

**YIDDISHE CUP  
KLEZMER GUY**



Bert Stratton clarinet, alto and tenor saxes

Irwin Weinberger vocals, guitar, mandolin, alto sax, tin whistle, flute, dvoyanka

Steve Ostrow trombone, trumpet, violin, slide whistle, drums

Alan Douglass vocals, keyboards, theremin

Don Friedman drums, percussion

Daniel Ducoff shtickmeister (dance leader), duck whistle

Jack Stratton drums, percussion, synth, trombone, beat box

WHEN I GO TO *SHIVAS* (houses of mourning), people sometimes say, "I know you, but from where?"

"I'm the klezmer guy," I say.

That solves that.

It's good to be a guy . . . a klezmer guy, computer guy, cable guy.  
How to be a klezmer guy: lead a klezmer band in your hometown for 20 years.

Yiddishe Cup plays all over, but its main territory is the Midwest: Ohio, Michigan . . . any place rusty.

We're oxidized.

But we do occasionally loosen up. We carry Jewish WD-40, a.k.a schmaltz.

Get unctuous with Yiddishe Cup. Crank it up safely. The klezmer guys, Yiddishe Cup, will even check your coolant level for free.

Yo, what about the band's artistic levels?

Instrumental klez, good. Original compositions, good. Klez fusion, good.  
Neo-Borscht Belt comedy, good.

*Gut to go.*

--Bert Stratton  
bandleader

1. Anim Zemiros (Song of Glory) . . .  
Yehudah HaChassid  
Sung at the end of shabbat morning services. Clarinetist Andy Statman played this on his album *New Shabbos Waltz*. The “yodeling” at the end of the tune is a tip of the yarmulke to Focus, a Dutch progressive rock band from the 1970s.

2. Circles and Arches . . .  
Alan Douglass  
Yiddishe Cup’s contribution to the world of contemporary klez instrumentals.

3. Pachalafaka . . . Irving Taylor,  
Alan Douglass  
Henry Mancini, among others, recorded this. Yiddishe Cup changed the lyrics, big-time. Dedicated to Harry Douglass.

4. Nelika (Johnny) . . .  
Accordionist Emil Kroitor, who emigrated from Moldova to Israel, wrote this. The time signature is 7/16 – a common Moldovan meter.

5. Tsiganeshti (Gypsy) . . . traditional  
A klezmer standard, originally from the Romanian Gypsy repertoire.

6. Hora Martisorului (Little March/Song)  
. . . Grigoras Dinicu  
In the style of urban Romanian Gypsy music.

7. Kol Rino (The Sound of Joy) . . .  
traditional  
This wedding song is based on a Hebrew liturgical text, popularized by the Modzhitzer Hasidim. “The sound of joy and redemption is heard in the tents of the righteous. Mazel tov to the rebbe. Mazel tov to all the Hasidim. Mazel tov to all the Jews.”

8. Sci Fi Medley . . . B. Herrmann,  
Alan Douglass  
Bernard Herrmann wrote the film score to *Citizen Kane* and then collaborated with Alfred Hitchcock on *Psycho* and *Vertigo*. “Sci Fi Medley” is in three parts: “Gort’s Hora,” based on Herrmann’s music from *The Day the Earth Stood Still*; “Gulliver’s Khusidl” from *The Three Worlds of Gulliver*; and “Sinbad’s Freylekhs” from *The 7th Voyage of Sinbad*.

9. Hallelujah . . . Kobi Oshrat,  
Shimrit Orr  
Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme recorded the English version. The Hebrew version won the 1979 Eurovision Song Contest. Guest Gerald Ross is on Hawaiian lap steel guitar.

10. Yiddishe Blues (DJ Paradiddle Remix) . . . J. Frankel, J. Stratton  
Lt. Joseph Frankel's 1918 "Yiddishe Blues" was possibly the first American klezmer fusion experiment. The tune was a cross between klezmer and ragtime. Yiddishe Cup's version mixes klezmer with reggae and hip hop. Bert Stratton, clarinet; Jack Stratton (DJ Paradiddle), everything else.

11. Sami Malik's Tune . . . S. Malik  
Yiddishe Cup learned this Balkan piece from a New Shtetl Band recording.

12. Di zun vet aruntergeyn (The Sun Will Set) . . . Ben Yomin  
Moshe Leib Halpern, the lyricist, was an early 20th century American Yiddish poet.

13. Meron . . . traditional,  
Immanuel Zamir  
Israeli Hasidim play this at Mt. Meron, near Tsafat, on the holiday Lag B'Omer.

14. 40A . . . Abe Ellstein  
This *freylekhs* (lively tune) is on page 40A in Yiddishe Cup's playbook. Yiddishe Cup learned it from New York clarinetist Sid Beckerman, who had it on page 7 in his book. [Dave Tarras recorded it as "*Di goldene chasene*" (The Golden Wedding). Don't know what page Tarras had it on.]

Special thanks to our families, dance leader Alice Stratton, alternate singer Shawn Fink and Chris Conover, who recorded tracks 9 and 13.

B. Stratton, alto sax on track 11  
Weinberger, alto sax on tracks 3, 8.  
Friedman, drums/percussion on tracks 1, 2, 3, 7, 8, 14  
Ostrow, drums on track 7  
J. Stratton, drums/percussion on tracks 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 13  
J. Stratton, trombone on track 10 only

Live tracks: 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 14

Watch videos of "Hallelujah" and "Tsiganeshti" on Yiddishe Cup's YouTube channel.

Track 10 arranged and produced by Jack Stratton  
Tracks 2, 3, 8 arranged by Alan Douglass  
All other arrangements by Yiddishe Cup  
Mixed, recorded, mastered and produced by Alan Douglass  
Yellowstone National Recording,  
Cleveland Heights, Ohio  
Design by Jack Stratton  
Logo by Ralph Solonitz

Also available: *Klezmerized*, *Yiddfellas* and *Meshugeneh Mambo*

- 1 Anim Zemiros
- 2 Circles and Arches
- 3 Pachalafaka
- 4 Nelika
- 5 Tsiganeshti
- 6 Hora Martisorului
- 7 Kol Rino
- 8 Sci Fi Medley
- 9 Hallelujah
- 10 Yiddishe Blues  
(DJ Paradiddle Remix)
- 11 Sami Malik's Tune
- 12 Di zun vet aruntergeyn
- 13 Meron
- 14 40A



A Yiddishe Cup Production  
Cleveland • (216) 932-3586  
[www.yiddishecup.com](http://www.yiddishecup.com)  
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