

**NYC-based ISLE of KLEZBOS** approaches tradition with irreverence and respect. The soulful, fun-loving powerhouse all-women's klezmer sextet has been touring from Vienna to Vancouver for two dynamic decades. Band repertoire ranges from rambunctious to entrancing: neo-traditional folk dance, mystical melodies, Yiddish swing & retro tango, late Soviet-era Jewish drinking song, re-grooved standards, and genre-defying originals. **ISLE of KLEZBOS** concert footage has been broadcast internationally on **CBS Sunday Morning**, **CNN WorldBeat**, and **PBS In The Life**, and the band's live and studio recordings have also been heard on **"The L Word" (Showtime)**, **WFMU**, and worldwide as well



as on film soundtracks for **"Grace Paley: Collected Shorts"**, **"Esther Broner: A Weave of Women,"** and **"Torah Treasures & Curious Trash,"** among others. The band has also been commissioned in concert by artist **Kiki Smith** and for studio recordings by Grammy-nominee **Scissor Sisters**. Singer/songwriter **Jill Sobule** featured **Isle of Klezbos** for her genre-spanning, gender-bending Music from Yentl at **Joe's Pub and Lincoln Center Atrium**. In addition to annual June **KlezBiGay Pride shows**, the group has also played for bandleader **Eve Sicular's** musical documentary theater hit, **J.EDGAR KLEZMER: Songs from My Grandmother's FBI Files**. Their Pride Season debut at NYC's Center for Jewish History was a multi-media concert version of **The Celluloid Closet of Yiddish Film** featuring vintage film clips galore plus cinema commentary and live sextet.



"These women will make you shake your tushies!" - **Village Voice**  
 "Isle of Klezbos tests the elasticity of the genre - **The New Yorker**  
 "Cutting-Edge Klezmer" - **New York Magazine**  
 "The absolute top of the klezmer genre" - **RootsTown, Belgium**

"Paradigm-shifting, brilliantly tuneful klezmer group...as rich in history as it is in emotion, energy & tunefulness...whirling clarinet, resonant trumpet... intoxicating mix of a hundred years worth of classic and original klezmer, Latin, jazz and film music...Brilliant, intense, eclectic...deliriously fun...one of New York's most exciting groups in any style"- **New York Music Daily**

"One of the finest young klezmer bands ever to appear on the block" - **Phat Planet UK**  
 "Love your music!" - **Douglas W Smith, Producer: CBS News Sunday Morning**  
 "Great ears and great hearts" - **Der Pakn Treger, National Yiddish Book Center**  
 "Six sexy women give a creative kick to classic klezmer music" - **New York Daily News**

"Internationally acclaimed and much-loved... We'd make a joke, but they beat us to it." - **Time Out NY**

"World jazz... our favorite all-female traditional Yiddish music ensemble" - **Will Friedwald, Wall Street Journal**

"A supergroup... with an offbeat sense of humor and a relaxed sense of swing" - **George Robinson, Jewish Week**

"Talent as strong as its name is provocative. IoK is to Eastern European Jewish music what Cherish The Ladies is to Celtic"  
 - **Courier News NJ**

"Despite the cute moniker, this outfit is no joke... One of the most acclaimed and esteemed klezmer units around today"  
 - **Chronogram**

**Latest album: LIVE FROM BROOKLYN**

**Top 50 Albums [of any genre!] - New York Music Daily:**

**"Brilliant, intense, eclectic.... an intoxicating mix"**

**Advocate Hot Sheet Top 10**

**"Robustly recorded romp.... sumptuous sound" - HEEB Magazine**

**Debra Kreisberg:** clarinet /sax

**Melissa Fogarty:** vocals

**Saskia Lane:** double bass

**Pam Fleming:** trumpet /flugelhorn

**Shoko Nagai:** accordion /piano

**Eve Sicular:** drums /bandleader

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Formed in 1998 by drummer/leader **Eve Sicular**, **ISLE of KLEZBOS** features alumnae of Juilliard, Eastman, Berklee and Manhattan Schools of Music and has been honored by multiple awards from New York State Council on the Arts, Outmusic, and Sparkplug Foundation. The band performed for Chamber Music America in World Music & Jazz genres, packed houses last season from Colorado's JAAMM Fest to Oberlin Folk Festival to Manhattan's Pianos on Park, and has recently enjoyed special guest appearances with Alan Alda, Jackie Hoffman, Lisa Kron, and Alan Zweibel. Celebrating twenty years together, the group is premiering fabulous new repertoire including what may be the world's first klezmer bugalu [boogaloo].

