Shtetl Berlin 2026 — Full Schedule

Six days of Yiddish music, song, poetry, workshops, and community — from Grüner Salon to UfaFabrik, with artists from Berlin, Budapest, and Buenos Aires.

TUESDAY · JUNE 9, 2026

Doors 19:00 · Start 19:30 · Grüner Salon, Volksbühne

New Yiddish Poetry & New Music

From the interwar avant-garde to today, Berlin has been a center of Yiddish culture. Meet the new generation: an evening of original Yiddish music and poetry with Patrick Farrell, Yael Merlini, and Di Shkatulkelekh.

Included in Festival Pass · Advance Adult / Vorverkauf €15 · Student / Ermäßigt €10 · At the door / Abendkasse €20

WEDNESDAY · JUNE 10, 2026

Tune learning 18:30 · Jam 19:00 · Oblomov, Lenaustr. 7, Neukölln

Neukölln Klezmer Jam — Festival Edition

The beloved monthly session goes festival-sized. Come to play, to listen, to dance.

Free for all

THURSDAY · JUNE 11, 2026

Artist talk 18:00 · Concert 19:00 · KulturKirche Nikodemus, Nansenstr. 12

Early Jewish Music: Simkhat HaNefesh & Ensemble Lucidarium

Long before klezmer, there was Ashkenaz. Simkhat HaNefesh and Ensemble Lucidarium resurrect the songs, dances, and melodies of Renaissance and Baroque Jewish Europe — a rare chance to hear two of the world's only proponents of this special repertoire. Don't miss the pre-concert 'meet the artist' session at 18:00.

Included in Festival Pass · Adult / Regulär €20 · Discount / Ermäßigt (Students) €15 · Children 6–12 €10 · At the door / Abendkasse €25

FRIDAY · JUNE 12, 2026

Doors/Jam 18:30 · Concert 19:30 · KulturKirche Nikodemus, Nansenstr. 12

Shabes in Shtetl: A Celebration for Everyone

A community Melting Pot Dinner with Interkulturelles Zentrum Neukölln. Bring a dish to share.

Free for all

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SATURDAY · JUNE 13, 2026

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES · UfaFabrik, Viktoriastr. 10–18

Included in Festival Pass, Weekend Pass & Daytime Pass

11:00–11:45
Theater

Plenary Session — All Welcome

Opening for all participants: learn a tune together and meet the khevre.

12:00–13:30
Theater

WORKSHOP Instrumental Workshop

Ilya Shneyveys

Klezmer style, ornamentation, and feel.

12:00–13:30
Atelier 1

WORKSHOP Introduction to Klezmer Music

Szilvia Csaranko

A welcoming entry point for newcomers.

12:00–13:30
Atelier 2

WORKSHOP Yiddish Song Workshop

Daniel Kahn & Sasha Lurje

Repertoire, style, and context from two of the leading Yiddish singers working today.

12:00–13:30
W. Neuss Salon

LECTURE Singing in Yiddish, 1300–1750

Dr. Diana Matut

The history of Yiddish reaches back into the middle ages — and so does singing in Yiddish. This lecture introduces sources, songs and singers from those centuries and answers the question: how much is reconstructed and how much do we know about the performance of these songs. And: we delve into the history of prohibitions and of women who kept singing.

13:30–15:00 · Lunch break

15:00–16:15
Theater

WORKSHOP Instrumental Workshop

Susi Evans

Learn tunes, learn how to make them work. Susi brings her deep knowledge of the klezmer tradition into a hands-on session focused on getting the music off the page and into your body.

15:00–16:15
Atelier 1

LECTURE In Conversation with Muzsikás

Meet the artists and learn about their process: how do you take decades of field research and archival work and bring it to life on stage? A rare opportunity to go behind the music with one of the world's great folk ensembles.

15:00–16:15
Atelier 2

WORKSHOP Singing for a besere velt

Derek David

Experience the magic of Yiddish Choir with the choir master from Boston, the conductor of Boston Worker Circle Choir "A besere velt" makes a special workshop exploring the power of resistance in group singing in parts.

15:00–16:15
W. Neuss Salon

LECTURE Yiddish Literature as a Response to Apocalypse

Katerina Kuznetsova

"Yiddish Literature as a Response to Apocalypse" explores how poets and writers have used Yiddish to confront the major tragedies of Jewish history. Since becoming a written language, Yiddish has been a medium for reflecting on loss, violence, and survival. The 20th century in particular — marked by pogroms, World War I, the destruction of the shtetl, and the Holocaust — was both the most devastating era for Jewish communities and the most prolific period for Yiddish literature. Alongside this literary tradition, one urgent question has remained: who needs Yiddish when the world is ending? Will there be another generation to read these texts? In this session, we will examine selected examples of Yiddish poetry and prose to explore different responses to historical trauma and radical change, and discuss the role of literature in preserving memory and imagining survival after catastrophe.

16:30–18:00
Theater

WORKSHOP Hasidic vs. Klezmer Style

Dr. Alan Bern

Many melodies exist in both hasidic and klezmer repertoires, but with major differences in style and "feel." In this hands-on workshop, Alan will share ideas about what some of these differences are and why it's important for players to be aware of them.

