

The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release
November 1991

NEW MUSIC SCORED TO ACCOMPANY SILENT FILMS FOR "YIDDISH FILM BETWEEN TWO WORLDS"

New musical scores for five restored silent films included in the exhibition **YIDDISH FILM BETWEEN TWO WORLDS** have been created by Henry Sapoznik and Peter Sokolow. The first major exhibition of Yiddish films made in Europe and the United States from the 1920s through the 1980s opens at The Museum of Modern Art on November 14, 1991 and continues through January 14, 1992. It was coorganized by The Museum of Modern Art and The National Center for Jewish Film at Brandeis University.

Originally, written scores for these silent films circulated with the film cans as they travelled the Yiddish circuit. The new scores developed by Mr. Sapoznik and Mr. Sokolow are not exact reconstructions of the music of the period. Instead they use visual cues to create scores that "give back to the films a sense of time and place," according to Mr. Sapoznik. The musicians combined their knowledge of Yiddish folk, theater, and popular music of the period with an understanding of the American dance and film music of the era.

The process of creating the new soundtracks began with Mr. Sapoznik viewing the silent films and making markings of their tempos and themes. Mr. Sapoznik, the musical director for these tracks, collaborated with Mr. Sokolow, the arranger and composer, who composed secondary themes from the repertoire of silent film music, as well as sound bridges. Mr. Sokolow will provide piano accompaniment during most of the screenings at the Museum.

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Below is the screening schedule of films with the new scores by Mr. Sapoznik and Mr. Sokolow. All of the films have English intertitles, unless otherwise noted.

- Jewish Luck*. 1925. USSR. Alexander Granovsky. 100 min.
Thursday, November 14, 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, November 17, 12:00 p.m.
(with Russian intertitles); and Sunday, November 24, 2:00 p.m.
- Laughter Through Tears*. 1928. USSR. Grigori Gricher-Cherikover. 92 min.
With Spanish and Yiddish intertitles.
Thursday, November 21, 6:00 p.m.
- Seeds of Freedom*. 1928. USSR. Grigori Roshal. 76 min.
Friday, November 22, 6:00 p.m.
- East and West*. 1923. Austria. Sidney M. Goldin. 85 min.
With English and Yiddish intertitles.
Saturday, November 23, 5:00 p.m. (accompanist to be announced).
- Jiskor*. 1924. Austria. Sidney M. Goldin. 100 min.
Monday, November 25, 6:00 p.m.

The son of a Brooklyn cantor, Henry Sapoznik is the designer and director of the Max and Frieda Weinstein Archives of Recorded Sound at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York and of YIVO's Yiddish Folk Arts Program (KlezKamp). He is a founder of the pioneering klezmer band Kapelye and has produced several Yiddish and traditional American recordings as well as scores for films, television, theater, and museum exhibitions. Mr. Sapoznik is a culture critic for the weekly English-language newspaper *The Forward* and the producer/host of "The Forverts Hour" on WEVD-AM. He was a Grammy Award finalist in 1990 for the recording "Partisans of Vilna: Songs of World War II Jewish Resistance."

Peter Sokolow has recorded more than thirty albums of Jewish music and served as orchestrator for three off-Broadway Yiddish musicals, numerous recordings, and the documentary film *Partisans of Vilna*. He is the founder

and director of The Original Klezmer Jazz Band. Mr. Sokolow's *Guide To Klezmer Arranging and Orchestration* and *Piano and Keyboard Guide* are available from Tara Publications, as are *The Complete Klezmer*, a collection of klezmer music history and tune transcription, and *The Klezmer Plus! Folio*, both of which Mr. Sokolow coauthored with Mr. Sapoznik. Mr. Sokolow has taught and performed at YIVO's KlezKamp since its inception. He lectures extensively on Jewish music and early jazz.

Mr. Sapoznik and Mr. Sokolow recently collaborated on a recording of Yiddish music entitled "Klezmer Plus: Old-Time Yiddish Dance Music," available on Flying Fish Records.

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