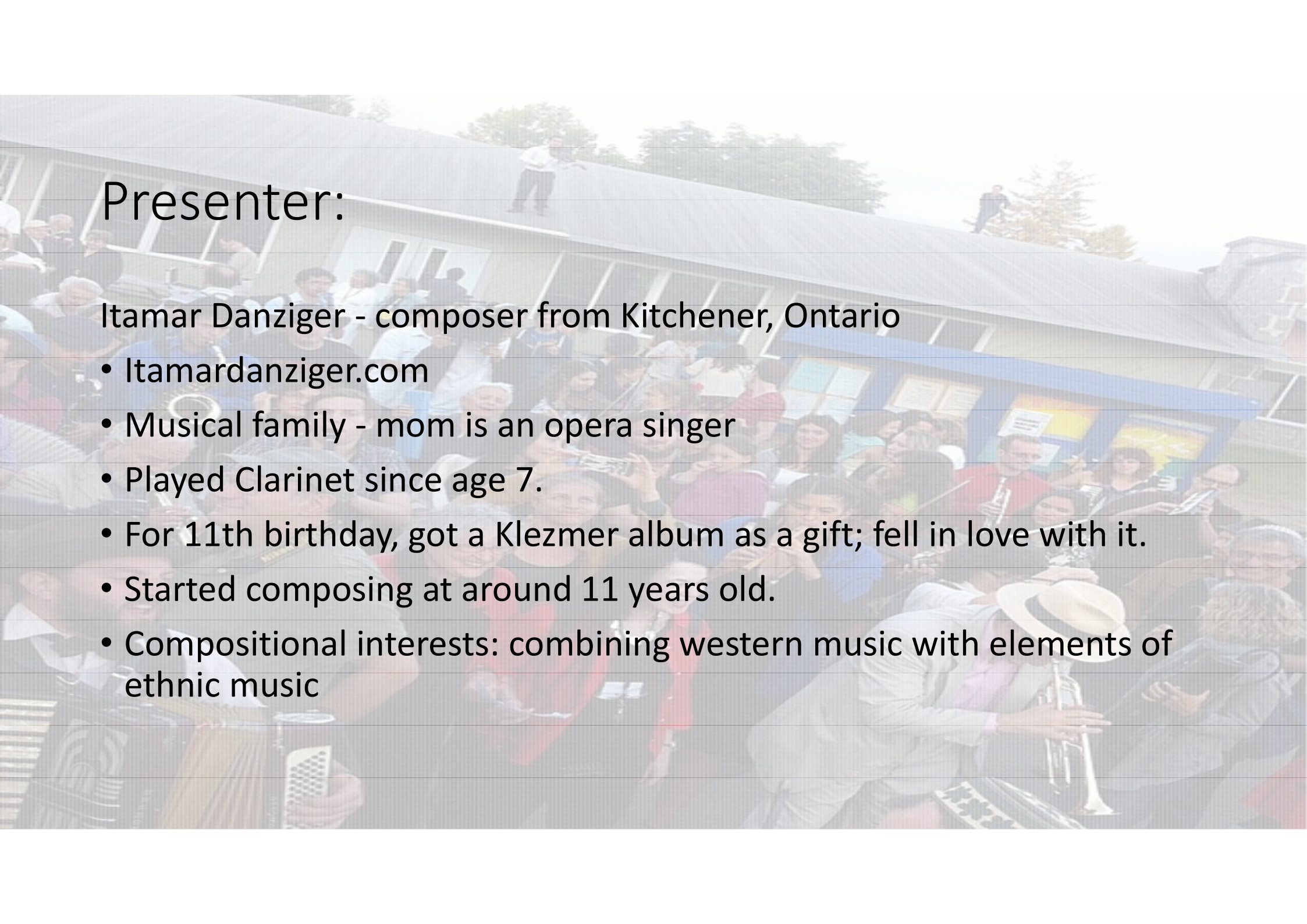


NEZHER and CONCERT Bands: An Unexpected Wedding



A large crowd of people, mostly children and young adults, is gathered outside a school building. In the background, a person is standing on the roof of the building. The scene is festive and crowded.

Presenter:

