

# Old Dominion University

2019 – 2020

## F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series



### The Klezmer Conservatory Band

**Hankus Netsky**, Artistic Director

**Jim Guttman**,

String Bass and Managing Director

**Mark Berney**, Cornet

**Mark Hamilton**, Trombone

**Eden MacAdam-Somer**,  
Vocals and Violin

**Robin Miller**, Flute and Piccolo

**Yaeko Miranda-Elmaleh**, Violin

**Grant Smith**, Drums and  
Percussion

**Matt Darriau**, Clarinet

**John Servies**,  
Sound Design and Audio Engineer

Concert: September 23, 7:30 p.m., University Theatre

Workshop: "Instant Klezmer," September 24, 12:30 p.m.  
Wilson G. Chandler Recital Hall  
F. Ludwig Diehn Center for the Performing Arts



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*Musical selections will be announced from the stage.*

A leading voice in the world of klezmer music and Yiddish song for over thirty years, the Klezmer Conservatory Band (KCB) continues to thrill audiences all over the world. With a repertoire ranging from Yiddish standards to rousing dance medleys and little known gems, the KCB's musicians have served as important ambassadors in promoting the universal appeal of Jewish music.

Over the years, the band has appeared at dozens of international music festivals in major venues across the U.S., Europe and Australia and on ten international broadcasts of "A Prairie Home Companion." The KCB provided the musical accompaniment for "The Fool and the Flying Ship," a 1991 video featuring Robin Williams, played an integral

role in Joel Grey's "Borschtcapades '94, and performed the music for the much acclaimed American Repertory Theatre production, "Shlemiel the First." Since the late 1990s, Itzhak Perlman has featured the KCB in his CD, video, and touring project, "In the Fiddler's House," including performances at Wolftrap, Great Woods, Radio City Music Hall, the Ravinia Festival, the Saratoga Music Festival, Moscow's Barvikha Concert Hall, the Mizner Park Amphitheatre in Boca Raton, and the Mann Music Center (Philadelphia). In December of 2002, the KCB performed a concert of orchestral arrangements of klezmer and Yiddish vocal music with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. In 1988, world-renowned choreographer Bill T. Jones choreographed a piece based on music from their CD, "A Jumpin' Night In the Garden of Eden" for the Boston Ballet.

In 2012 the band re-joined Maestro Perlman as an integral part of his cantorial/Hassidic/klezmer/Yiddish folk music project, "Eternal Echoes," and received rave reviews for their recent Sony CD release and live concert performances at venues including Boston's Symphony Hall, Brooklyn's Barclay's Center and the Hollywood Bowl. The band is featured in 2014's "Rejoice!," a full-length PBS Great Performances music special and continues the collaboration in the current version of Itzhak's *In the Fiddler's House* project.

The band's recordings include *Yiddishe Renaissance*, *Klez*, and *A Touch of Klez* on the Vanguard label; *Oy Chanukah*, *A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden*, *Old World Beat*, *Live! The Thirteenth Anniversary Album*, *Dancing in the Aisles*, *A Taste of Paradise* and the highly acclaimed *Dance Me to the End of Love* on Rounder Records. The KCB was prominently featured in the 1988 documentary film, *A Jumpin' Night in the Garden of Eden*.

# Biographies



## **Hankus Netsky** **Artistic Director**

A multi-instrumentalist, composer, and ethnomusicologist, Dr. Hankus Netsky is founder and director of the Klezmer Conservatory Band and co-chair of New England Conservatory's Contemporary Improvisation Department. He has composed extensively for film, theater, and television, collaborated closely with such artists as Itzhak Perlman, Robin Williams, Joel Grey, Theodore Bikel, and Robert Brustein, and produced numerous recordings, including 10 by the Klezmer Conservatory Band. He has also recorded with Ran Blake, Marty Ehrlich, Rosalie Gerut, Linda J. Chase, Theodore Bikel, Margot Leverett, and Cantor Jeff Warschauer. He received the Yosel Mlotek Award and a "Forward Fifty" award for his role in the resurgence of traditional Eastern European Jewish ethnic musical culture and was awarded a New England Conservatory Outstanding Alumni award, along with the school's Louis Krasner and Lawrence Lesser awards for Excellence in Teaching.

He is a sessional lecturer at McGill University and has taught at Hampshire College, Wesleyan University, and Hebrew College. His essays on Jewish music have been published by the University of California Press, the University of Pennsylvania Press, the University of Scranton Press, Hips Roads, Indiana University Press, and the University Press of America, and Temple University Press published his book *Klezmer, Music and Community in 20th Century Jewish Philadelphia* in 2015. Dr. Netsky is on the faculty of Silk Road's Global Musician Workshop and performs regularly with violinist and vocalist Eden MacAdam-Somer, gospel singer Janice "Octavia" Allen, cantor George Mordecai, and in former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky's "PoemJazz" project. He served as vice president for education

at the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts, and has been a key figure in Jewish cultural education workshops, including Klezkamp, KlezKanada, Paper Bridge, Yidstock, Aleph Ordination Week, Me'ah, and Circle Lodge.



