

The Klezmer/Roma (Gypsy) Connection: A Musical Voyage in Romania

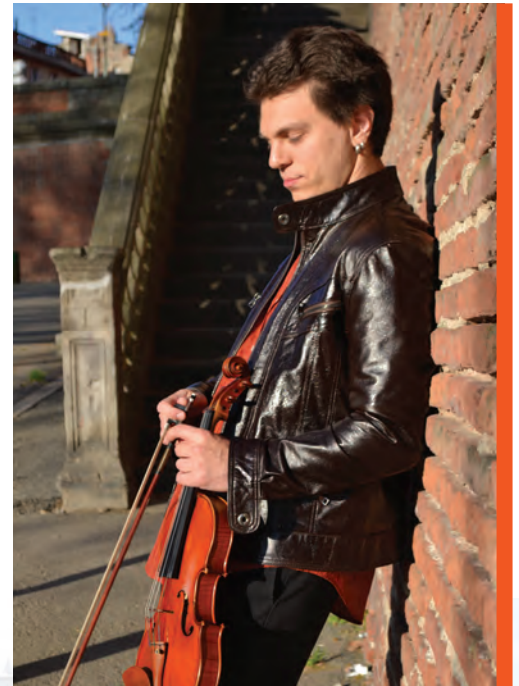
In a virtuosic concert and multi-media performance, Jake Shulman-Ment leads the audience on a musical journey through tradition, cultural exchange, and shared memory. Developed over the course of a Fulbright year of ethnographic expeditions in Romania, this program offers a window into a world now mostly empty of the Jews who once called it home. Through music, striking photographs and videos, and historical context, Jake reveals the past and present relationships between Jews and Roma (Gypsies) by exploring questions of cultural influence, transmission, and collective memory. Performing both old melodies and new compositions, Jake reflects on the potential for uncovering and transforming buried pasts, integrating heritage into the artistic process to create vibrant contemporary culture.

“Jake led the audience on an entertaining and educational tour of Romania's backroads and forgotten glories. He walks in Bartok's footsteps, working to save rare Jewish music that would otherwise be lost to the sands of time.”

Pete Rushefsky, Executive Director, Center for Traditional Music and Dance

Artist Biography

Among the leaders of a new generation of Klezmer and Eastern European folk music performers, violinist Jake Shulman-Ment has performed and recorded extensively with groups around the world, including Romashka, MetróFolk, Daniel Kahn and the Painted Bird, Frank London, Duncan Sheik, Di Naye Kapelye, Adrian Receanu, The Other Europeans, Margot Leverett and the Klezmer Mountain Boys, Fleytmuzik, and Életfa Hungarian Folk Band. In-demand internationally as a teacher, Jake has taught at New York's Henry Street Settlement, KlezKamp, KlezKanada, Klezmer Paris, the Krakow Jewish Culture Festival, and Yiddish Summer Weimar. In 2010 Jake received a Fulbright research grant to collect, study, perform, and document traditional music in Romania. Jake's debut solo CD, "A Redele (A Wheel)" (Oriente Musik, 2012) was nominated for the German Record Critics' Award. A Redele is available online at Oriente Musik.



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“The performance was spectacular. Jake intersperses music with lecture as well as photographic and videographic imagery of Romanian musicians, villages, towns, synagogues, weddings, and funerals. This worked especially well because it is all first-hand knowledge to Jake; he brings his extensive personal experience from his time in Romania along with his years of meticulous study of the musical form.” Jenny Levison, Director of Performing Arts at The JCC in Manhattan, 2011-2013

Watch the teaser video for *The Klezmer/Roma Connection*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dczUv47JUQA>