

NEWSLETTER

Volume 6, Issue 2, Autumn 1999

JEWISH PERFORMANCE UK EDITION

JEWISH CULTURE DAY ON THE SOUTH BANK

A spectacular day with six events delivering a rich diversity of sounds from Jewish life including new Lucie Skeaping and Gregori Schechter gigs

**Sunday 28 November 1999
Queen Elizabeth Hall and
Purcell Room
11.00am-10.00pm**

Once again the London International Jewish Music Festival, sponsored by the Jewish Chronicle, provides a feast of Jewish culture in one day, with six events and foyer displays. Festival Director, Geraldine Auerbach is delighted to bring you two brand new concerts by Britain's most outstanding and popular Jewish music ensembles, lead by Gregori Schechter and Lucie Skeaping, in the Queen Elizabeth Hall. The Purcell Room events have been organised in close partnership with the Spiro Ark to bring you the most exciting and stimulating programmes of literature, comedy, cantorial and chamber music. The Jewish Book Council is participating in the literary event at 11.00am.

Come and hear toe-tapping music from Eastern Europe and exotic strains from the Middle East. Experience the uplifting melodies of Hebrew

psalm and prayer from an international assembly of cantors and choir. Enjoy a concert of chamber music. Listen as famous authors discuss their Jewish mothers with a psychotherapist and Rabbi. See Spike Milligan reading his funny verse and introducing new Jewish Comedy acts, including the Banana Rebel Troup fresh from their triumph at the Edinburgh Festival. Browse around displays of CDs from Jewish Music Distribution and exhibitions from the Jewish Museum, London in the foyer.

For details of the six events at the South Bank and the generous discounts on all ticket prices for multi-bookings, groups, and concessions, including a day pass saving up to £20 per person, as well as other events we are involved with, such as the astonishing 15 year old Israeli Pianist, Boris Giltburg on 9 October and the Berlin and Paris Cabaret at the Palace Theatre Watford on 14 November, see column on right, below and over the page.

Box Office

**0171 960 4242
Literature, Comedy,
Klezmer, Cantorial,
Sephardi & Oriental
and Chamber Music**

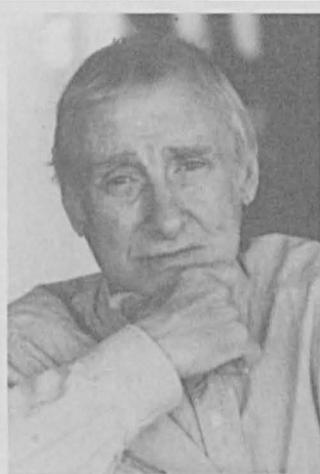
Queen Elizabeth Hall

7.45pm - 9.45pm

**LUCIE SKEAPING AND THE
BURNING BUSH**

Lucie Skeaping & The Burning Bush, Britain's most internationally acclaimed Jewish music ensemble, invite Arab musicians to join them in a concert with rapturous and mystical Sephardi and Oriental Jewish music as well as Muslim music, emphasising the common cultural roots of the peoples of the Bible Lands. The concert includes songs of Traditional Sephardi Weddings and an ancient Ballad, brought to life with exquisite shadow puppets. The Burning Bush and guests perform on instruments traditional over several centuries in Medieval Spain, North Africa,

continued on P2 col 1



Spike Milligan, patron of the Jewish Music Heritage Trust who was given his first break in Show Biz by the great Jewish band leader Joe Loss, entertains and introduces new talent in Jewish humour at the South Bank on November 28.

See left & page two for more details of South Bank events.

Jewish Music Festival 2000 (11 June - 18 July)

Jewish music takes off next year and will reach all corners of the land and all ages and stages of the community and the wider world - from the South Coast to Scotland and from schools to the Greenwich Dome, from tiny tots to residents in old aged homes. Festival Director, Geraldine Auerbach, says this tenth Festival, organised by the Jewish Music Heritage Trust, will grasp the Millennium's opportunity to celebrate the variety and spirituality of Jewish Music and Arts in their ever-changing dialogue with other traditions.

There will be concerts of ancient prayer chants, folk music from all parts of the Jewish Diaspora, songs in

continued on P2 col 3

Boris Giltburg

15 year old Israeli piano virtuoso

Sat 9 October, 8.15pm.

Regent Hall, 275 Oxford Street W1. Tickets £8.

Tel 0181 346 7088 or 371 0575 or Fax 0181 343 3669

Berlin and Paris Cabaret

Jam and Spice Sizzling Cabaret

featuring Alexandra Valavelsky

Sun 14 November 7.30pm, Palace Theatre Watford

Tickets £12.75 - £8.50 Tel 01923 225671

the old Ottoman world and the Middle East.

Queen Elizabeth Hall

2.45pm - 4.45pm

GREGORI SCHECHTER'S KLEZMER FESTIVAL BAND.

When Gregori Schechter, clarinet virtuoso and composer (who has been called 'Klezmer's most charismatic star', (*The Times* November 98) after his Barbican and Union Chapel triumphs, was a boy in Russia the most exciting event was the visit of the Moldavian String ensembles from Kishinev with their fast and furious music.

Gregori recreates this atmosphere as part of his spectacular klezmer concert for 1999, presenting a Moldavian Strings ensemble with exciting Jewish & Gypsy music from Eastern Europe.

Purcell Room

11.00am - 12.30pm

MEET MY JEWISH MOTHER!