Itamar Danziger - composer from Kitchener, Ontario

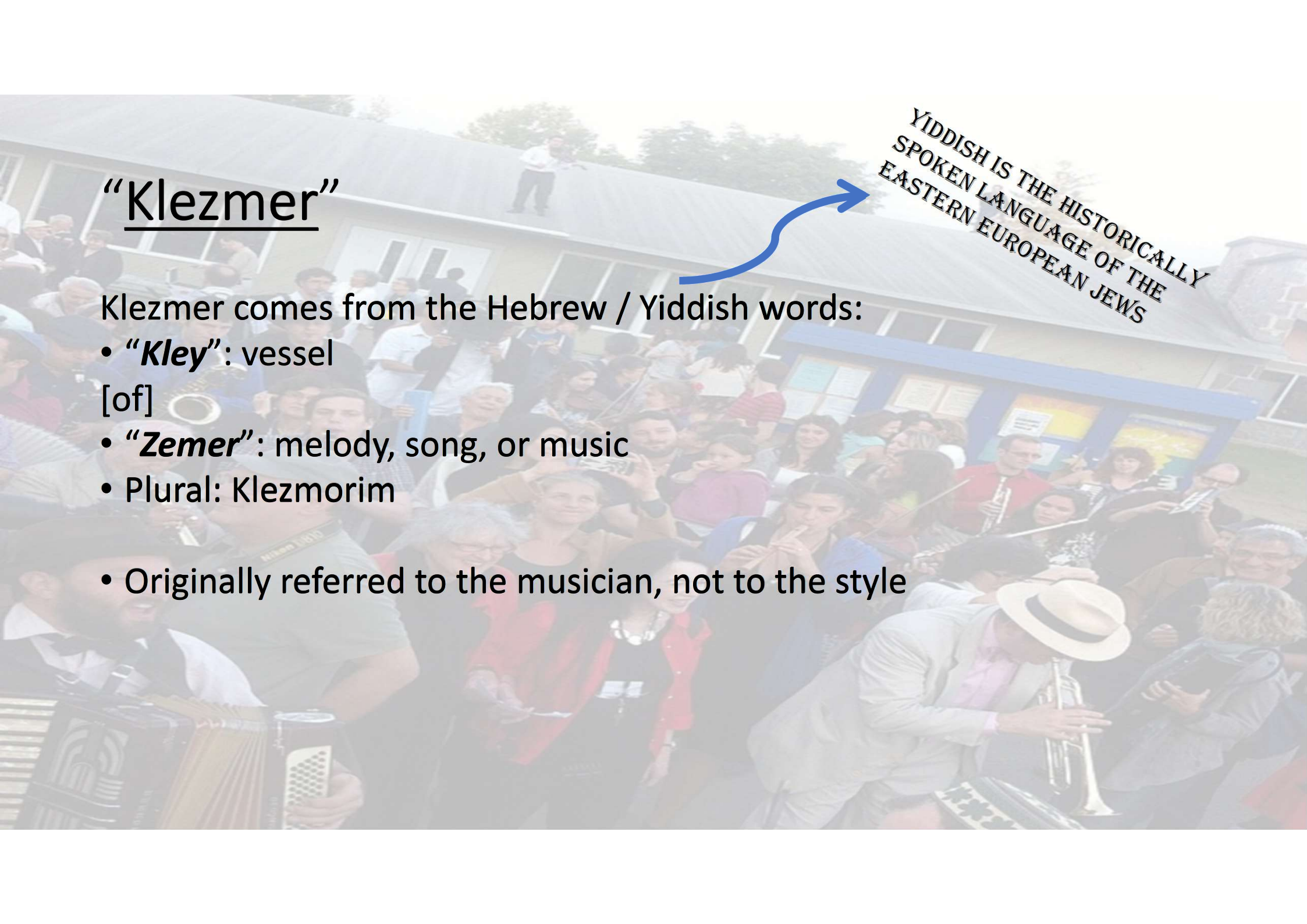
- Itamardanziger.com
- Musical family - mom is an opera singer
- Played Clarinet since age 7.
- For 11th birthday, got a Klezmer album as a gift; fell in love with it.
- Started composing at around 11 years old.
- Compositional interests: combining western music with elements of ethnic music

"Klezmer"

Klezmer comes from the Hebrew / Yiddish words:

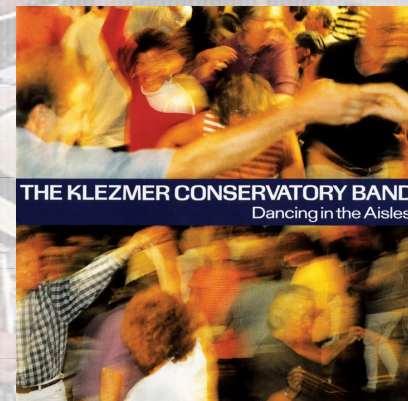
- "**Kley**": vessel
[of]
- "**Zemer**": melody, song, or music
- Plural: Klezmerim
- Originally referred to the musician, not to the style