**Jim Guttmann**  
**String Bass and Managing Director**

From Carnegie Hall to smoky dives, from the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam to legendary folk music venue Club Passim in Cambridge, Massachusetts, bassist Jim Guttmann has played everything from klezmer to classical — and most styles in between. He joined the Klezmer Conservatory Band at its inception and as a member of the band has toured nationally and internationally, performed and recorded with Itzhak Perlman and Joel Grey, performed on all the band's recordings and aided in the production of the last five. He has recorded and performed klezmer music with Andy Statman, Alicia Svigals' *Klezmer Fiddle Express*, Art Bailey's *Orkestra Popilar* and with Michael Winograd and Pete Sokolow's *Tarras Band*, a tribute to the great klezmer clarinetist Dave Tarras.

Jim is a founding member of the *Really Eclectic String Quartet* and has worked with renowned entertainers and musicians, including singers Eartha Kitt and Mark Murphy, the Really Eclectic String Quartet, blues masters Johnny Shines and James Cotton, the Boston Philharmonic Orchestra, Texas swing legend Tiny Moore, new acoustic music guitar virtuoso Russ Barenberg, the Artie Shaw Orchestra, and many more. In 1986 he served as the musical director and bassist for the Tufts University Jazz Festival's *Soul to Soul: A Tribute to Aretha Franklin*. He was a member of the 2004 Grammy Award winning ensemble that recorded Yehudi

# Biographies

Wyner's "The Mirror." More recently he brought klezmer music to the performance repertoire of *Symphony By The Sea*, (Donald Palma, Conductor).

In 2010 Jim released his first CD as a leader, the critically acclaimed CD *Bessarabian Breakdown*. Surrounding himself with current and former members of the KCB, as well as friends from throughout his career, he leads various ensembles through a program that reflects his many interests. The album features straight-ahead celebratory klezmer, as well as fusions of klezmer with different jazz styles, R&B, Afro-Cuban music, and other unexpected but danceable hybrids.



## **Mark Berney** Cornet

Mark Berney's musical interests begin at the crossroads of jazz, classical, rock, and world music. After completing his studies in classical and jazz trumpet performance at the University of Oregon and touring on cruise ships across the globe, he joined the Klezmer Conservatory Band in time to record their critically acclaimed albums, "Dance Me to the End of Love" and "A Taste of Paradise." With KCB, Berney has recorded and toured with Itzhak Perlman, collaborated with the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, and made numerous appearances on television and radio.

Berney appears on over 30 recordings, jumping with agility between genres. He can be heard on the recent Andy Statman release, "Monroe Bus" and has recorded and toured extensively with the Skatalites. He has also appeared in concert with Aretha

Franklin, Jamie Cullum, and Slightly Stoopid. Berney is on the music faculty at University of Rhode Island, where he teaches courses on jazz and rock history, directs ensembles, and heads the jazz trumpet studio. He has been an adjudicator, clinician, and guest soloist around New England. Berney is an avid fitness enthusiast, which is reflected in his recent solo album of original compositions, "Longer and Stronger," available on iTunes and all streaming platforms.



Photo by Susan Wilson

## **Mark Hamilton** **Trombone**

Mark Hamilton has been a member of the Klezmer Conservatory Band since 1985. As the only trombone player in Itzhak

Perlman's klezmer projects "In the Fiddler's House" and "Eternal Echoes," he appeared with Itzhak Perlman on The Late Show with David Letterman. A talented educator, Mark is on the jazz faculty at Wellesley College and is the former Instrumental Music Director at Applewild School in central Massachusetts, where his bands consistently won top honors at the International Association of Jazz Educator's festivals. Both an arranger and composer, he specializes in klezmer and jazz music for concert bands and other ensembles. He created HamilTunes in order to publish this music and make it available for school and adult bands. Mark has performed with Joe Williams, Victor Borge, Robin Williams, and Joel Grey among others. A proud graduate of New England Conservatory and the University of Delaware, he is also a founding member of the ensembles Brass Planet and Klezperanto! Find out more at [www.hamiltunes.com](http://www.hamiltunes.com).

# Biographies



Photo by Andrew Hurribout

## **Eden MacAdam-Somer** **Vocals and Violin**

Composer/performer/improviser Eden MacAdam-Somer is one of today's most exciting and versatile artists. Hailed by the New York Times as reflecting "astonishing virtuosity and raw expression," her music transcends genre through soaring violin, vocals, and percussive dance, weaving in and out of the many cultures that have formed her experience. She has been a featured soloist with symphony and chamber orchestras, jazz and swing bands, and Romanian, Jewish Music, and American folk ensembles. Eden is a full-time faculty member at New England Conservatory, where she teaches improvisation and serves as Co-Chair of the groundbreaking Department of Contemporary Improvisation. She has been a guest artist at such institutions as the Afghanistan National Institute of Music and the Dundalk Institute of Technology, and a featured performer at the Eastbourne, Texas, and Beijing International Music Festivals. Her 2015 live solo album, *My First Love Story*, was listed as one of the top ten jazz albums of the year in the Boston Globe. She has written numerous works for solo performer on voice and violin, and has also received commissions by such groups as the *New Gallery Concert Series*, *Cuatro Puntos Resident Artists*, the *Providence Mandolin Ensemble*, and the *AURA Ensemble*. In addition to her work in Boston, Eden maintains an active international performance and recording career as a soloist and with such bands as *Notorious Folk* and the *Klezmer Conservatory Band*.