**Trumpet/flugelhorn player Pam Fleming** has toured internationally with Black Rock Coalition's Nina Simone Tribute, reggae stars Burning Spear, Maxi Priest, Dennis Brown; and global blues group Hazmat Modine, as well as nationwide with Natalie Merchant for Lilith Fair (guest soloing with Indigo Girls, Queen Latifah, Sarah McLachlan). Broadcasts: Bonnie Raitt (VH1), Rufus Wainwright

(Letterman), "Li'l" Jimmy Scott (PBS Sessions at 54th St). Pam has also played with Government Mule, Easy Star All-Stars (RadioDread, Dub Side of the Moon, Lonely Hearts Dub Band), Cab Calloway, Bruce Springsteen, Robert Palmer, soca star Arrow, Klezmatics, Buster Poindexter [David Johansen], Toots & the Maytals. She composes original world jazz for her own group, Fearless Dreamer (recordings: Fearless Dreamer and Climb). A graduate of Eastman School of Music, Pam appeared in a recent Festival of New Trumpet Music [FONT]. She performs on all recordings by Metropolitan Klezmer and *Isle of Klezbos*, and has composed for them as well. Her flugelhorn solo is heard in HBO's *SCHMATTa*, and she performed in *J. Edgar Klezmer's* hit debut.

Hailed by The New York Times for her "delirious abandon" onstage, versatile **vocalist Melissa Fogarty** began as a leading child performer at the Metropolitan Opera, making her adult debut with New York City Opera in Mark Morris' production of Purcell's *King Arthur*, singing *The Magic Flute* at Battery Park. Other acclaimed recent roles: Ottavia (Opera Omnia's *Coronation of Poppea* at Le Poisson Rouge) and City Opera's Vox Fest for new opera (2007-09). A favorite of Pulitzer Prize-winning composer David Del Tredici, she has performed many of his works, including world premieres (written with Melissa in mind) at Symphony Space. She has also sung with Seattle Baroque, Ensemble for the Seicento, new music North/South Consonance, and Sequitur at Merkin Hall, among others. A graduate of Eastman School of Music, her debut solo CD Handel: *Scorned & Betrayed* won accolades including an Outmusic Award. Her next recording, *Despite & Still*, commemorating the centenary of Samuel Barber, has garnered rave reviews. She has also collaborated with pianist Marc Peloquin on the John Corigliano song cycle *Mr. Tambourine Man* with texts by Bob Dylan. Melissa received the Adams Fellowship at Carmel Bach Festival and Giorgio Cini Fellowship for study in Venice. Vocalist for both Metropolitan Klezmer and *Isle of Klezbos* since 2008, she also stars in *J. Edgar Klezmer: Songs from My Grandmother's FBI Files*. Melissa's latest project, with clarinet/sax player Debra Kreisberg, is jazz quintet The Highliners. She is heard on new albums by both Metropolitan Klezmer and *Isle of Klezbos*.

**Clarinetist/saxophonist Debra Kreisberg** performs, composes, arranges & records with NYC-based Latin jazz groups Los Mas Valientes and Anaisa, as well as award-winning klezmer bands Metropolitan Klezmer & *Isle of Klezbos*, with whom she has toured in the U.S., Canada and in Europe. She is the leader of the new jazz trio East Harlem Trio and co-founded, with vocalist Melissa Fogarty, jazz quintet The Highliners. A graduate of the Eastman School of Music with an MM in Jazz Studies from Manhattan School of Music, Debra has performed with Natalie Merchant, Rochester Philharmonic with Natalie Cole, jazz guitarist Sheryl Bailey, Brooklyn-based singer songwriters Matt Singer and Steve Waitt, and composer/performer Rachele Garniez, among many others. Her playing and compositions have been featured on WBGO, WKCR, Lincoln Center online (David Rubenstein Atrium), *CBS Sunday Morning*, *CNN Worldbeat*, and on Showtime's *The L Word*. An equally accomplished educator, Debra has taught woodwinds to students of all ages for more than 10 years, as well as on the faculty of the 92Y School of Music. She also previously served as Managing Director of Educational Outreach at 92nd Street Y, developing and implementing arts programming for NYC public schools.