YIDDISH IS THE HISTORICALLY
SPOKEN LANGUAGE OF THE
EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWS

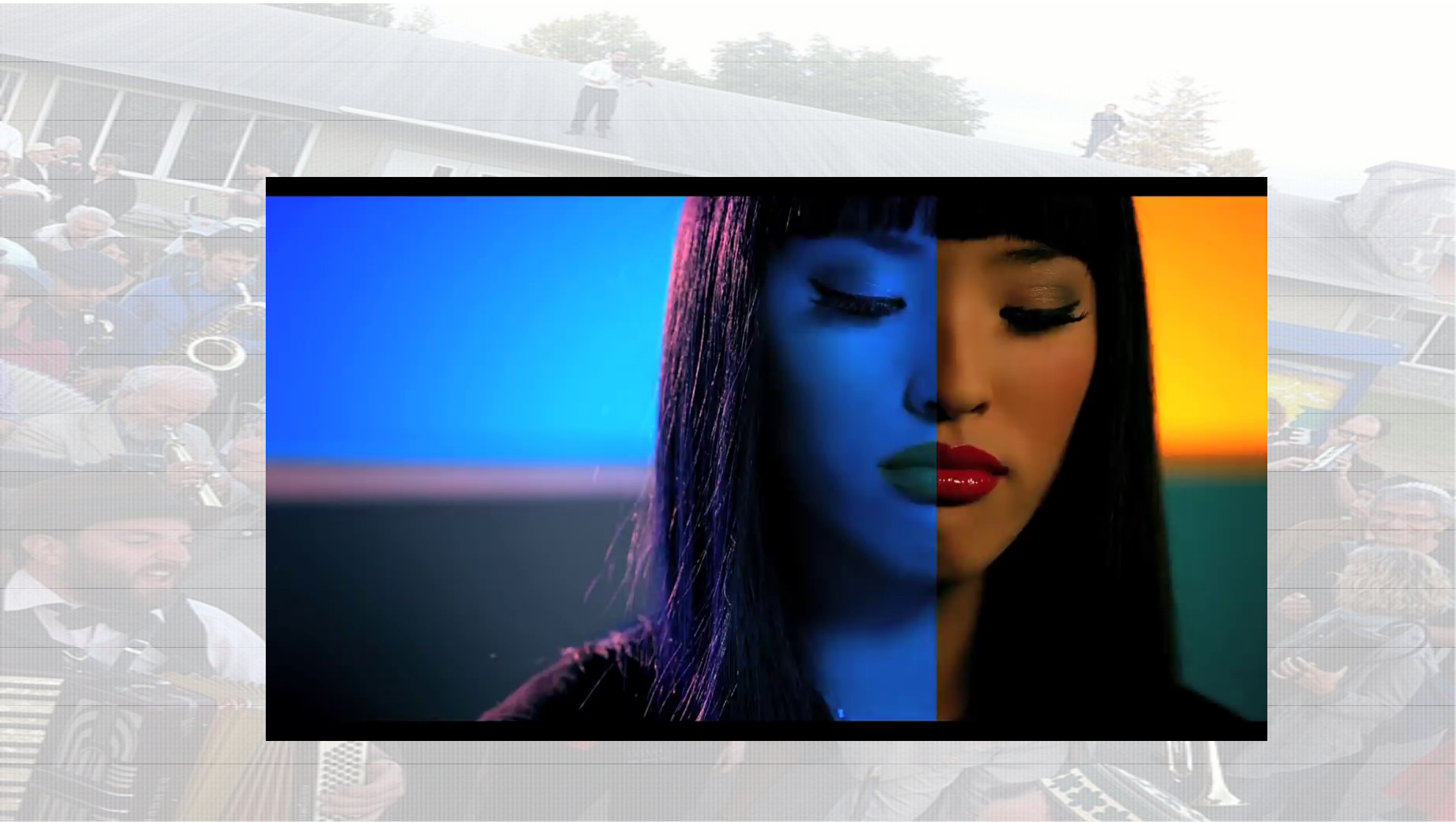


Klezmer defined:

- Broad definition: dance music of the Eastern European Jews from at least the 17th century to contemporary times.
- It is not only what you play but how you play it
 - “Laughter through tears”







What influenced Klezmer?

- Cantorial style of singing
- Hasidic Nigunim
- Roma music
- Slavic music, i.e. Ukranian music
- Western classical music
- Balkan music
- Changing instrumentations due to Jewish military service in the Russian army
- Americanization of Klezmer, Foxtrot





Parallel Development

- Jewish American Music - Bei Mir Bist Du Sheyne, Abi Gezint
- Yiddish Theatre
- New American Jewish music - i.e. MBD, Shulem Lemmer, Matisyahu



