

The Jewish Studies Program Presents

The Stranniki: A Yiddish Musical Performance with Psoy Korolenko and Polina Shepherd

Thursday, January 30, 2025 | 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Hillel of San Diego | 9009 La Jolla Scenic Dr. N



The Stranniki is a collaboration between Polina Shepherd and Psoy Korolenko, renowned multilingual artists in the Yiddish music scene for over two decades. After debuting at Dartmouth College's 2016 conference, the duo toured the U.S. and internationally, performing programs like "Schlepping the Steppes and the Shtetl." Their work centers on the concept of the "strannik" (wanderer) and the archetype of "doroga" (road/path), blending Yiddish and Russian poetry, folklore, and music from the 19th and 20th centuries with their own compositions. Their first album connects themes of journeys, culture, and history, resonating deeply in the modern era.

Polina Shepherd, a Siberian-born, UK-based composer and singer, specializes in Yiddish and Russian music, blending East European Jewish, Slavic, and Turkic influences. She has collaborated with artists like Merlin Shepherd, Lorin Sklamberg, and Psoy Korolenko. During the pandemic, she launched Step Forverts and co-produced *Undzer Yiddishkayt*, an album of new songs by Eurasian klezmer artists. As artistic director of the Caravan Orchestra, a German-Israeli/Palestinian youth initiative, her work spans choral direction, improvisation, and theatre, promoting Jewish music globally.

Psoy Korolenko (Pavel Lion) is a multilingual singer-songwriter, translator, journalist, and scholar, currently a Visiting Lecturer at Dartmouth College. A former artist-in-residence at several U.S. universities, he has released numerous albums and books. His eclectic style combines Soviet urban folk, Yiddish theater songs, French chanson, and more. A Recording Academy voting member, he co-organizes the JetLAG festival in New York and co-created the Grammy-nominated *Yiddish Glory*, reviving WWII-era Yiddish songs from Ukraine in collaboration with historian Anna Shternshis, Professor of Yiddish Studies at the University of Toronto.

[CD Booklet](#)

[A Song Demo](#)

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