The Jewish mother portrayed by writers and discussed with Howard Cooper psychotherapist and Rabbi. Howard Jacobson, Bernice Rubens, Micheline Wandor, Claudia Roden, Shelley Weiner and Jay Rayner read from their own and other novels.

Chaired by Gerald Jacobs, literary editor of the *Jewish Chronicle*. (*Organised in partnership with the Spiro Ark and in association with the Jewish Book Council*)

Purcell Room 1.00 - 2.30pm

JEWISH COMEDY WITH SPIKE MILLIGAN

Spike reads from his funny poems and stories and introduces new talent including the Banana Rebel Troupe with their 'Ultimate Kosher Comedy Experience' fresh from the Edinburgh Festival. The first Awards for Jewish Comedy will be presented. (*Organised in partnership with the Spiro Ark*)

Purcell Room

5.00pm - 6.30pm

THE ART OF THE JEWISH CANTOR

Hear the moving music of Hebrew prayer and psalm, sung by outstanding Cantors, Stephen Robins and Jeremy Lawson from the UK, and Sidney Dworkin from Canada with four choristers from London and Montreal conducted by Stephen Glass, musical director of the famous Gates of Heaven Synagogue, Montreal. (*Organised in partnership with the Spiro Ark and in association with Jolion Productions*)

Purcell Room

8.00pm - 10.00pm

THE WEINGARTEN ENSEMBLE

(piano, oboe, violin, viola, cello) with Teresa Cahill Soprano. Exciting chamber group inspired by Jewish pianist, Joseph Weingarten. Robert Saxton has written a special piece in tribute to Hugo Gryn, which will be performed tonight with Teresa Cahill as soloist.

Balakirev - l'Alouette
Schumann - Piano Quartet in Eb Major Op 17

Mozart - Quartet in F for oboe and strings K370

Robert Saxton - Prayer before sleep (in memory of Hugo Gryn)

Fauré - Piano Quartet No 1 in C minor Op 15

Ticket Prices:

Queen Elizabeth Hall:

£18.50 £15.50 £12.50 £8.50

Purcell Room: £12.50 £8.50

Concessions (OAPs, Children, Students, UB40) £2 off each QE ticket, £1 off each PR ticket. **Groups** of ten or more: £2 off each QE ticket, £1 off each PR ticket. **Series:** if buying for more than one concert at QE or PR, £2 off each QE ticket £1 off each PR ticket.

Any combination of the above, an extra £1 off each ticket. If buying a 'day pass' for five concerts an extra £5 off total. Save up to £20!

Jewish Music Festival

2000 (continued from p1 col 4)

Jewish languages of Yiddish, Ladino, Hebrew and Judeo-Arabic, instrumental Klezmer music as well as classical music by great composers. Jewish artists from Uzbekistan, America and Israel will join British performers in large and small-scale activities, performances, pre-performance talks, conferences, workshops and demonstrations emphasising education and audience participation. All age groups will be included. There will be a competition for school children to compose a new setting for a Psalm and reminiscences for the elderly in residential homes remembering the lullabies and songs of their childhood. It is envisaged to culminate in a 'Jewish Music Marathon' where every community and organisation in the country, professional and amateur will contribute 20 minutes of their favourite Jewish music in a marathon performance in the Millennium Dome.

The Tenth London International Jewish Music Festival will be part of the British Millennium Festival Celebrations, with a contribution to funds from the Millennium Commission. Communities, promoters and venues that would like to join in the Jewish Music Festival 2000 should get in touch with the Jewish Music Heritage Trust on 0181 909 2445, or Email us at festival@jmht.org

Jewish Comedy Awards

JMHT and the Spiro Ark are looking for the best new Jewish comedy acts. Send a tape, a photograph and a CV to Comedy Award, JMHT (address below). Winners will appear at the South Bank with Spike Milligan

Berlin and Paris Cabaret

14 November 7.30pm

Cabaret, which flourished in the Berlin of the Weimar era, reflected a free and liberated spirit and the incredible erotic energy that was prevalent in all art forms at that time. Great stars such as Dietrich, Lenya and Piaf immortalised the songs of Jewish composers Schiffer, Weill, Eisler, Hollander and Spoliansky. The Jam and Spice Sizzling Cabaret, featuring Alexandra Valavelsky will recreate the songs of the 1920s to 1950s including Mack the Knife, Lilli Marlene and La vie en Rose, giving audiences a chance to experience the atmosphere of this special era. For booking details see bottom of page 1. Palace Theatre Watford will also be presenting Arthur Miller's towering Holocaust play, *Broken Glass* from 1 - 23 October.

Boris Giltburg - 15 year old Israeli Pianist

Sat 9 November 8.15pm

Born in Moscow this extraordinarily talented teenager, already hailed as the next Rubinstein, emigrated to Israel in 1990. He made his debut at 7 and is renowned throughout Israel for his orchestral and solo performances. He has won several prizes in international competitions and in 1997 was the unanimous choice of the judges for first prize for young pianists under 25 in the Newport competition, playing the Liszt Concerto No. 1 with the BBC Orchestra of Wales. (He will perform this concerto with the London Soloists Chamber Orchestra under the baton of David Josefowitz on Oct 8th at St Martins in the Fields). This young man who commands great respect and attention in the music world, will perform Beethoven, Brahms, Debussy, Mendelssohn and Prokofiev for the London International Jewish Music Festival in association with the Anglo-Israel Platform and the London Masterclasses. For booking details see bottom of page 1.