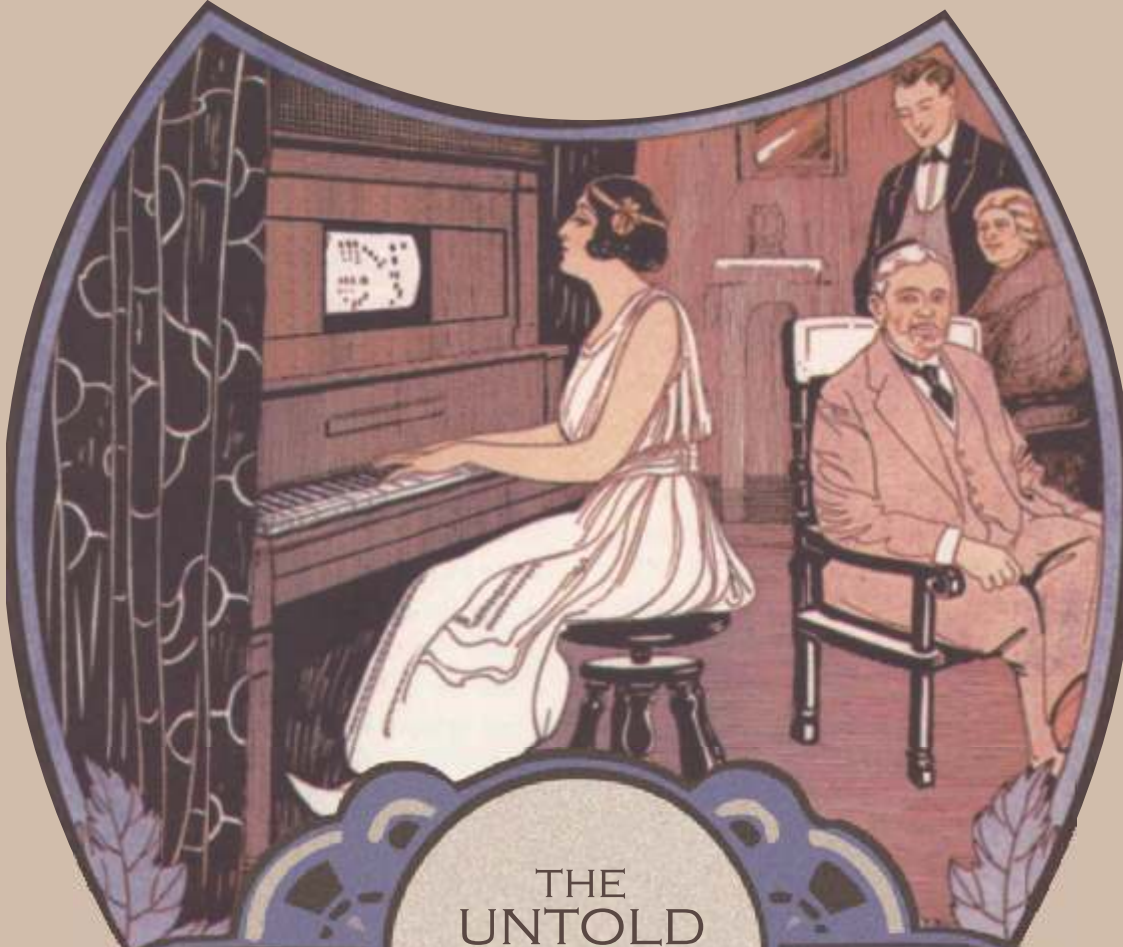


# KLEZMEROLA

REDISCOVERING JEWISH PIANO ROLLS



THE  
UNTOLD  
STORY OF  
**JEWISH  
MUSIC**  
FOR  
PLAYER PIANO

~ BY ~  
**BOB BERKMAN,  
PIANOLIST**

**NOW  
BOOKING**

**LIMITED  
ENGAGEMENTS**

PHONE: 716-882-1826 EMAIL: [RBERKMAN@ROADRUNNER.COM](mailto:RBERKMAN@ROADRUNNER.COM)

WEB: [WWW.KLEZMEROLA.COM](http://WWW.KLEZMEROLA.COM)

# Announcing the Availability of KLEZMEROLA ON TOUR

*"Totally great!"*

*-Henry Sapoznik, co-producer of NPR's Yiddish Radio Project*

After years of gathering scarce materials and tracking down obscure information, pianolist Bob Berkman has completed a monumental CD recording of Jewish music on piano rolls. Unexplored for decades, this material offers a fascinating and delightful glimpse of how Jewish music reflected and responded to the immigrant experience, dating from the years when the player piano was a prime source of home entertainment.

From an exceedingly rare George Gershwin rendition to rollicking versions of familiar old favorites, here is a body of work like no other. Included are previously unknown klezmer works, striking in their authenticity and haunting in their modal complexity; Yiddish Theatre hits; devotional music; and songs of the Zionists.

In support of the recording, Bob tours with an hour-long multi-media program featuring these scarce rolls. He uses a type of "portable" player piano device known as a *Pianola* which dates from 1912. Once positioned in front of a grand piano, it plays the keys with 88 felt-tipped fingers.

Perhaps the biggest surprise is that the reproduction from these rolls is anything but mechanical. By expert manipulation of the controls, Bob "interprets" the rolls as they play - injecting real musical expression that is a revelation to most listeners. Coupled with his amusing and enlightening commentary and a wonderful array of historical images presented via PowerPoint, the show is a delight from beginning to end.



## *The Raves*

*"Bob Berkman is amazing! To listen to recordings from the early 1900s is a miracle; that they are Jewish melodies is a mitzvah; but Bob's personal touch in playing these rolls - that's magic. What a treasure!"*

*~Kenny Ellis, writer,  
performer and  
producer*

*"Just when you thought that all the historic outlets for the Golden Age of Yiddish music had been explored, along comes Bob Berkman to show us that new and inspiring treasures from the past still await our discovery."*

*~Henry Sapoznik,  
author, producer and  
ethnomusicologist*

*"Really a fabulous and important accomplishment that deepens our access to historical materials."*

*~ Pete Rushefsky,  
Executive Director,  
Center for  
Traditional Music  
and Dance*

**Presented by Pianola Enterprises**  
Contact [rberkman@roadrunner.com](mailto:rberkman@roadrunner.com) for availability