) which are inspired by the Polish WWII experience. She was awarded the Pro Patria medal for her humanitarian and musical work in 2016.

François Guesnet is Reader in Modern Jewish History in the Department of Hebrew and Jewish Studies at University College London. He holds a PhD in Modern History from Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg im Breisgau, and specializes in the early modern and 19th century history of Eastern European, and more specifically, Polish Jews. He held research and teaching fellowships at the Hebrew University Jerusalem, the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia), the University of Oxford and at Dartmouth College and is co-chair of the editorial board of Polin. Studies in Polish Jewry. His book publications include Polnische Juden im 19. Jahrhundert: Lebensbedingungen, Rechtsnormen und Organisation im Wandel (Böhlau-Verlag: Köln, Wien 1998), Der Fremde als Nachbar. Polnische Positionen zur jüdischen Präsenz in Polen. Texte seit 1800 (Suhrkamp-Verlag: Frankfurt am Main 2009), and, with Gweryneth Jones, Antisemitism in an Era of Transition: The Case of Post-Communist Eastern Central Europe (Frankfurt/Main: Peter Lang Verlag 2014). Together with Glenn Dynner, he published Warsaw. The Jewish Metropolis. Studies in Honor of the 70th Birthday of Professor Antony Polonsky (Boston, Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers 2015). In recent years, he has taken a great interest in the history of matted hair.

continued...
NOTES ON SPEAKERS

**Beth Holmgren** is Professor of Polish and Russian Studies in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies at Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, US. She has also taught at the University of California, San Diego and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Recent books include *Transgressive Women in Modern Russian and East European Cultures: From the Bad to the Blasphemous*, ed. with Yana Hashamova & Mark Lipovetsky (2016); and *Warsaw is My Country: The Story of Krystyna Bierzyńska, 1928-1945* (2018), a cultural biography of an acculturated Jewish girl who fought in the 1944 Warsaw Uprising after losing both parents in the Holocaust. Beth Holmgren has received multiple awards for her scholarship. Over the last decade, her research has focused on different topics related to the interwar *kabaret literacki* in Warsaw: its acculturated Jewish writers, composers, and musicians, as well as the experience of some of its artists during the Holocaust and World War II. She is currently at work on a book-length study of modern national stars generated by the *kabaret* – a core troupe of acculturated Jewish and working-class gentile players trained in and bonded through their play together in sophisticated revue theater.

**Benjamin Matis.** A native New Yorker, Cantor Matis is a graduate of the Peabody Conservatory of Music in Baltimore. He received his cantorial training and Master of Sacred Music degree at the HL Miller Cantorial School at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America. He further earned a Master of Arts in Music History from Queens College of the City University of New York. He is the author of two articles that have appeared in *POLIN* previously, as well as other articles. He is a former faculty member at the University of Kansas, where he lectured on Jewish Music. He has performed in concerts around the world and has led services in Warsaw, New York City, Miami, Toronto and Montreal as well as smaller communities throughout the US. He is currently the Spiritual Leader of Agudath Achim Congregation in Altoona, Pennsylvania.


continued...
NOTES ON SPEAKERS

Tamara Sztyma is an art historian, and graduate of Warsaw University and the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. In 2007 she received her PhD at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń for a dissertation devoted to the work of the sculptor Henryk Glicenstein. She is a prolific author writing about Jewish artists in the 19th and 20th century. Currently she works as a curator in the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews. She was one of the curators in the core exhibition team, working at the interwar gallery. Since the opening of the core exhibition she has been working on the new temporary exhibitions at the museum.

Magdalena Waligórska is Assistant Professor of Eastern European History and Culture at the University of Bremen, Germany. She is the author of Klezmer’s Afterlife. An Ethnography of the Jewish Music Revival in Poland and Germany (Oxford University Press, 2013).
POLIN. STUDIES IN POLISH JEWRY is an academic yearbook co-edited by Antony Polonsky (Brandeis University) and François Guesnet (University College London). Since 1994 the series has been published by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, and since 1998 the publication has been linked with the American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies. In March 2000, the yearbook was honoured with a National Jewish Book Award by the Jewish Book Council in the United States. It is now published by the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization/Liverpool University Press on behalf of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies.

LITTMAN

“One of the great achievements in contemporary publishing is the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, founded by Louis Littman for the express purpose of publishing classic scholarly works which might find it difficult to gain the support of commercial presses.” Albert H. Friedlander, European Judaism.

The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, founded by Louis Littman in memory of his father to explore, explain and perpetuate Jewish heritage, published its first book in 1965. As its list of published titles grew and its reputation developed, the Littman Library became established throughout the world of Jewish Studies as a leader in the field.

Littman’s academic books are selected for their outstanding scholarship, objectivity and new insights. Many are considered definitive in their field. www.littman.co.uk
INSTITUTE FOR POLISH-JEWISH STUDIES
http://polishjewishstudies.co.uk

35 years of research and education dedicated to the legacy of Polish and East European Jewry.

Since 1984, the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies (IPJS) has been an international leader in the presentation and dissemination of academic research on Eastern European Jewish history and culture, with a strong focus on the Polish-Lithuanian Jewish community. It is the key educational institution in Britain devoted to the history and culture of Polish and East European Jewry.

The IPJS is best known for its yearbook Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry, publishing original research by leading scholars from the fields of history, literary criticism, history of the Holocaust, and the history of Jewish/non-Jewish relations. Recent volumes have been dedicated to the history of the Jews in Lithuania, the Ukraine, and Jewish education in Eastern Europe. The IPJS has hosted a number of significant public events, with the yearly conference to launch the new volume of Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry being the most important. These events have been held in cooperation with the Embassy of the Republic of Poland, and the Polish Cultural Institute, London. The IPJS cooperates with the Polish Cultural Institute, London, the Institute of Jewish Studies at University College London, and the American Association of Polish-Jewish Studies.

