



# MOSTLY KOSHER

## ABOUT THE BAND



**MOSTLY KOSHER**, the acclaimed Klezmer gypsy-rock band, radically reconstructs Judaic and American cultural music through ravenous klezmer beats and arresting Yiddish refrains. Mostly Kosher is a musical feast that explodes into a global food-fight of Jewish cultural music, Jazz, Latin, Rock, and Folk. Led by Leeav Sofer, one of Jewish Journal's "30 under 30" most accomplished professionals in the Los Angeles Jewish diaspora, Mostly Kosher is comprised of some of the highest regarded Los Angeles musicians: violinist Janice Mautner Markham, drummer Eric Hagstrom, bassist Adam Levy, trombonist Mike King, and on guitar, Will Brahm.

Mostly Kosher is a fixture at renowned Southern California stages such as the John Anson Ford Amphitheatre, Skirball Cultural Center and The Torrance Center for Performing Arts. They have also graced the stage of the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion for a live television broadcast to over half a million viewers in 2015 and once again in 2017. Most recently, Mostly Kosher had the honor of being the first

Jewish music ensemble at the Disney parks and performed a 2 month residency at Disney California Adventure, featured in the Festival of Holidays. Mostly Kosher was credited for "stealing the Festival of Holidays Show" by the Fresh Baked Disney podcast. For the 2017/2018 holiday season, Mostly Kosher added Epcot Center in Florida to their list of holiday performance venues, becoming Disney's first Jewish cultural music performed on both coasts.

The band's self-titled debut album has won international acclaim by World Music Network, Songlines Magazine, and BBC radio. The first track, Ikh Hob Dikh Tsufil Lib (I Love You Much Too Much), was recognized as one of World Music Network's Top 6 Songs of 2014. Mostly Kosher's music videos have been garnering accolades on the film festival circuit, receiving two nominations at the Idyllwild International Festival of Cinema and Best Music Video at the Glendale International Film Festival. They are looking forward to going back into the studio to record a second album in the summer of 2018, so stay tuned!





# MOSTLY KOSHER IN THE PRESS

## THE JEWISH JOURNAL

The two bands [Mostly Kosher and the Klezmatics] share a love for preserving traditional Yiddish music and cultural tradition – sometimes with the addition of a contemporary spin – and both have enjoyed plenty of critical and audience acclaim. Still, Mostly Kosher and the Klezmatics can, to some extent, be viewed as the new klezmer kid on the block and the genre's lion, respectively.

– **Evan Henerson, Los Angeles Jewish Journal**



Mostly Kosher is a musical group full of talented musicians who seem to love crowd interaction... as a whole they gave a stellar performance...it is guaranteed that audiences young and old alike will leave feeling uplifted.

– **Brittany Ulrey, Valley Scene**



Mostly Kosher CD review: The richness of Jewish music is seamlessly fused with Latin tango, samba and cool jazz producing a world beat cabaret which swings high and low from ecstasy to longing.

– **Mark T, fRoots Magazine**



Whilst I suspect that it will be that spirit of cabaret running through the collective veins of Mostly Kosher that will make them the most friends, it is equally true that the cognoscenti amongst us will be similarly impressed by standard of musicianship on show here.

– **Blues Bunny Music Review**



Mostly Kosher's CD features not only well-known Yiddish theater and klezmer tunes, including upbeat freilachs, but also Hebrew and Sephardic songs played in a range of styles – propulsive Latin rhythms, swinging West Coast jazz and sensitive balladry – with expressive singing featured in half the songs.

– **Andy Muchin, JWeekly.com**





# PRAISE FOR MOSTLY KOSHER



I had very little involvement in last night's sold out Invisible Hour at the Pico Union, but it was a highlight event of the year for me. I loved the music, the crowd and the energy - but most of all I loved watching really great people do their thing really well and I love what they were doing. All honor to Mostly Kosher for a superb evening!

- **Craig Taubman, Pico Union Project**



Mostly Kosher perfectly complimented our Jews in LA exhibit. The traditional music and songs were beautifully executed and performed. The comedy sketches disbursed among the musical performances were hilarious. Through comedy very real and moving moments representing Jewish culture were respectively brought to life.

- **Robyn Hetrick, Director of Programs and Public Events, Autry Museum**



Mostly Kosher's enthusiasm, wit, talent and high energy created a one-of-a-kind experience for our visitors.

