



# Shtetl Berlin

Celebrating Yiddish Art,  
Culture & Community

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# Fostering Yiddish Culture in Berlin

Shtetl Berlin e.V. is Berlin's only nonprofit organization dedicated to celebrating, promoting, and developing Yiddish culture through accessible programming. While music forms the heart of our work, we create spaces where the full richness of Eastern European Jewish culture comes alive through dance, poetry, storytelling, history, food, and more.



In a city where Yiddish culture once flourished, cultural vitality is both celebration & resistance.

## More Than Performance – Community

Shtetl Berlin is a space...

- for Berlin's diverse population to have meaningful encounters with Jewish people and Jewish culture
- where secular Jewish life becomes visible and vibrant, giving the Jewish community a space to express their identity outside the synagogue
- where genuine human connection counteracts antisemitism and prejudice





## Our Story

# From Jam Session to Nonprofit: Artist-Led, Responsibly Managed

Shtetl Berlin grew organically from an informal klezmer jam session in a Neukölln bar in 2012. By the second session, over 100 people were playing, singing and dancing.

In 2016, this grassroots energy became our first festival. By 2022, we formalized as a registered nonprofit (gemeinnützig) and launched multiple projects to foster Jewish cultural life and combat Antisemitism. We are Berlin's *only* organization & festival devoted to klezmer music and Yiddish Culture.

We remain artist-led—our directors are active members of the local Jewish community & among Europe's most highly regarded klezmer musicians, experienced in using limited resources to maximum effect. This keeps us nimble, responsive to community needs, and committed to quality work and fair artist compensation.



# 2026 Festival Overview

June 9-14, 2026

**Our biggest ever offering of historic and contemporary Yiddish culture.**

## Mainstage concerts

- legendary Hungarian band **Muzsikás**, who inspired the world with their album 'Máramaros: The Lost Jewish Music of Transylvania'
- Argentinian virtuosi **Lerner & Moguelevsky**
- Berlin legends **Khupe** (Christian Dawid & Sanne Möricke)
- German & Italian Baroque/Renaissance Jewish music from **Simchat Hanefesh** (DE) and **Ensemble Lucidarium** (IT).

## Workshops & Lectures

From klezmer to Yiddish poetry, German-Jewish history, culture & more

## Community Events

Free programs include our Shabbat gathering and world-famous Jam Session

## Family Programming

Fun, Accessible activities introduce young people to Yiddish culture



# Year-Round Programming

Between our flagship festivals, we build community throughout the year with:

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## Regular Events

- **Neukölln Klezmer Sessions** A cornerstone of Berlin's klezmer community, bringing together musicians of all levels to play, learn, and share in an informal, welcoming environment.
- **Zingerays (sing-along)** Our world renowned vocalists lead the community in our favorite Yiddish songs
- **'Nu?' Open Mics** Our audience become the performers, showcasing our talented community!



# Year-Round Programming

As well as these special programs:

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## Special Events

- **Nisht Keyn Festival** Annual partnership with organizations across Berlin to celebrate Chanukah, including the Jewish Museum Berlin, Hillel Deutschland, Neukölln Town Hall, Fränkelufer Synagogue and more.
- **Themed Weekend Series** Such as a weekend celebrating Jewish-German Cabaret, for which we commissioned a performance and hosted discussions & creative workshops.
- **"Undzer Shtetl, Unsere Stadt" (Our Town, Our City)** A visibility project including a social media video series showcasing the diversity of Jewish identities and the richness of contemporary Jewish-German life.
- **Concerts & Dance Balls** Presenting local & visiting artists, a chance to experience embodied cultural practice and combat isolation through the social joy of participatory dancing.

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**Craig Judelman, Co-Director** A highly regarded violinist, composer, educator and cultural organizer both in Europe and the USA, Craig specializes in Yiddish and also American folk traditions. He has appeared at numerous festivals around the world and is the founder of Seattle Yiddish Fest. Since 2016 he has lived and produced cultural programming in Berlin. He has performed with most of the world's leading klezmer musicians & brings artistic vision and organizational expertise to Shtetl Berlin's team.



**Sasha Lurje, Co-Director** One of the world's premier Yiddish singers, Sasha brings traditional and contemporary Yiddish music to life through projects including forshpil, Semer Ensemble, and innovative cross-cultural collaborations. Raised in Riga, Latvia she has performed with Yale's Fortunoff Archive of Holocaust Testimonies, collaborated on theatrical productions, and is a highly sought-after teacher of all aspects of Yiddish song, known for her captivating performances and thorough research of the musical culture.



**Patrick Farrell, Treasurer** An acclaimed accordionist, composer, and educator who's extensive performance credits include work with Yo-Yo Ma and the Silk Road Ensemble, Yiddish Art Trio, and Frank London's Klezmer Brass All-Stars, as well as composing for dance and theater including the Tony Award-winning production of Indecent. Patrick built an international reputation in both the traditional klezmer and avant garde musical worlds in his previous hometowns of New York and New Orleans.