Bei Mir Bist Du Sheyn

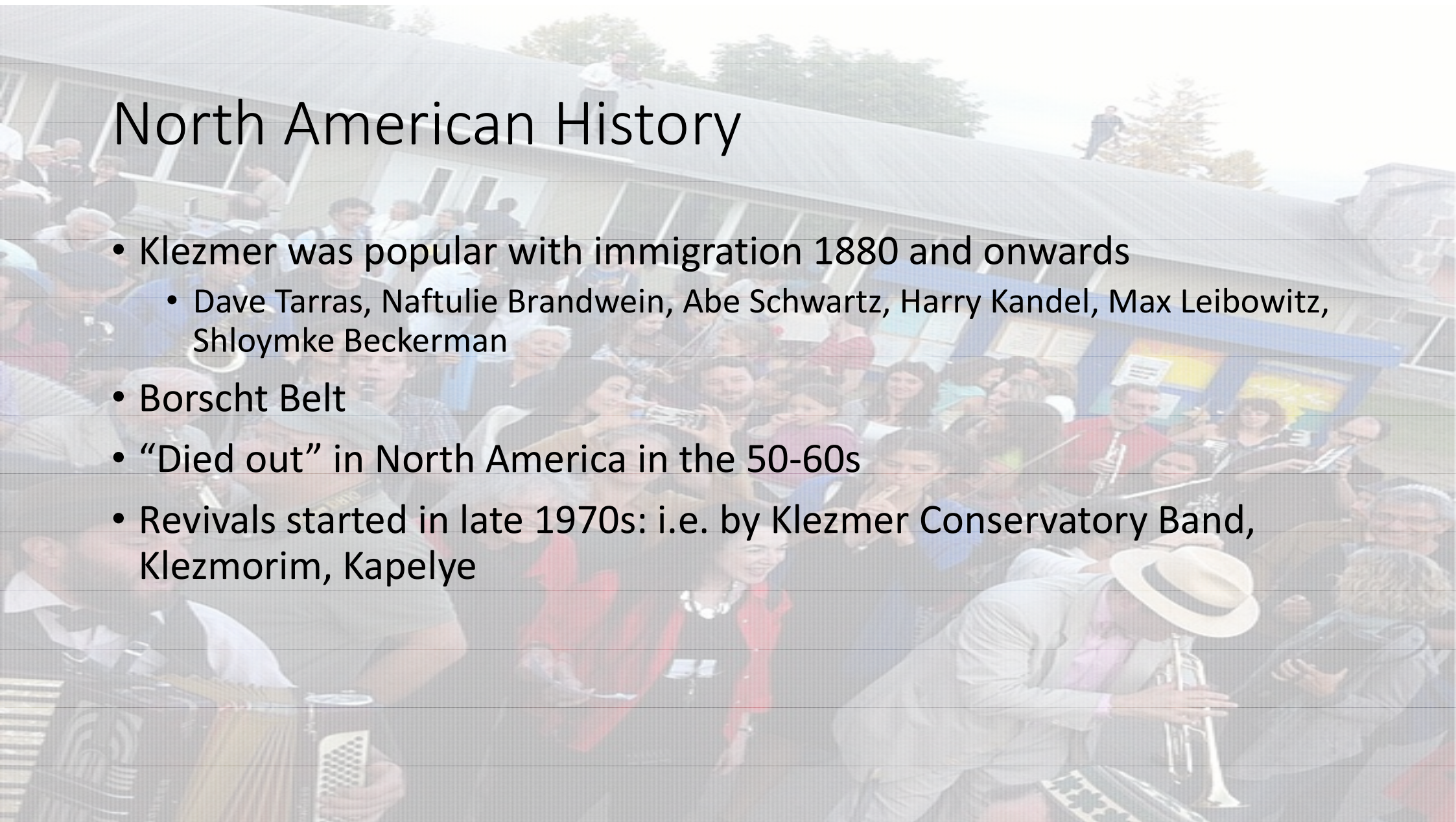
Of all the boys I've known, and I've known some,
Until I first met you I was lonesome,
And when you came in sight, dear, my heart grew light
And this old world seemed new to me.
You're really swell I have to admit, you
Deserve expressions that really fit you,
And so I've racked my brain, hoping to explain
All the things that you do to me.

Bei mir bistu sheyn please let me explain,
"Bei mir bistu sheyn means you're grand.
Bei mir bistu sheyn again I'll explain,
It means you're the fairest in the land.



North American History

- Klezmer was popular with immigration 1880 and onwards
 - Dave Tarras, Naftulie Brandwein, Abe Schwartz, Harry Kandel, Max Leibowitz, Shloymke Beckerman
- Borscht Belt
- “Died out” in North America in the 50-60s
- Revivals started in late 1970s: i.e. by Klezmer Conservatory Band, Klezmorim, Kapelye



