

Sunday 2 February 2014, 2.00pm – 6.00pm

Jews in Musical life in Berlin before WWII

Belsize Square Synagogue, 51 Belsize Square NW3 4HX

£12.50, (£6 for students and youngsters) including tea and continental gateaux

Book at Synagogue 020 7794 3949

Bring your family and friends to hear four outstanding experts bring us the music and fresh insights into musical life in Berlin before the Second World War – and the Jewish contribution.

See an exhibition of **thought-provoking quilts** by master art-quilter Marlene Cohen motivated by her visits to Wannsee, Berlin and Auschwitz.

This event marks **Holocaust Memorial Day**

Programme:

2.00 – 2.15 Introduction by a member of the German Embassy



2.15 Michael Haas: Author of Forbidden music – Jewish

Composers Banned by the Nazis published in 2013 by Yale University press will show how at the time of Hitler's rise to power in 1933, Jewish Musicians were perhaps Germany and Austria's most important living cultural assets. There was hardly a note of popular music that did not rely on Jewish artists for either the tunes or the words, an often both. Jewish musicians were equally active in the established as well as the avant-garde music scenes. Jews were also prominent as musical scholars, writers, publishers and audiences.

<http://www.facebook.com/forbiddenmusic>

3.05 Alexander Knapp: The Timeless Musical Legacy of Louis Lewandowski (1821-94)



Lewandowski was (and remains) one of the greatest celebrities in the world of Ashkenazi synagogue music - as singer in his youth, and later as choirmaster, scholar, teacher and, perhaps most significantly, as composer. In this illustrated talk, Alexander Knapp places Lewandowski in his historical, social and cultural context, and discusses his life, personality, musical influences, and the possible reasons why he chose the Jewish path, instead of entering the Western Classical mainstream.

3.50 Intermission - Tea and cakes

4.20 Benjamin Wolf: Belsize in Berlin



Choirmaster and Music director of Belsize Square

Synagogue will report with film, of both the professional and the community choirs' visit to the Lewandowski Festival in Berlin in December 2013.

<http://www.louis-lewandowski-festival.de>



5.10 Patrick Bade: Subversive Songs – the secrets of the Berlin Cabaret. Cabaret is an inherently urban and modern art form. It was invented in Paris and had spread to Vienna and Munich by the beginning of the twentieth century. It found its sharpest and most brilliant expression in Berlin during the Weimar republic and became one of the first victims of the Nazi regime in 1933. Cabaret was intolerable to the Nazis, not only because so many of its leading exponents were Jews, but because by its very nature it was questioning and subversive. In this presentation we will see and hear performing artists of the period in the songs of Weill, Spoliansky, Hollander, Heymann and others.