**Bassist Saskia Lane**, a San Francisco native, began her classical training on violin at the ripe old age of 4, and took up bass the day she turned 11. Her musical path eventually put her on a train bound for New York City, where she received her Masters Degree from The Juilliard School. The Brooklyn-based musician performs throughout the tri-state area with a variety of jazz, world, pop, and classical artists. Currently, Saskia tours worldwide with Dan Zanes and Friends and nationally with her critically-acclaimed cocktail pop trio The Lascivious Biddies (and now their acclaimed kid-friendly Itty Biddies project), also playing in Carnegie Hall's Neighborhood Concert Series. She can also be seen sharing the stage with the likes of Jay-Z, Beyoncé, Natalie Merchant and Enya. She is heard on *Isle of Klezbos'* latest album, *Live From Brooklyn*.

Born in Nagoya, Japan, **accordionist/pianist Shoko Nagai** has been evolving as a professional musician and composer for 16 years. In 1999, she moved to NYC, quickly establishing herself in the downtown jazz scene with such renowned artists as John Zorn, Rasheid Ali, Ikue Mori, Cuong Vu, Stomu Takeishi, Butch Morris, Guillermo E Brown, Matana Roberts, Miho Hatori (cibomatto), Roy Champbell, Satoshi Takeishi, Greg Tardy to name a few. Shoko Nagai Quintet, featuring some of NYC's best musicians, has performed extensively at BlueNote, Knitting Factory, The Stone, The Kitchen, Location One, Vision Festival as well as other top clubs and concert venues. Nagai also has performed in Finland (Tampere Jazz Festival 2008), Canada (Montreal Jazz Fest '08), Italy (Catania Jazz '08) Brasil (Res '07), Germany (Moers Jazz '06), Norway (Natt Jazz 1998) touring Japan, Europe, US, and Israel. In 2005, she received a grant from Philadelphia Music Project for JazzJaunts, artists composing premieres with music traditions from their cultural roots. Nagai released her first CD *Two Levels Crossing* in 2000, *VORTEX* in 2002, *Vsoon* in 2003. Nagai is also in *Vortex* free improv duo with piano (Shoko) and electronics (Satoshi Takeishi). They scored Japanese feature *Starfish Hotel* directed by John Williams, as well as documentary *ANPO* premiered at Toronto Film Fest 2010. Nagai also scored French feature film *L'Amour Caché* conducted by Butch Morris. She performs with *Klezbos* bandmates on their latest CD *Live From Brooklyn*, and onstage in "J. Edgar Klezmer," as well as with Sand Weigl's *Gypsy in a Tree* ensemble, and is also a frequent guest artist with Metropolitan Klezmer.

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**Drummer/leader/film scholar Eve Sicular** formed and leads NYC-based bands *Isle of Klezbos* all-women's sextet since 1998) and Metropolitan Klezmer octet (since 1994). She has produced the two bands' seven acclaimed CDs as well as band tours throughout North America and Europe. Her musical and multi-media archival projects have received accolades from Sparkplug Foundation, Outmusic Awards, Chamber Music America, NYS Council on the Arts, and NYC's Department of Cultural Affairs. Eve's arrangements have been heard on Showtime's *The L Word*, HBO's *Schmatta: Rags to Riches to Rags*, *CBS Sunday Morning*, and soundscapes from SITI Theatre Co to London's Royal Ballet at Covent Garden, as well as New York Theatre Workshop, Wexner Center, The Jewish Museum [NYC] and Contemporary Jewish Museum [SF]. Her original musical documentary theater piece *J. Edgar Klezmer: Songs from My Grandmother's FBI Files*, enjoyed 2015 runs at HERE Arts (glowingly reviewed by The NY Times), Centenary Stage Company, and The Emelin Theatre. Her arrangement of the Yiddish Triangle Fire ballad *Di Fire Korbunes* premiered at the Cooper Union Great Hall centenary concert commemorating the 1911 tragedy, and is now featured in the permanent collection of The Museum of The City of NY. She has also performed with The Voodooillies, Charming Hostess, Daughters of Cybele, and many others. A Harvard graduate, she has published & lectured internationally on topics such as The Yiddish Celluloid Closet and Music in Yiddish Cinema, as well as Soviet filmmaking pioneer Esther Shub, and is a former curator of the Film & Photo Archives at YIVO Institute, as well as curatorial assistant for MoMA's "Bridge of Light: Yiddish Film Between Two Worlds".