Photo by Susan Wilson

## **Robin Miller** **Flute and Piccolo**

Robin Miller is a 36 year veteran of the KCB. She has performed on 8 of the band's 10 recordings and traveled extensively with the band. She plays a variety of flutes from around the world and enjoys improvising and accompanying modern dance. She is an accomplished classical and baroque flautist. She has a B.A. from Skidmore College and an M.Ed. from Harvard University. She has been an English and Drama teacher in the Newton Public Schools for the past 30 years. She lives in the Boston area with her family.



## **Yaeko Miranda-Elmaleh** **Violin**

A Cambridge, Massachusetts native, Yaeko Miranda Elmaleh has been a member of the world-renowned Klezmer Conservatory Band for over a decade and has performed with the band throughout the country in such venues as New York's Avery Fischer Hall and L.A.'s Walt Disney Concert Hall. Most recently she appeared with the band and Itzhak Perlman on the PBS' *Great Performances* and has performed alongside jazz clarinetist Don Byron, actress/singer Bernadette Peters and opened for Andy Statman. In 2011, Yaeko recorded her self-titled debut album featuring guitarist/mandolinist Brandon Seabrook, cellist Ariel Friedman and accordionist Michael McLaughlin. When Yaeko performs she transcends the separation between herself and her instrument, and instead one hears an authentic voice, rooted in the dedication of years of training, respect for diverse musical traditions, and her deep familial ties.

# Biographies

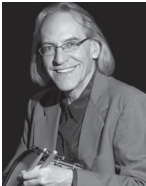


Photo by Randy H. Goodman

## **Grant Smith** **Drums and Percussion**

Grant Smith has studied drumset with Alan Dawson, Arabic drums with Jamie Haddad, tabla with Shashi Nayak, Afro-Cuban percussion with Enrique Pla, and Handance with Glen Velez. *The Boston Globe* calls him a “brilliant improviser.” *The Boston Phoenix* has noted his topflight “cross-genre” abilities. Others note his sunny disposition. Grant has toured extensively, including Thailand, Australia, and both Europes. He is also a part of many world music, jazz, classical, orthodox, deconstructed, and free projects. Theatre and dance credits include the American Repertory Theater’s production of “The King Stag,” featuring a solo multi-percussion score (with staging and costumes by Julie Taymor) and movement works with Shakti Smith, Jane Wang, and Liz Roncka as well as his own choreography known as hogginsho.

Despite such high profile gigs as tympani with Itzhak Perlman, borscht drums with Joel Grey, and tabla with the Violent Femmes, Grant still insists that his biggest gig was the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade with Kermit the Frog and Big Bird. Fave color: green. Fave food: Jane’s cookies. Vegetarian.



## **Matt Darriau** **Clarinet**

New York based musician Matt Darriau plays reeds and various ethnic woodwinds. His music is informed by his longstanding commitment to jazz, klezmer, Balkan and Celtic idioms. In addition to his work with the Grammy winning Klezmatics, he leads his own Balkan rhythm quartet, Paradox Trio,

which regularly performs in the U.S. and abroad. The group's third CD, *Source*, explores the common ground between Balkan and klezmer music. Their fourth recording, *Gambit*, was nominated for a 2006 German Critics Award. More recently Darriau was in the original production of the Tony Award winning Broadway play *INDECENT* and appeared in the Broadway hit musical *THE BAND'S VISIT*.

## **John Servies** **Sound Design and Audio Engineer**

Percussionist and Audio Engineer/Producer John Servies, a Pensacola Florida native, currently lives in Chicago, Illinois. He has been a music industry professional since 1974 working with both major and independent clients for local, national and international productions. John has been the sound designer for and has toured regularly with the Klezmer Conservatory Band for 25 years and is a vital part of the band's concert presentation. He also serves as sound designer for Itzhak Perlman's "In The Fiddler's House" live performances and has been a sound engineer for NPR's "From the Top." John served as co-producer and recording engineer for KCB's latest album, "A Taste of Paradise."



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This program is funded by an endowment established at the Hampton Roads Community Foundation and made possible by a generous gift from F. Ludwig Diehn.

# F. Ludwig Diehn Concert Series

## 2019 – 2020 Season

September 23 – 24, 2019  
**Klezmer Conservatory Band**

November 4 – 5, 2019  
**Blue Heron Renaissance Choir**

February 17 – 18, 2020  
**The American Brass Quintet**

March 16 – 17, 2020  
**Rod Gilfry, Baritone**  
**With the Norfolk Chamber Consort**

April 16 – 20, 2020  
**Veronica Swift, Vocalist, Jazz Residency**  
**and Concert with the John Toomey Trio**

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