Max Leibowitz Orchestra



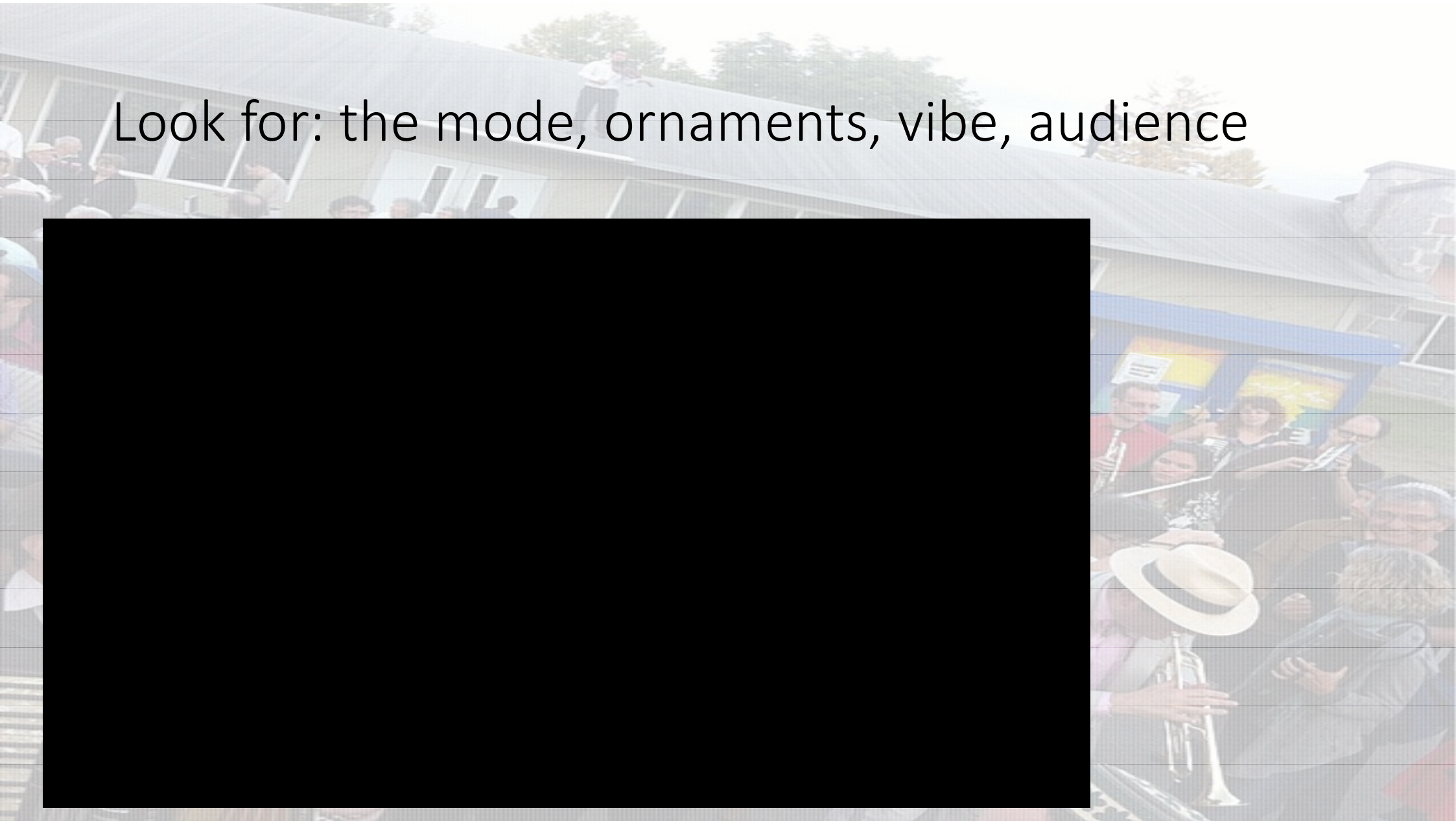
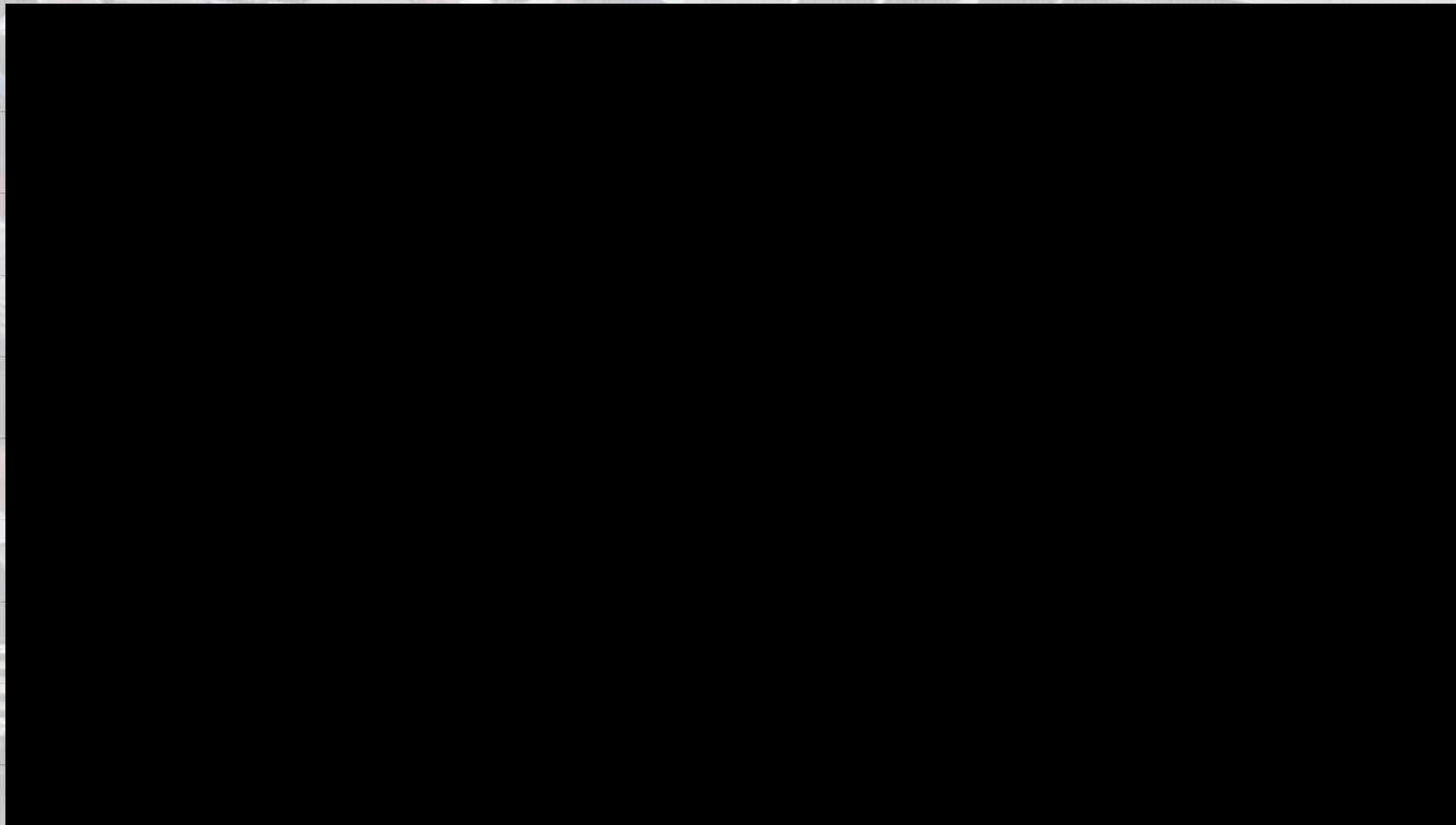
Dave Tarras