# Festival Budget Overview

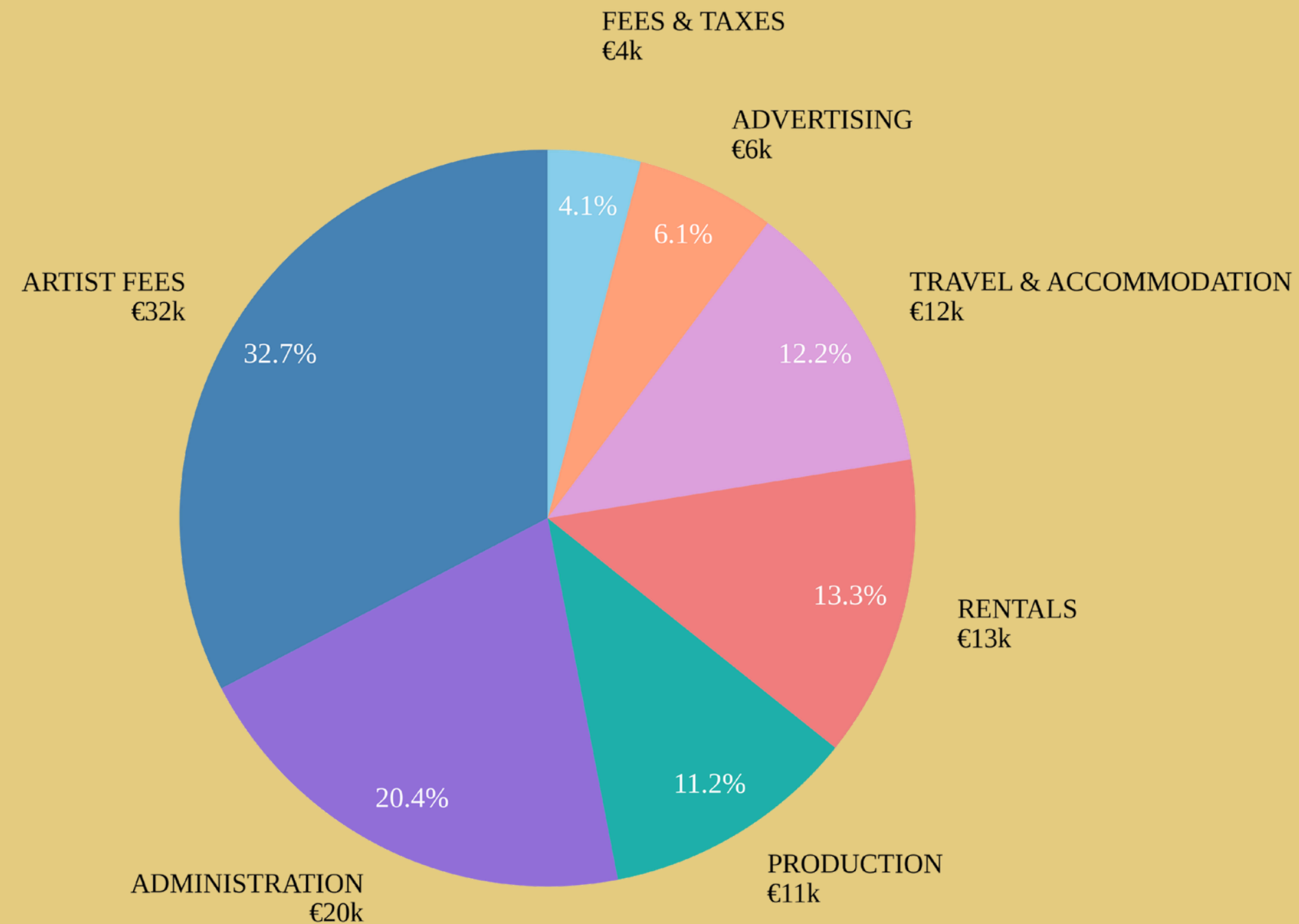
Our budget reflects our commitment to:

- Fair artist compensation
- Professional production standards
- Affordable pricing
- Transparency

We follow the guidelines for fees set by the Commissioner for Culture and the Media.

## Projected Expenses:

Artist Fees: €32.000  
Administration: €20.000  
Production Expenses: €11.000  
Fees & Taxes: €4.000  
Rental Fees: €13.000  
Travel & Accommodation: €12.000  
Advertising: €6.000



## Why support Shtetl Berlin?

# When you support Shtetl Berlin, you invest in:

- **Berlin's Only Yiddish Cultural Organization** filling an essential gap in Berlin's cultural landscape
- **Independent, Secular, Jewish** - Without funding from the official Jewish community, we depend on private support
- **Cultural Preservation & Development** - Keeping powerful traditions alive & supporting new creativity
- **Community Building** - Creating inclusive spaces for shared cultural experiences
- **Combating Antisemitism** - Fostering meaningful encounters with Jewish culture
- **Educational Access** - We provide learning opportunities for people of all ages & backgrounds
- **Cultural Sustainability** - Ensuring sufficient resources to carry out our mission and prevent burnout
- **Maintain Berlin's Cultural Diversity** - cultural representation depends on organizational strength

# Sponsor Recognition & Benefits

- Prominent logo placement on all festival materials
- Recognition in press releases and website
- Dedicated social media post promoting your business
- Verbal Acknowledgement before each concert
- VIP festival passes
- Inclusion in exclusive events

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## Tax Benefits

As a recognized non-profit organization, donations to Shtetl Berlin e.V. are tax-deductible in Germany.

We provide official donation receipts (Zuwendungsbestätigung) for all contributions.

Please note that under German law, sponsorships with more robust benefits may not be tax-deductible and should be discussed with our team and your accountants to confirm tax status.

# SUPPORT OUR MISSION

## BANK DETAILS FOR DONATIONS:

ACCOUNT HOLDER: SHTETL BERLIN E.V.

BANK: GLS BANK

IBAN: DE87430609671323061404

BIC: GENODEM1GLS

REFERENCE: "SPENDE FESTIVAL 2026"

CONTACT: SASHA LURJE +49 176 61571940

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In addition to financial support we are grateful for:

- Food/Beverage sponsors
- Hotel Rooms for artists
- Group Discounts on Hotels for Participants
- Volunteers
- Free/Discounted Promotion/advertising
- Other 'In Kind' contributions

A Sheynem Dank

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Дуже дякую

شكراً جزيلاً

Vielen herzlichen Dank

Dziękuję bardzo

תודה רבה

Спасибо большое

Thank You!