

## **Yasmin Levy and The Klezmatiks**

**Wednesday, November 1, 2017 at 8:00pm**

This is the 766th concert in Koerner Hall

**Yasmin Levy**, vocals

**Yechiel Hasson**, guitar

**Adam Ben Amitai**, electric guitar

**Nadav Biton**, keyboards

**Matan Ephrat**, drums

### **The Klezmatiks**

**Lorin Sklamberg**, lead vocals, accordion, guitar & piano

**Lisa Gutkin**, violin & vocals

**Matt Darriau**, kaval, clarinet & saxophone

**Frank London**, trumpet & keyboards

**Paul Morrisett**, bass & tsimbl

**Richie Barshay**, percussion

## **Yasmin Levy**

Yasmin Levy is an internationally celebrated singer deeply steeped in the traditions of Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) music, but she is much more than just a Ladino singer. She is a singer-songwriter with an extraordinary range of influences and styles, singing in modern Spanish as well, while adding the wonderful textures of flamenco, Turkish, and Persian music together to create a style all her own.

Ladino is a Romance language based largely on 15th century Spanish, but which has incorporated words from Turkish, Hebrew, Aramaic, and other languages. It is the language spoken by Jews who were forced to flee Spain in the Inquisition and who travelled largely along the Mediterranean before settling in the Balkans, Greece, and Turkey. For nearly five centuries, Sephardic Jews kept the language of those Spanish exiles alive although Ladino, which has recently been recognized by The United Nations as an endangered language.

Yasmin Levy grew up in Jerusalem, a true melting pot of peoples and cultures, listening to Turkish versions of Moroccan music, classical, chanson, jazz, Jewish and Muslim music, and church music.

Recently, she has collaborated with artists such as Omar Faruk Tekbilek (Koerner Hall in 2012), Enrico Macias, Yiannis Kotsiras, Eleni Vitaly, Natacha Atlas, Montse Kortes, Kubat, Ibrahim Tatlises, and Maria Toledo, and has performed on some of the world's best-known stages, including New York's Carnegie Hall and Sydney's Opera House, among many others.

## **The Klezmatiks**

The Klezmatiks are world-renowned and Grammy-winning superstars of the klezmer world, who recently celebrated their 30th anniversary! They erupted out of New York City's East Village in 1986 and revitalized klezmer for the new century with music that is steeped in Eastern European Jewish tradition and spirituality, while incorporating contemporary themes such as human rights and anti-fundamentalism with eclectic musical influences including Arab, African, Latin, and Balkan rhythms, jazz, and punk. They have released nine albums of wild, spiritual, provocative, reflective, and ecstatically danceable music, forever redefining and transcending traditional labels.

Their work has extended to numerous theatre, film, dance, and television projects, including Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright Tony Kushner's *A Dybbuk* and *It's An Undoing World*, and Pilobolus Dance Theatre's *Davenen*.

The Klezmatics have garnered numerous awards and accolades throughout their career, including a 2006 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary World Music Album (for *Wonder Wheel: Lyrics by Woody Guthrie*), a New York Jewish Music Award (Best Klezmer Band, 2006), a GLAMA (Gay and Lesbian American Music Award), and the German Critics Award (twice), and they have topped the *Billboard* world music charts on numerous occasions.

They have performed in over 20 countries at some of the most storied venues and renowned festivals worldwide, such as Central Park Summerstage, Carnegie Hall, Pirineos Sur (Spain), Colours of Ostrava (Czech Republic), Pohoda Festival (Slovakia), Jazzsomer Graz (Austria), and the Heimatklänge Festival (Germany).

*Yasmin Levy made her Royal Conservator debut on February 11, 2012, and The Klezmatics are making their Conservatory debut tonight.*