Naftuli Brandwein



Look for: the mode, ornaments, vibe, audience



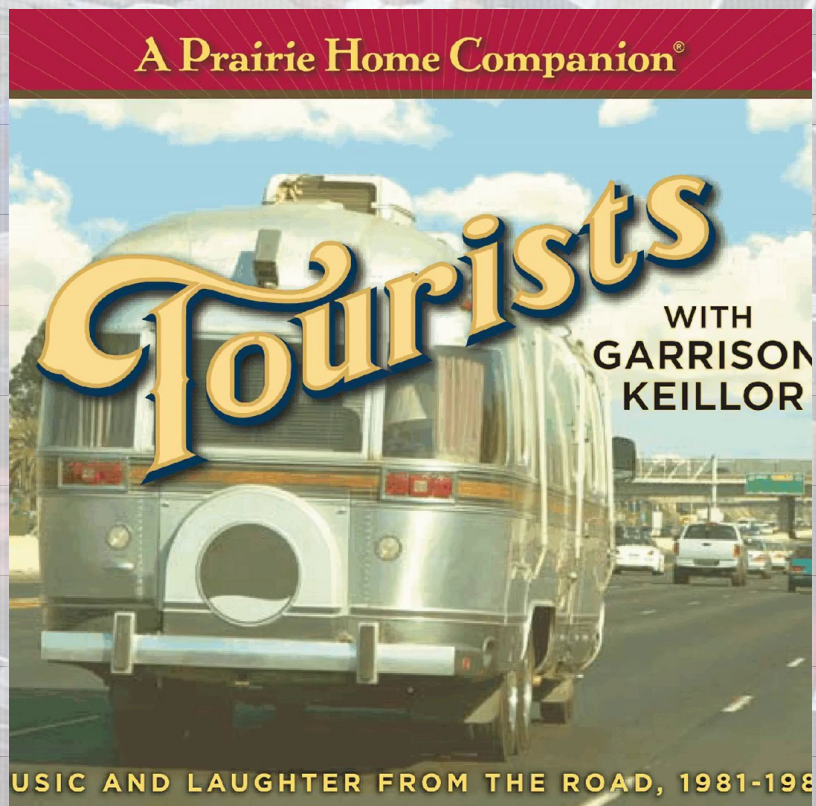
Modes

- Freygish: altered phrygian mode (Ahava Rabba) - Hava Nagila
- Altered dorian mode (Misheberakh) - Freylekhs Fun der Khupe, Odessa Bulgar
 - great mode to cadence on.
- Major - Kishinievers Bulgar
- Mixolydian (Adonai Molokh) i.e. Yasser Bulgar
- Minor Scales: Natural, Harmonic, Melodic

The image shows a vertical stack of musical notation for various modes, each on a single staff in 4/4 time. Blue arrows point from the text list to specific modes: one from 'Freygish' to 'Phrygian Mode', one from 'Altered dorian mode' to 'Dorian Mode', and one from 'Major' to 'Mixolydian Mode'.

- Phrygian Mode* (Scale 2): D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5
- Ahava Rabbah Mode* (Scale 2): D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, Bb4, C5, D5
- Dorian Mode* (Scale 4): D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5
- Mi Sheberach Mode* (Scale 4): D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, C5, D5
- Mixolydian Mode* (Scale 10): D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, Cb5, D5
- Adonoy Moloch Mode* (Scale 10): D4, E4, F#4, G4, A4, B4, Cb5, D5
- Natural Minor Scale in D* (Scale 5): D4, E4, F4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, D5
- Mogon Ovos Mode* (Scale 6): D4, E4, F4, G4, Ab4, Bb4, C5, D5

Voicing recognition exercise



A musical score for a band, featuring seven staves. The instruments listed on the left are: Clarinet and Violin, Trumpet, Trombones, Piano, Bass, Banjo, and Percussion. The music is written in 4/4 time. The Clarinet and Violin staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The Trumpet staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The Trombones staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp. The Piano staff has a grand staff (treble and bass clefs) and a key signature of one sharp. The Bass staff has a bass clef and a key signature of one sharp, with the instruction "(arco)" above the first measure. The Banjo staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp, with the instruction "Dm" above the first measure. The Percussion staff has a single line with a key signature of one sharp. The music consists of various rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests.