Public events devoted to a number of topics are organized throughout the year, focusing on the rich and variegated history and culture of Eastern European Jewish communities, as well as the Holocaust. Members of the Institute of Polish-Jewish Studies engage actively in academic research and education, and are frequent public speakers on the history and culture of Polish and Eastern European Jewry, as well as on the history of the Holocaust.

Please support the IPJS
The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies (charity number 293643) receives no core funding from the State. Our supporters are key to realising the Institute’s goals:
• Preserving the history of Polish Jewry on an international basis;
• Disseminating the results of research by means of publications, lectures, conferences, seminars and documentary films;
• Focusing public attention on what is most significant and precious in this legacy of Polish and East European Jewry;
• Collaborating with our East European colleagues to understand our shared past.

Please donate online at: www.givey.com/instituteforpolishjewishstudies. All donations can be Gift-aided.

To receive news of our events, please consider signing up to our email list if you have not already done so: http://eepurl.com/dskFPf
FURTHER ORGANISERS, HOSTS AND SPONSORS OF THIS EVENT

UCL INSTITUTE OF JEWISH STUDIES

www.ucl.ac.uk/institute-jewish-studies

UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT
T: 020 7679 3520
E: ijs@ucl.ac.uk
Twitter: @InstJewishStudy

EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND IN LONDON

www.london.mfa.gov.pl/en

47 Portland Place, London W1B 1JH
T: 020 7291 3520, F: 020 7291 3575
E: london@msz.gov.pl

POLISH CULTURAL INSTITUTE IN LONDON

www.polishculture.org.uk

10 Bouverie Street, London EC4Y 8AX
T: 020 7822 8990, F: 020 7822 8951
E: london pci@instytutpolski.org
Facebook: facebook.com/polishinstitutelondon
Twitter: @PLInst_London

ŚLIPACZEK CHARTERED FINANCIAL PLANNERS

www.slipaczek.com

2c Lytton Road, New Barnet, Hertfordshire, EN5 5BY
T: 020 8449 1755
E: enquiries@slipaczek.com
Facebook: facebook.com/SlipaczekCharteredFinancialPlanners/
IPJS EVENTS 2020

Please come along to further events in 2020.

Tuesday 11th February 2020, 6.30pm

Fascism in the Countryside?
Political mobilization and anti-Jewish violence in Poland

Dr Kamil Kijek, Assistant Professor, Jewish Studies Department, University of Wrocław.

The 9th March 1936 pogrom in Przytyk is the most well-known, among the many acts of collective anti-Jewish violence throughout Interwar Poland. The current academic consensus is that these were “spontaneous” and “unplanned”, driven by economic crisis and centuries-long rural traditional antisemitism. Using recently available archival, memoir and press sources, Dr Kijek presents a quite different analysis - namely that this was result of an elaborate plan by certain urban elites to “import” modern radical anti-Semitism and fascist political culture into the Polish provinces, so as to establish a new radically modernist right-wing culture among peasants and provincial town dwellers.

Venue: University College London, LT B05, Chadwick Building, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.
Tickets: Free, but please register at: https://kijek.eventbrite.co.uk

Thursday 12th March 2020, 6.30pm

Agnes Kaposi – Lessons of a Life

Professor Agnes Kaposi in conversation with Dr François Guesnet, UCL, Chairman of the Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies, concluding with a Q&A.

In cooperation with the Wiener Library, London.

Agnes Kaposi was born in 1932 to a Hungarian-Jewish and socialist family and as a child survived Debrecen ghetto and labour camps in Austria. After the war, she returned to Stalinist Hungary, graduated from the Budapest Technical University and worked as an electronic engineer. After the 1956 Uprising against Communist rule, she left Hungary for England, to work as industrial and academic researcher in the telecommunication and computer industries. Her experiences shaped her world view, that truthfulness is at the core of civil society. Her memoir Yellow Star, Red Star, written in cooperation with the Hungarian historian Laci Czösz, goes beyond the recollections of a Holocaust survivor - it is an appeal to all of us to defend truth.

Venue: The Wiener Library, 29 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DP.
Tickets: Free, but please register at: https://kaposi.eventbrite.co.uk
Two months after the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941, General Władysław Anders (1892-1970) was permitted to recruit a Polish Army from among Polish citizens interned in Soviet central Asian and Siberian gulags, after an amnesty negotiated by the British government. Around five thousand of the recruits were Polish Jews. Joining the army meant rescue from hunger and disease, and because the army went to Palestine to join the allied war effort in the Middle East, trekking several thousand miles, Anders became known as the ‘Polish Moses.’ Mike Levy will offer his assessment of Anders’ motives.

**Venue:** University College London, LT B05, Chadwick Building, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.  
**Tickets:** Free, but please register at: [https://andersarmy.eventbrite.co.uk](https://andersarmy.eventbrite.co.uk)
Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies (established 1984) is a non-profit, educational institution devoted to the history and culture of Polish Jewry. It is an associated institute of the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

The Institute for Polish-Jewish Studies is a company limited by guarantee. Registered Charity No. 293643. Incorporation No. 1977852. Registered office: 9 Station Parade, Uxbridge Road, London W5 3LD.

Address for correspondence: IPJS, c/o UCL Department for Hebrew and Jewish Studies, UCL, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT.