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MUSIC

KITOV: Gathering the Sparks

Continued from cover

Members of the group include: Miriam Witkin, who has sung professionally for the past ten years. For the past three years, she has given concerts here in Eugene. Born in Israel, her specialty is Israeli music which she sings while accompanying herself on the piano. This April, Miriam will be performing a concert at Beall Hall, to be sponsored by the Committee of Performing Arts at the U of O.

Miriam has produced holiday tapes in Denver, Colo. and Albuquerque, New Mexico. She has also sung in commercials for Mountain Bell Telephone Co. and has, with Kitov, performed as back-up singer for the internationally acclaimed Reb Shlomo Carlebach.

Miriam has a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Music from Metropolitan State College in Denver, Colorado.

Aside from teaching suzuki piano lessons, Miriam also teaches karate lessons in a Eugene karate studio.

Tom Broeker has been singing with Kitov since 1985. Tom sang in chorus throughout his years in public school, and in a barbershop quartet during college. Several years later he returned to the stage as the lead in *Anything Goes*, which played in Lewiston, Idaho.

Most of Tom's formal vocal training came as a result of some eight years singing in Barbershop Choruses both in Calgary, Alberta and Eugene. Tom also sang lead for three and a half years with the McKenzie Touring Co., a Eugene-based Barbershop Quartet.

David Ouellette, Kitov guitarist, has been immersed in a range of folk music and performances since his teens. His classical and jazz studies, his teaching of fretted instruments and extended travels color the musical experience he brings to the group.

Joan Bayliss is known to Eugene audiences as a performer in plays and musical revues, including: *Steam Heat II*, the 1983 John Lennon birthday party, *Mardi Gras* (a Radar

Angels production), *The Pink House Syndrome* and other plays with the X. Perry Mental Theatre, CALC's Hanford Caravan theatre project and the Omega Roadshow, of which she was a founder and writer as well as a performer. She was heard as the voice of Virginia Woolf in the 1980 KLCC radio birthday salute to the writer.

A founding member of Kitov, Joan has sung with that group at the Hanukkah Faires, the Lane County Historical Museum's Festival of Cultures, Miriam Witkin's Israeli music concerts, at Oregon State University, at the CCPA with Reb Shlomo Carlebach, at the Holiday Market and at the Jewish Educators' (mini-CAJE) Conference in Seattle.

With a background in classical theatre, folk singing and rock and roll, Joan has sung widely in the community at rallies and interfaith events as well as for many special occasions in the Jewish community. She is responsible for public relations and special events at Temple Beth Israel. She hails from New York via England and lives in Eugene with her son.

Meira Yaer Freedman has been involved with music since childhood. Her love of Jewish music came through the voice and person of the beloved cantor in her childhood synagogue in Dallas, Texas. She participated in the synagogue choir and the school choir throughout high school. She went on to study psychology at the University of Texas from where she was graduated in 1969. Meira has been working with Jewish music in many areas during the past years, especially Jewish liturgical music from psalms and prayers.

In 1977-78 she performed with the Mendocino Concert Choir in Mendocino, California. After moving to Eugene, she became a founding member of Kitov. She has performed with Kitov at a variety of events, most recently at the Jewish Educators' Conference in Seattle, Washington.

When not practicing and perform-

ing with Kitov, Meira works as a Nurse therapist in private practice in Eugene, and as a Registered Nurse at McKenzie Willamette Hospital. She is married and has five children.

Yitzhak Husbands-Hankin has been deeply involved in musical studies and performance since his early childhood. He first sang professionally as the soloist with the choir of Shaare Torah Congregation in Pittsburgh, Pa. at age 11.

Yitzhak studied music as a cello performance major at Duquesne University, where he attended on a Scaife Foundation-Exceptionally Able Youth Scholarship, and he later continued his studies at the U of O.

He was a member of the Duquesne U. Symphony, U of O Symphony and the Eugene Symphony Orchestra. Following these years of classical study, he began an exploration of cello improvisation which led him to solo cello performance with numerous dancers, including Bobby Haggard, Wallflower Order, and Rosemond Bloch.

In 1976 he teamed up with Aryeh Hirschfeld to form the duo known as Aryeh and Yitzhak. They performed Judaic music extensively, including concerts at Brooklyn College, U of British Columbia and the CAJE conference at Stanford University. They also recorded two tapes, "Shiru Lashem" and "Aryeh and Yitzhak Live in Vancouver."

Yitzhak has served as Cantor to Temple Beth Shalom in Salem and is currently the Cantor of Temple Beth Israel in Eugene. He co-founded and has been the musical director of Kitov since its inception in 1982.

Yitzhak received Ordination as "Baal Tefilah" from the renowned Rabbi and singer/composer Reb Shlomo Carlebach.

Yitzhak's melodies are known to and sung by Havurot and congregations around North America.

Yitzhak is married to the Judaic artist Shonna Husbands-Hankin and they have two daughters, Talya and Shira.

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