Voicing

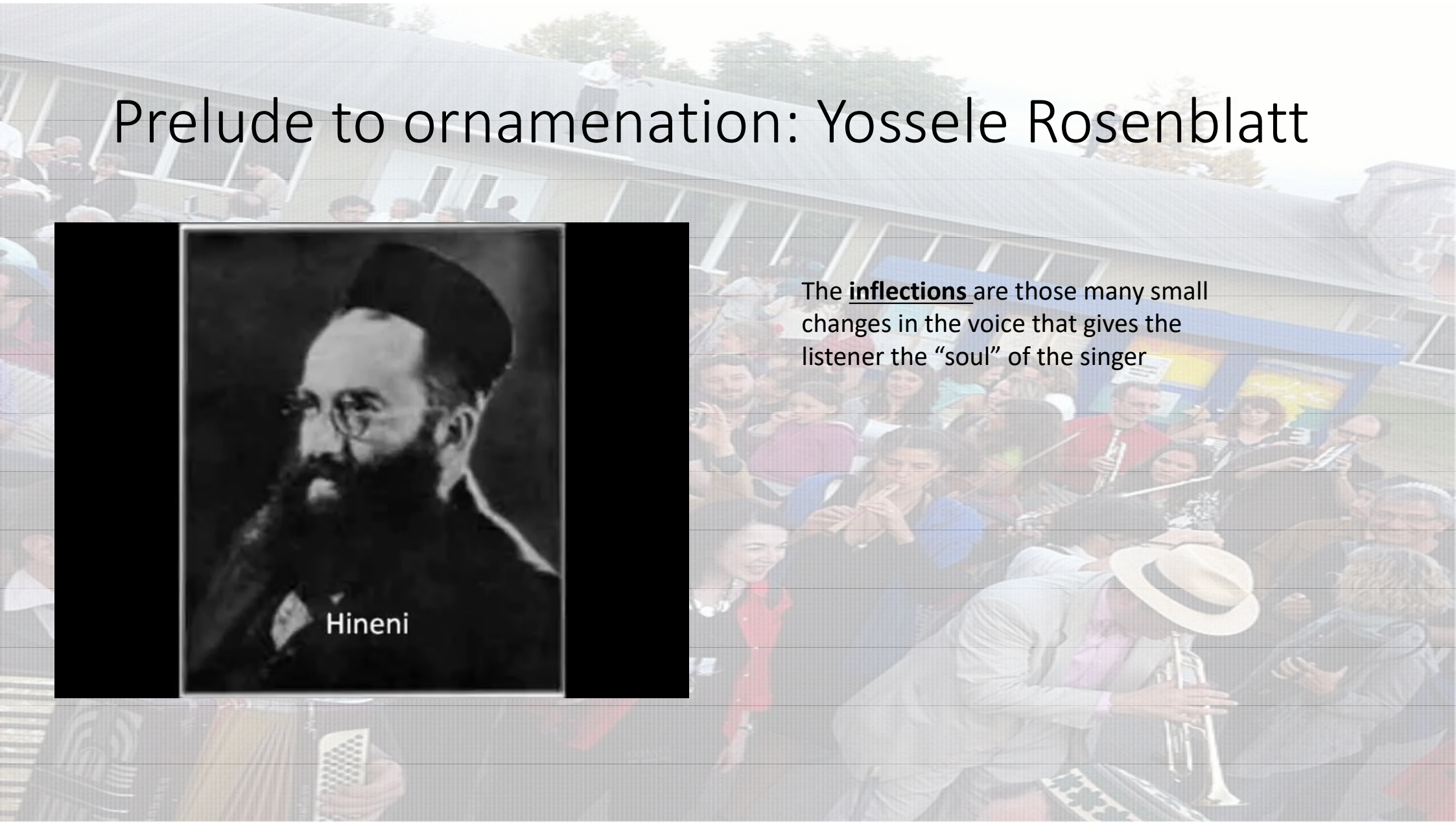
- Melody: Bonus Klezmer points for rhythmically contrast with bass and tenor lines.
- Second and third voices →
- Descant - Violins, Piccolo
- Secunda / Secunding →
- Tenor line
- Bass line
- Rhythm

Prelude to ornamentation: Yossele Rosenblatt



Hineni

The inflections are those many small changes in the voice that gives the listener the “soul” of the singer



Ornamentation examples, a la Jonno Lightstone

Krekhts, pl. krekhtsn (Yiddish - sob or moan). The krekhts is the quintessential klezmer ornament. unique to Jewish music and is associated with a long tradition of synagogue cantors. It is usually played on the violin and clarinet but can be adapted to flute, trumpet and stringed instruments like guitar and mandolin.



