



krannert center

YOUTH SERIES

CELEBRATING
35 YEARS

GUY MENDILOW
ENSEMBLE

THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM



COLLEGE OF
FINE + APPLIED
ARTS



THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM

Embark on a musical trek to kingdoms long forgotten and bustling towns now vanished. Follow the stories of vagabond queens, pauper poets, and lovers lost to the sea. These wild rides and fantastic yarns spring from songs and stories of the Judeo-Spanish Ladino tradition that were carried by Sephardic Jews as they moved from Spain and settled along the Mediterranean's northern coast to Greece and Turkey. Multi-instrumentalist, singer, and skilled arranger Guy Mendilow and his four musical collaborators leap into this world in *The Forgotten Kingdom*. Mendilow and company bring tales to life, intertwining voices, percussion, and soulful playing to render these songs in all their color, drama, and heart.



LISTEN AND IMAGINE

Listen to a song from *The Forgotten Kingdom* and use your imagination to answer the following questions:

- If this song/story were a movie, what would be the setting? What would be the place? Time?
- What do you think the characters would be feeling in this scene?
- How would you describe the emotion of this scene?
- If the same story were to play out in your city/town, today, how would it be different? How would it be the same? Who would the characters be in the modern version? In what ways would they react similarly/differently from the characters in the original story?
- What's one story that resonates with a story from your own life? Who are you in that story?

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

GUY MENDILOW

Musical Director, Vocals, Overtone Singing, Berimbau, Guitar

Guy Mendilow grew up in what seemed like a global game of hopscotch, choosing between three passports in homes in the Middle East, North, Central, and South America, and Africa. He began his professional stage career at age 10, touring internationally and domestically with the American Boychoir and singing some 200 concerts a year in venues like Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. Today, Mendilow is quickly developing a reputation as a leader in a wave of young musicians sparking fascination with traditional Ladino song.

SOFIA TOSELLO

Vocals

From Cordoba, Argentina, Sofia is part of an exciting group of young transnational artists advancing change in Latin American song. She brings her expertise in such Cancion traditions as tango, chacarera, bolero, son, and zamba into the broader "world" jazz scene, including bossa nova and funk. Tosello is on the voice faculty at the Swarnabhoomi Academy of Music in India and is a guest artist-educator throughout the United States, Peru, and Argentina.

TAREQ RANTISI

Drums & Percussion

Percussionist Tareq Rantisi was born in Jerusalem. While in the Middle East he performed internationally with the Edward Said National Conservatory and appeared on such acclaimed recordings as the feature film soundtrack to *Bird on a Wire*. Tareq regularly collaborates with such artists as Simon Shaheen, Majazz, Kudsi Erguner, and Mangred Leuchter, performing on stages from the Lotus Education and Arts Foundation in the United States to Montreal's Royal Conservatory of Music and the Chabada Festival in France.

ANDY BERGMAN

Woodwinds, Jawharps, Mbira, Saxophones

American multi-instrumentalist, composer, and recording artist Andy Bergman plays clarinet, saxophones, and other woodwind and percussion instruments. Grounded in classical technique, Bergman's musicality is informed by years of work with a wide range of ensembles from orchestras and theatre pits to afro-funk, klezmer, folk, reggae, and jazz bands.

CHRIS BAUM

Violin

Chris Baum is a contemporary violinist, composer, and educator who "ushers the violin into fresh sonic territory" (NPR). A pioneer of modern string technique, his strength lies in his versatility, consistently pushing boundaries while molding his playing to fit ensembles and genres often deemed unsuitable for the instrument. Chris' growing list of credits include collaborations with Bent Knee, The Dear Hunter, Thirty Seconds to Mars, Dropkick Murphys, Amanda Palmer, Jherik Bischoff, and the Video Game Orchestra, who recently featured him as a soloist at Boston's Symphony Hall and on the ensemble's recent tours in China, Taiwan, and Japan.

A IS FOR ART-MAKING

Where does new art come from? How do artists create their art?

