

# THE KLEZMATICS 30TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD TOUR!

World-renowned, Grammy-winning superstars of the klezmer universe celebrate their thirtieth anniversary with a new album and a tour that will take them from their native Manhattan to far corners of the planet.

The Klezmatics 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, provocative, reflective, and ecstatically danceable music, forever redefining and transcending traditional labels.

Their work has extended to numerous theater, 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 reached millions through performances and features on CBS's "Late Night with David Letterman," PBS' "Great Performances," BBC's "Rhythms of the World," BBC's "John Peel Show," various NPR programs ("A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor, "New Sounds Live" and "Soundcheck"), CBS's "Nightwatch," FOX's "After Breakfast," "MTV News," and "Sex and the City."

Additionally, their song "NY Psycho Freyelkhs" is a theme song for Air America Radio's "The Al Franken Show."

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

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 have topped the Billboard world music charts on numerous occasions.



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# The Klezmatics

## NEW RECORDING

### **Apikorsim - Heretics**

The Klezmatics celebrate their 30th anniversary! 30 years of transforming the Yiddish and klezmer world. 30 years of Yiddish music as a voice for social justice, change, the underdogs and oppressed. 30 years of “heretical” behavior, of questioning, of going against accepted beliefs and dissenting from established dogma.

From the beginning of their career The Klezmatics have demonstrated that Yiddish music does not have to be nostalgic, schmaltzy, or kitsch; that Jewish klezmer is Eastern European party music and a vital part of the spectrum of world dance music and culture. Now, approaching their fourth decade together, the Klezmatics continue their redefinition of Yiddish music with their new recording, *Apikorsim*.



*Apikorsim* (heretics, rebels, questioners) are people who do not conform to established attitudes and challenge orthodox opinions. The Klezmatics are decidedly un-orthodox. Their songs - in Yiddish and English - proclaim the rights of refugees, support the rights of workers, sing ecstatically for a better world and mournfully for its losses, and celebrate the joys of life and ecstatic intoxication! Their songs alternately praise God, challenge humanity to take responsibility for making the world a better place, and (in classic heretical fashion) question the nature of God’s existence and role in the world.

*Apikorsim* is the **first** recording of just the 6 Klezmatics, with no special guests, no session musicians and no cross-genre collaborations. This is the sound of the band itself, the sound that electrifies audiences around the world. The sound of *Apikorsim* is the true sound of the band that changed the

course of Jewish music history, the only Jewish music group to win a Grammy Award, for Best Contemporary World Music recording.

### ***Apikorsim - Heretics***

*Apikoris* is one of many Greek words that crept into rabbinic Hebrew. It probably originated with the Greek philosopher Epicurus who taught that God had no interest in intervening in human affairs; that belief in divine reward and punishment was the chief source of human existential anxiety and that established religion was little more than theological terrorism. With this milestone 30th Anniversary recording The Klezmatics embrace the *apikoyres* or “Epicurean” and celebrate all who love life, justice, good food and drink.

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