

For Immediate Release: Celebrating Berlin's Yiddish Past and Building Its Future - Shtetl Berlin Festival Returns June 10-15

Berlin, May 25, 2025 – Berlin has been a center of Yiddish culture since its founding and this year's Shtetl Berlin Festival, taking place June 10-15 at various venues across the city, celebrates this rich heritage while providing an opportunity to engage with Yiddishkayt—whether you sing, play, dance, or just want to listen and learn.

For over 10 years, the artists behind Shtetl Berlin have hosted a world-famous klezmer jam session in a sweaty bar in Neukölln. Slowly expanding their organization and its activities, these artists work deeply with Yiddish language and culture to celebrate the rich history of Ashkenazi Jews in Berlin.

From the 19th-century cabarets of the Scheunenviertel to Lin Jaldati, who lived in East Berlin and performed around the world, to the klezmer boom of the 1990s and the current renaissance of Yiddish poets, musicians, and organizers.

People come to Berlin from across the globe to contribute to its community of Yiddish artists. Shtetl Berlin and its sister organization, Yiddish Berlin, offer regular opportunities to speak, sing, and play in Yiddish, mostly in local Berlin bars. However, the biggest event of the year for Berlin's vibrant community of Yiddish culture lovers is Shtetl Berlin. The festival includes workshops, concerts, lectures, children's activities, and many opportunities to discover this diverse group of people who find meaning, beauty, and power in Ashkenazi culture. As Craig Judelman, one of the festival organizers, explains: "Many people think Jewish culture is only religious, but Shtetl Berlin celebrates the entire artistic tradition of the Ashkenazim—music, dance, poetry, and much more. Berlin has always been a home for Yiddish culture, and we are proud to continue this long tradition."

Intercultural and Interreligious Diversity: Shtetl Berlin celebrates the inter-cultural connections inherent in Yiddish culture and stands for lived diversity: The festival highlights exchange between Jewish and non-Jewish culture, equally invites all generations, identities and faiths, and thus sets a strong signal for open coexistence in the capital.

Supported by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion

Tickets & Information: www.shtetlberlin.com/Tickets

For press accreditations and inquiries write shtetlberlin@gmail.com or call Sasha Lurje (0)176 61571940 or Elisabeth Mann (0)151 64924257

www.shtetlberlin.com

Festival Events Overview:

- June 10, 7:30 PM: "**Demons of Ostropil**" – a multilingual theater piece/concert exploring the Jewish-Ukrainian experience with Marina Frenk, Christian Dawid Craig Judelman and Dmitry Troyanovsky
- June 11, 7:00 PM: **Neukölln Klezmer Session** – free open jam at Oblomov Kreuzkölln
- June 12, 7:30 PM: **Daniel Kahn & Christian Dawid + The Flying Rabbi Band** at Prachtwerk: Internationally renowned songwriter and social critic Daniel Kahn presents his latest work followed by some high energy traditional music by Czechia's leading Klezmerband
- June 13, 6:30 PM: **Shabes in Shtetl** – free admission at Nikodemus Church for music, community celebration and Yiddish poetry
- Concert June 14, 7:30 PM: **Shtoltse Lider + Alan Bern: Liderbukh** – concert of original settings of Yiddish poems at UfaFabrik with Ida Gillner, Alan Bern, recipient of the Federal Cross of Merit
- Concert June 15, 7:30 PM: **Black Rooster Kapelye & Cherry Bandora** as festival finale on the open-air stage at UfaFabrik, celebrating the cross-border power of culture + dance ball afterwards.
- **Weekend Workshops** June 14& 15 at Ufa Fabrik: workshops for singers, dancers and instrumentalists of all levels with some of the world's leading artists and educators in yiddish culture
- **Lecture Series** - June 14 & 15 at Ufa Fabrik featuring hourlong presentations about Yiddish culture, history and art by researchers and writers from Germany, Latvia & USA
- **Kids Workshop** June 14 Children ages 3-12 will create their own fairytale inspired by Jewish folklore while exploring the joyful sounds of klezmer music—singing, playing instruments, and making art that brings their story to life