- **Michael Fritzen, former Head of Family Programs Skirball Cultural Center**



BETH CHAYIM CHADASHIM  
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Mostly Kosher! Great energy! My feet were dancing under my chair. Klezmer goes right to the kishkes.

- **Rabbi Lisa Edwards, Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim**



It was a pleasure having Mostly Kosher grace our stage!

- **Jennifer Fukutomi, Production Coordinator Ford Theatres, Los Angeles County Arts Commission**

Mostly Kosher shined throughout their concert at BCC, making use of their exquisite musicianship, contagious energy and poignant light-hearted humour - all of which were great ways to introduce the attendees to the sonic and spiritual experience that Klezmer music is about!

- **Cantor Juval Porat, Temple Beth Chayim Chadashim**





# AT THE



**MOSTLY KOSHER...**  
**My favorite group,**  
**FANTASTIC, definitely**  
**see them!**

- *DISunplugged* podcast



This new group starts out with an amazing fiddler and a terrific clarinetist riffing together and playing traditional Jewish hymns. Right when the crowd is curious and warmed up the lead singer Leeav Sofer starts working the crowd with his Star of David-shaped tambourine. This man is a performer who knows how to get a party started. He shares the tambourine, he waltzes with the crowd, he is on stage and off stage and even ends the whole set dancing the Hora. It is hands down the most festive holiday performance I have ever seen.

- *Todd Pickering, mouseplanet.com*



**Did Mostly Kosher just steal the Festival of Holidays show?** I had been looking forward to Mostly Kosher since I saw the entertainment listings. Not because I knew of them, but just because I was so darn curious what this band would look and sound like. To say that I was impressed was an understatement. It's like a yiddish Reel Big Fish. Amazing.

I personally did not know that Jewish klezmer rocked as hard as it does. Not in the traditional sense of course, but in the sense that they're passionate about their music, and their culture, and it shows in this spirited piece of entertainment. [Contemporary klezmer] takes some of its inspiration from American Jazz, rock, rhythm and blues and hip hop. It's pretty amazing, but made even more so by their energetic front men...it's all fantastic. And so are all the other band members. You can really feel the passion in their performances. The show starts off very creatively, with band members each taking turns roaming through the crowd, mingling. It's like you're being stalked...by Jewish magic.

- *David Erickson, freshbakeddisney.com*





# AT THE



As part of the Disneyland Festival of Holidays at the Disney California Adventure Park in Anaheim, California, park goers can eat Jewish-inspired cuisine, and listen to live Klezmer-style music. For your listening pleasure, performing on a mouse-ear decorated stage is Mostly Kosher, a Southern California based klezmer group which plays lively and soulful Eastern European-inspired Jewish music.

We see frontman Leeav Sofer singing in Yiddish, Hebrew, and English, banging a Star of David-shaped tambourine. He introduces Hanukkah by singing the holiday's anthem "Ma'oz Tzur," and in a circle, dances the hora with the kids. Getting into the spirit of the venue, Janice Mautner Markham, the group's violinist, a delightful musician, who I interviewed for a story that ran in the Los Angeles Jewish Journal, is seen playing "When You Wish Upon a Star."

Having grown up in Anaheim with the Disneyland of the 1960's where the only thing Jewish was a tableau representing Israel in "It's A Small World," including noshes and freilach (merry) music marks an adventurous direction for the Disney theme parks in Anaheim.

- **Edmon Rodman**, [virtualjerusalem.com](http://virtualjerusalem.com)



Mostly Kosher showcases an entertaining and eclectic musical tapestry that weaves together jazz, Latin, rock and hip-hop. This is a must see during the Festival of Holidays.

- **A Slice of Disney**



This modern Jewish revival band mixes traditional Yiddish and klezmer tunes with an infusion of melodic jazz, Latin rhythms, and hip hop beats to create a lively and eclectic but engaging sound. Playing on both a small stage at Sonoma Terrace and the larger Paradise Park stage--depending on the time of day or evening, this sextet follows the charismatic and sometimes goofy lead of frontman Leeav Sofer. The multi-instrumentalist band uses the violin, clarinet, drums, upright bass, trombone, trumpet, accordion, and even a Star of David tambourine, and they make a very fun and entertaining show that includes a bit of celebration for Hanukkah and spread of general holiday cheer.

- **Albert Lam**, [westcoaster.com](http://westcoaster.com)





# **MOSTLY KOSHER**

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