

Daniel Kahn & The Painted Bird - Partisans & Parasites (2009)

Written by bluelover

Tuesday, 22 February 2011 09:44 - Last Updated Thursday, 08 December 2016 10:40

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01 - *Yosl Ber / A Patriot*

02 - *Parasites* [play](#)

03 - *Borsht Revisited*

04 - *Rats*

05 - *Rosen Auf Den Weg Gestreut / Embrace The Fascists*

06 - *Six Million Germans / Nakam*

07 - *A Rothschild In Your House*

08 - *Vampirn*

09 - *Dumai*

10 - *Khurbn Katrina* [play](#)

11 - *The Destruction Of New Orleans*

12 - *Mayn Rue-Plats / Where I Rest*

Musicians:

Daniel Kahn: vocals, accordion, piano, ukulele, harmonica, shruti box

Michael Tuttle: contrabass, electric bass, back vocals

Hampus Melin: drums, percussion, back vocals

Michael Winograd: Bb clarinet, horn arrangements

Bert Hildebrandt: bass blarinet

Dan Blacksberg: trombone

Guests:

Vanya Zhuk: 5-, 6-, & 7-string electric guitars, vocals: Borsht & Yosl Ber

Johannes Paul Gräßer: violin

Frank London: trumpet on Yosl Ber, Six Million Germans, & New Orleans

Paul Brody: trumpet on Parasites & Rosen Auf Den Weg Gestreut

Geoff Berner: back vocals on Parasites

Psoy Korolenko: vocals on Vampirn, Rothschild, Dumai

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A Detroit area native, Daniel Kahn attended the University of Michigan where he studied acting, directing, playwriting and poetry. After finishing his studies he lived, played music, recorded, acted, directed plays and composed theatre music in New Orleans, Detroit, New York and Ann Arbor. He has received awards for his playwriting, poetry, acting, and composing. In summer 2005 Daniel moved to Berlin, and has become an integral part of the international yiddish and klezmer scene, playing in different groups and musical projects. He soon formed his own band, featuring a rotating roster of some of Berlin and New York's best young players.

"The Painted Bird" concocts a mixture of Klezmer, radical Yiddish song, political cabaret and punk folk, kept together by Kahn's amazing abilities as a songwriter, translator and performer; telling stories of outrageous incidents, poetically dark, tragically humorous and politically incorrect. "The Painted Bird" has brought "Yiddish Punk Cabaret" to rock clubs, theatres, festivals and shtetls, from Berlin to Boston, Leningrad to Louisiana. The band has been called "The Yiddish Pogues," and Kahn was once described as "someone between Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan and Tom Waits - but yiddish." On tour premiering his new album of old and original songs in Yiddish, English, German, and Russian, "Partisans & Parasites," Daniel Kahn challenges the borders between radical & traditional, lyrical & political, east & west, folk & punk, mama loshn & loshn hora. --Metro Times, Detroit

"Dan Kahn and The Painted Bird's new album, Partisans and Parasites is an addictive collection by outstanding, creative musicians. Together, the fast-paced, high energy klezmer, and sharp, evocative lyrics - sung in Yiddish, English, German and Russian - are a necessary compass for navigating the endless moral riddles and inescapable paradoxes in which we live.

Some songs are old Yiddish songs that Kahn & co. gift to new audiences with Kahn's English translations, including the defiant "Yosl Ber/ A Patriot." Others are brand-new, written and arranged by Kahn, including "Six Million Germans/Nakam" a true story about revenge after the Holocaust, and "Dumai," "a song of exile & statelessness," (in his words) and Kahn's first composition in Yiddish, which he sets against a traditional Chassidic nigun (melody). Anyone who loves music or politics should own this album, which brings them together with delicious precision.

Kahn, raised in Detroit and living in Berlin, says of the new album, "We wanted to make a rock album that was using klezmer and Yiddish, German and Russian. A multi-lingual, multi-national

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rock album. There's something about rock and roll that naturally subverts borders that otherwise tend to get reinforced, like ideas of authenticity and entitlement. We wanted to dispense with any kind of nostalgic preciousness. We just wanted to make a punk-rock klezmer record that you can dance to." --JVOICES.COM - Sarah Anne Minkin

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