16:30–18:00
Atelier 2

WORKSHOP Yiddish Song Workshop

Daniel Kahn & Sasha Lurje

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16:30–18:00
W. Neuss Salon

LECTURE **From One Root? Ashkenazic and German Folk Culture**

Andreas Schmitges

In 2011 and 2012, Yiddish Summer Weimar explored the connections between Yiddish and German folk music — their history, present, and future. These years were eye-opening and inspiring in many ways, and projects such as AlpenKlezmer and Voices of Ashkenaz emerged from this work. Since then, Andreas Schmitges has continued researching this field and will present how Ashkenazic and German folk cultures interact and connect through song, dance, and instrumental music.

EVENING CONCERT

20:00h · UfaFabrik · Outdoor stage (indoor theater in case of rain)

Muzsikás: The Lost Jewish Music of Transylvania

One of the most celebrated folk ensembles in the world, Muzsikás from Budapest rarely tours anymore and has no other scheduled performances in Germany. Over more than fifty years, they have redefined how audiences hear Hungarian traditional music — and rescued an entire chapter of Jewish musical heritage from oblivion. Their concert will draw on various points in their remarkable career, including music from their groundbreaking album Máramaros: The Lost Jewish Music of Transylvania. Founded in 1973 at the heart of Budapest's táncház (dance house) movement, Muzsikás are winners of Hungary's Kossuth Prize, the country's highest state award for artists.

Included in Festival Pass & Weekend Pass · Children 6–12 €15 · Student / Ermäßigt €20 · Adult Advance €25 · At the door / Abendkasse €30

SUNDAY · JUNE 14, 2026

WORKSHOPS & LECTURES · UfaFabrik, Viktoriastr. 10–18

Included in Festival Pass, Weekend Pass & Daytime Pass

10:30h
Freiluftbühne

Klezmer Brunch

Start Sunday with live music and good company.

10:30h
Freiluftbühne

Ukrainian Craft Market

Ukrainian craft market runs through the day.

12:30–14:00
Theater

WORKSHOP **The Lost Music of Transylvania**

Muzsikás

Learn about the style and drive behind this very special style of music from the most important practitioners of the style — the legendary Muzsikás.

12:30–14:00
Atelier 1

LECTURE **The Ashkenazi Diaspora: A Very Short History**

Dr. Avinoam Stillman

This class will explore the "big picture" of the Ashkenazi Jewish diaspora. We will discuss the hazy late antique origins of the Ashkenazim in Italy, their medieval heartland in the Rhineland, and their early modern migration to East-Central Europe, Northern Italy, and even the Ottoman Empire. Together, we will explore some of the fundamental historical, religious, and cultural forces that shaped the Ashkenazi Jewish experience in the pre-modern era.

12:30–14:00
Atelier 2

LECTURE **Italian Jewish Song Workshop**

Enrico Fink

Italian Jewish music: tradition and modernity, chazanut and opera in poems and songs for the shul and for the home. From the ancient melodies of the Jews of Rome to the rich soundscape of the Ghetto of Venice; from Livorno, for centuries crossroads of the Sephardic world, to the traces of early Ashkenaz in the traditions of the Tedesco Jews.

14:15–15:45
Theater

WORKSHOP **Beyond the Tune**

César Lerner & Marcelo Moguilevsky

Expand the form of klezmer music, with their very special blend of tradition and improvisation César Lerner and Marcelo Moguilevsky will make you play like you have never played before.

14:15–15:45
Atelier 1

LECTURE **Historical Tour of Yiddish Berlin**

Jake Schneider

The history of Yiddish in Berlin is as old as the city itself: our "Berliner zeyde" Jona Ben Dan, who died in 1244, was almost certainly a speaker. This multimedia lecture-tour by tour guide Jake Schneider will focus on the more recent past, highlighting landmarks of Yiddish culture around the city in the 20th and 21st centuries: theatres, cafés, cabarets, social clubs, a reading room, art galleries, a postwar shtetl by the lake, an Italian bar with a Russian name, new Yiddish street signs, and more.

14:15–15:45
Atelier 2

WORKSHOP **Yiddish Song Workshop**

Daniel Kahn & Sasha Lurje

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16:00–17:30
Freiluftbühne

Family Yiddish Dance

Magdalena Hutter

Get together for the joyful experience of togetherness for the whole family. Dance led by Magdalena Hutter, with a live all-star international Klezmer band.

EVENING CONCERT

19:30h · UfaFabrik, Viktoriastr. 10–18

Khupe (Berlin) & Lerner Moguilevsky Duo (Buenos Aires)

The 2026 Festival closes with two legendary klezmer duos for an unforgettable evening of instrumental music. From Berlin, Khupe — clarinetist Christian Dawid and accordionist Sanne Möricke — pioneers of the city's klezmer scene, performing together since the mid-1990s. From Buenos Aires, Lerner Moguilevsky Duo — César Lerner and Marcelo Moguilevsky — among South America's most highly regarded performers of klezmer and improvised music, with a four-decade career that has taken them to stages around the world. Two duos, two continents — one shared musical language. Afterwards: bring your instruments for the traditional Sunday evening jam session, with Eastern European inspired cocktails.

Included in Festival Pass & Weekend Pass · Children 6–12 €10 · Students / Ermäßigt €15 · Adult Advance / VVK €20 · At the door / Abendkasse €25

TICKETS & PASSES

Full Pass · Weekend Pass (Sat & Sun) · Daytime Workshop Pass · Individual concert tickets
shtetlberlin.com/tickets

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