

Title of presentation as announced in Program Book: “*Jewish Ethnomusicology*,” by Mark Kligman.

Mark Kligman, Ph.D., is Professor of Jewish Musicology at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York where he teaches in the School of Sacred Music. He is co-editor of *Musica Judaica* and academic chair of the Jewish Music Forum as well as on the board of the American Society of Jewish Music. He specializes in the liturgical traditions of Middle Eastern Jewish communities. Dr. Kligman has published several articles on the liturgy of Syrian Jews, his book *Maqam and Liturgy: Ritual Music and Aesthetics of Syrian Jews in Brooklyn* (Wayne State University Press) explores the connection of Arab music and aesthetics. His work also extends to historical trends in the liturgical and contemporary music of Ashkenazic and Sephardic traditions. He has also published on trends in contemporary Jewish music since the 1970s with publications in the American Jewish Yearbook (2001) and numerous academic publications.

Description:

From the beginnings of intensive study of Jewish music over one hundred years ago by A.Z. Idelsohn, approaches have changed significantly. Idelsohn provided the first comparative study of Jewish music comparing various traditions in Europe, the Middle East to Yemen and beyond. His goal was to explain and define the essence of "Jewish music." As the field of ethnomusicology developed scholars asked different questions looking more at the complexities of single traditions with less emphasis on larger comparative approaches. This presentation will show how the developments of the field of ethnomusicology, a discipline to look at the connection of music and culture, during the 20th century has impacted studies of Jewish music and offer examples of various approaches. I will share my research of Syrian Jews in Brooklyn with audio and visual material to demonstrate a particular connection of Jewish culture with Arab music.