

Sophie Solomon, violinist turned vocalist, launches new album - *Stop the Parade* - at the Jewish Music Institute's inaugural Festival of Jewish Arts & Music



***Stop the Parade* >> Sophie Solomon**
Album available on itunes and pre-order on Pledge Music
Release Date: 14 September 2016

JAM: Festival of Jewish Arts & Music
Jewish Music Institute, London
8 – 15 September 2016

Sophie Solomon, former violinist in raucous fusion band *Oi Va Voi* and now Artistic Director of the Jewish Music Institute, turns vocalist in a new album - **Stop the Parade** - launched at this September's inaugural JAM, a festival of Jewish Arts and Music from 8 to 15 September. Dubbed "*the Keith Richards of the violin*" by the Times, violinist-composer Sophie Solomon makes her comeback on 14 September at the Jazz Café performing songs from her new album with hits from her debut album *Poison Sweet Madeira*. She is joined by band members **Ian Watson, Sam Lewis, Ali Friend, Daisy Palmer, Malcolm Forbes-Peckham and Quentin Collins**.

Sophie Solomon who "*played violin with movements Yehudi Menuhin could only dream of*" (Hararetz), made her career performing violin with Paul Weller, Rufus Wainwright, KT Tunstall as well as the LSO, RPO and Israeli Sinfonietta - unrestricted by the conventional parameters of the instrument. An insatiable curiosity for her Polish-Lithuanian Jewish roots following studies in history and Russian resulted in Solomon creating a sound world that blended drum'n'bass and electronica with Russian music, klezmer, Eastern European and gypsy styles. In 2006, the Telegraph wrote, "one of the most arresting performers...there is something oddly contradictory about Solomon's music - a tendency, perhaps, to show you the obvious, then whisk it away - that make her a far more interesting proposition than Cullum or Peyroux, but also potentially more difficult in terms of public acceptance."

Her new album, mixed by Jon Kelly (Kate Bush, The Beautiful South), marks a return to the recording studio following a 7-year absence. Inspired by her experiences of Russia and the Balkans following the fall of communism, Solomon has created a quirky collection of songs with her trademark lush strings, Balkan brass and gypsy spirit. The new album, produced by her long-time collaborator

Marius de Vries, tells the stories of a faded world of satellite states, doctored photographs, long-lost lovers who will never meet again and a spy who leaves messages in a dropbox. She sings a *Barbed Wire Love Song*, a moving tale of forbidden love and another about a fantastical dictator who speaks from his deathbed. A Nino-Rota-esque waltz is danced for the cryogenically frozen. A ballad of a political prisoner who writes home to his lover follows and a raucous brass-driven goodbye is said to Moscow.

"I've worked with so many amazing vocalists – Richard Hawley, KT Tunstall, Martha Wainwright, Ralph Fiennes – but for this album, I realised I had written all these songs – my words, my melodies, my voice – and this time, I needed to sing them myself. Coming to this was quite challenging, having never done it before. But it's amazing, having had a break to bring up a family, how my perspective had changed. I felt empowered to take on this new role – as a mother, I feel like I have found my voice and my confidence to sing." – Sophie Solomon

SEPTEMBER JAM

JAM is the Jewish Music Institute's inaugural London-wide festival of Jewish Arts and Music, aiming to bring together the very finest in music and arts to celebrate Jewish culture in the UK. The festival is remarkable in its diversity and cross-cultural collaborations, taking place across London in Kings Place, Regents Park, the Jewish Museum and the Jazz Café.

The festival's opening concert, *Celebrating Menuhin*, on 8 September marks the Menuhin Centenary presenting 15-year-old Swedish violinist **Johan Dalene**, the Junior Prize winner at the 2016 Menuhin Competition. Dalene won the EMCY Prize for Exceptional Performance at the London Menuhin Competition 2016, as well as Junior 3rd Prize at the Wieniawski Competition. Accompanied by the orchestra of the Yehudi Menuhin School, the programme includes *Winter* and *Summer* from Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*, *Enescu Intermezzi Op.12* and a new commission *Chagall's Violin* by Malcolm Singer to mark Menuhin's Century. The first half of the concert is directed and introduced by Malcolm Singer, Director of Music at the Yehudi Menuhin School. Curated by Sophie Solomon, the second half of the concert celebrates the musical diversity of the violin across genres in a tribute to the violinist and conductor, Yehudi Menuhin, whose versatility led to a Grammy Award winning album *West Meets East* with Ravi Shankar, and further collaborations with Stéphane Grapelli.