Guy Mendilow shares some of the ideas and experiences that inspired him to create *The Forgotten Kingdom*:

"I first heard Sephardic songs in my boyhood Jerusalem home. Yet it wasn't until later, when I started listening through other artists' interpretations to the traditional songs and tales, that I got hooked by their riveting history of integration, migration, and adaptation.

These songs tell great stories. Not because they are Jewish or Mediterranean or Balkan, but because they present near-universal themes that continue to captivate today. The story of the stories—a case study in shifting identities due to migration, the evolution and change of tradition, of resilience and struggle—is alive and relevant today, too. The story of Ladino mirrors experiences that I, and most of the artists in the Ensemble, live personally, as an immigrant to the United States. Not only have we changed because we're in new homes, but our homes have also changed because we're in them.

One thing I find inspiring is the history of cross-ethnic and cross-religious cooperation in Salónica (modern-day Thessaloniki) and Sarajevo. In both cities, there was an identity that enabled community members to be Jewish and Ottoman and, above all, vital members of their cities."

What is a story of migration, integration, or adaptation that inspires you?

LADINO—A TIME CAPSULE LANGUAGE!

The final expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492 and from Portugal in 1497 began migrations in which the Jews eventually settled in communities spanning the vast Ottoman Empire, from Northern Africa and the Mediterranean to the Balkans, and beyond. As Sephardic people traveled and settled in countries far across the Mediterranean, they carried with them a version of Spanish spoken 500 years ago. Because these communities were out of contact with Spain, their language was (in a sense) frozen in time.

Today only a very small number of people speak Ladino, and it is considered an endangered language.

How would we create a time capsule of our own language today? What would English sound like hundreds of years from now, if people still spoke it at all?



ON THE MAP

THE FORGOTTEN KINGDOM IS INSPIRED BY SONGS FROM . . .



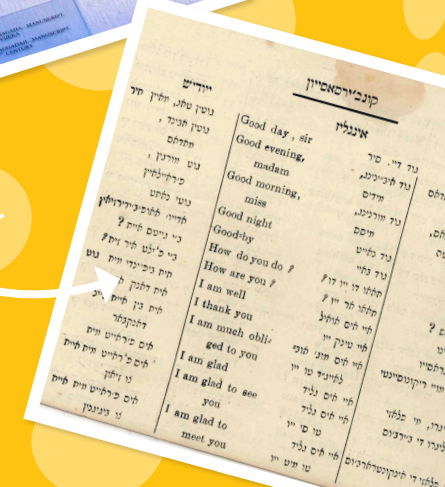
THE WHITE TOWER OF THESSALONIKI



THE SARAJEVO HAGGADAH



LADINO LANGUAGE



**The Forgotten Kingdom
Guy Mendilow Ensemble**

Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 10am
and 12:30pm
Studio Theatre
Approximately 60 minutes
Recommended for grades 4-6

Public Performance

Thursday, November 9, 2017 at 9:30pm
Lobby, Free

Campaign for Young Audiences

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LOCAL CONNECTIONS

LIBRARY PARTNERSHIPS

Krannert Center has partnered with Champaign Public Library and The Urbana Free Library to help expand your students' Youth Series experience. Our local libraries have placed materials that relate to the Guy Mendilow Ensemble performances on display, and librarians are prepared to help your students immerse themselves in the wide-ranging subject areas that are covered by the production. These resources will be available approximately two weeks before through two weeks following the performance.

www.champaign.org
www.urbanafreelibrary.org

We hope that you are able to take advantage of these exciting partnerships with our local libraries!

SPURLOCK MUSEUM OPEN HOUSE, NOVEMBER 9, 2017

Drop in for a self-guided interactive visit before or after the performance. Museum guides in each room will offer hands-on object studies and gallery-based challenges for students, tied to the themes of the Guy Mendilow Ensemble performances. The Spurlock Museum also has a variety of resources for classroom use. Contact Kim Sheahan at ksheahan@illinois or 217.244.3355 for information on available artifacts and lesson plans.