Klezmer in the Park: The Big Mix at Regents Park, 11 September, continues the festival with an afternoon of performances and a free Kids Activity Zone in the beautiful London park. The Big Mix celebrates the versatility of Klezmer music by inviting distinguished Klezmer bands to collaborate and perform with musicians from other walks of life. The festival features performances from musicians all over the world such as West African musician Simo Lagnawi who will perform with the Turbands. Simo was nominated for two Songlines Awards and with his band Electric Jalaba, Lagnawi has performed at the Mawazine Festival, Morocco. From Ghana, The Sabbey Drummers will perform with Klezmer band, Don Kipper, who won the Moshe Beregovski Award for best Klezmer Newcomers led by percussionist and vocalist Afla Sackey. Tantz from Leeds will collaborate with Guiliano Modarelli on Indian Guitar.

On 13 September, the Jewish Museum celebrates the recording history of Jewish Arts and Music with live performances by **Sklamberg and the Shepherds** in the exhibition *Jukebox, Jewkbox!* after hours. Concluding the festival on 14 September is the launch of Sophie Solomon's eagerly anticipated album *Stop the Parade* at the Jazz Café, London.

JMI's Festival of Jewish Arts & Music

8 September 2016

Kings Place, Hall One 7pm

Celebrating Menuhin

Enescu *Intermezzi, Op. 12*

Malcolm Singer *Chagall's Violin*

Vivaldi *Winter and Summer from The Four Seasons*

Johan Dalene

Ticha Limberger *violin*

John Etheridge *guitar*

Dave Kelbie *rhythm guitar*

Andy Crowdy *bass*

Sheema Mukherjee *sitar*

Flora Curzon *violin*

The Yehudi Menuhin School Orchestra

11 September 2016

Regent's Park Bandstand, 12:15pm

Klezmer in the Park: The Big Mix

JFS Youth Band led by Stewart Curtis

Tantz and Guiliano Modarelli *guitar*

Don Kipper and The Sabbey Drummers

The London Winchevsky Ensemble and The London Yiddish Choir

Lorin Sklamberg and The London Klezmer All Stars

The Turbans with Simo Lagnawi

BBC Radio DJ Max Reinhardt

13 September 2016

Jewish Museum, 6pm – 9pm

Jewkbox Live: Celebrating the Recording History of Jewish Music with Sklamberg and The Shepherds

14 September 2016

The Jazz Café, 7pm

Sophie Solomon: Stop the Parade Album Launch Show

Stop the Parade Track Listing

1. *Song for Misha*
2. *Black Moon*
3. *Stop the Parade*
4. *Cryogenic Waltz*
5. *Barbed Wire Love Song*
6. *Swing*
7. *Moscow Au Revoir*
8. *Microscope Man*
9. *Rag*
10. *Yellow Chrysanthemums*

11.1937
Biographies

Sophie Solomon



Sophie Solomon is widely recognized as the leading klezmer violinist of her generation. She began playing the violin at the age of 2 and played for Yehudi Menuhin when she was just 4 years old. While studying History and Russian at Oxford University, Sophie developed a passion for other kinds of music, not just as a drum&bass DJ but also Russian music, klezmer, East European and gypsy styles. Three generations back her father's family had been Jewish immigrants from Poland and Lithuania, and a year spent living in Russia was a life-changing experience. She also travelled widely in Poland and Eastern Europe, absorbing new sounds and influences along the way.

Sophie's experiences led in 1999 to her becoming a founder member of Oi Va Voi, "one of the most exciting bands in Britain today" (Daily Telegraph). "With Oi Va Voi I came back to the violin on my own terms," she says. "...It was liberating because I had the technique but felt I'd lost the constraints that classical training imposes." Famed for their live appearances and Sophie's on-stage pyrotechnics (one critic dubbed her 'the Keith Richards of the violin'), the band's debut album *Laughter Through Tears* received rave reviews, was voted in the top 10 albums of 2004 by the New York Times, and won them two nominations in BBC Radio 3's annual awards for world music.

Solomon went on to launch a successful solo career with Decca Records where she collaborated with KT Tunstall, Ludovico Einaudi, Richard Hawley and Ralph Fiennes. Decca Records released Sophie's critically acclaimed debut album, *Poison Sweet Madeira*, in 2006. She has performed with artists as diverse as Paul Weller, Rufus Wainwright, Killing Joke and the London Symphony Orchestra. She has won the Edison Award for World Music and the German Critics' Award for Album of the Year. She writes film and theatre scores, most recently for the National Theatre and the Royal Court in London. She is also Artistic Director of the Jewish Music Institute and a Founder Governor of Hackney New School and Hackney New Primary School, where music is core to the educational offering.

Jewish Music Institute

The Jewish Music Institute is the home of Jewish music in the UK. They are dedicated to the celebration, preservation and development of the living heritage of Jewish music for the benefit of people of all ages and backgrounds. Their goal is to inform and inspire audiences with an exciting, original programme of live performances, educational events and collaborative projects and to support musicians playing Jewish music across the UK enabling them to preserve this traditional heritage, create new work and reach the widest audiences.



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