Trills - are fast and usually diatonic, generally played by clarinets and flutes.



Note bending - starts on the intended pitch, bend downwards, then returning to pitch. Done fairly quickly by violin and clarinet.

Grace notes - can be single notes preceding the beat or on the beat and are generally quite explosive.

Please note:

- 1) Ornament are personal - and therefore often not annotated on lead sheets;
- 2) Please do not over-do!

Ornamentation examples, a la Jonno Lightstone

Mordents - both upper and lower, played on the beat.



Glissandi - can be long or short depending on where they occur. Often played by clarinet and trombone.

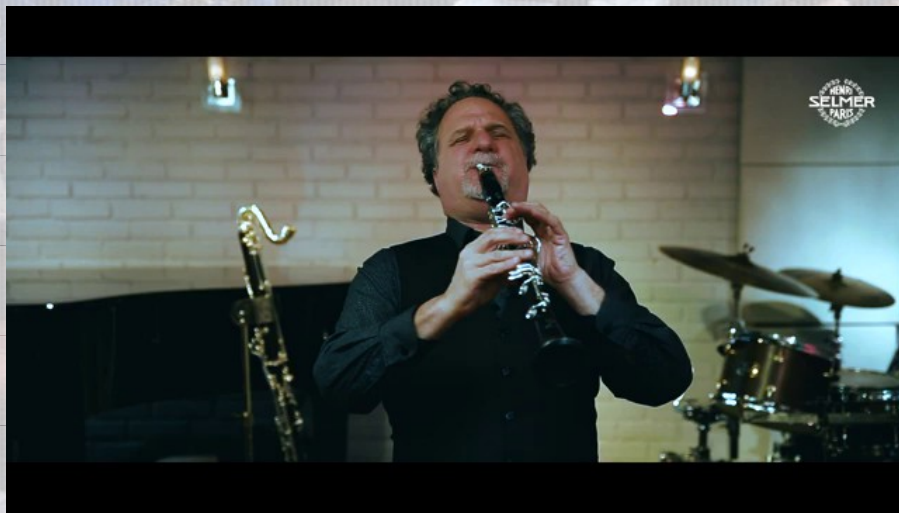
Chirps - idiosyncratic to klezmer music, played by high clarinets (C and Eb) achieved by quickly dropping the jaw after a note has been sounded, works best on very high notes.

Laughing - unique to clarinet, similar to a chirp but more extreme.

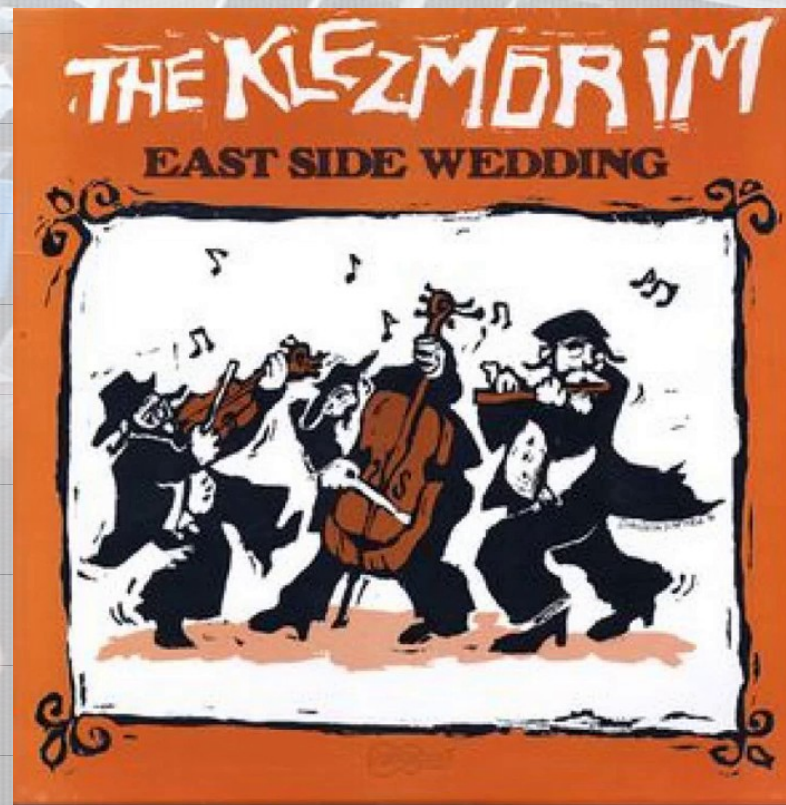
Vibrato - depends on the instrument. Clarinet; is very fast and not too wide. Violin; traditionally no vibrato is used. Flute: can be used

Tremolos - help to push the rhythm and during rubato, played by piano, tsimbl, mandolin, guitar and banjo(!)

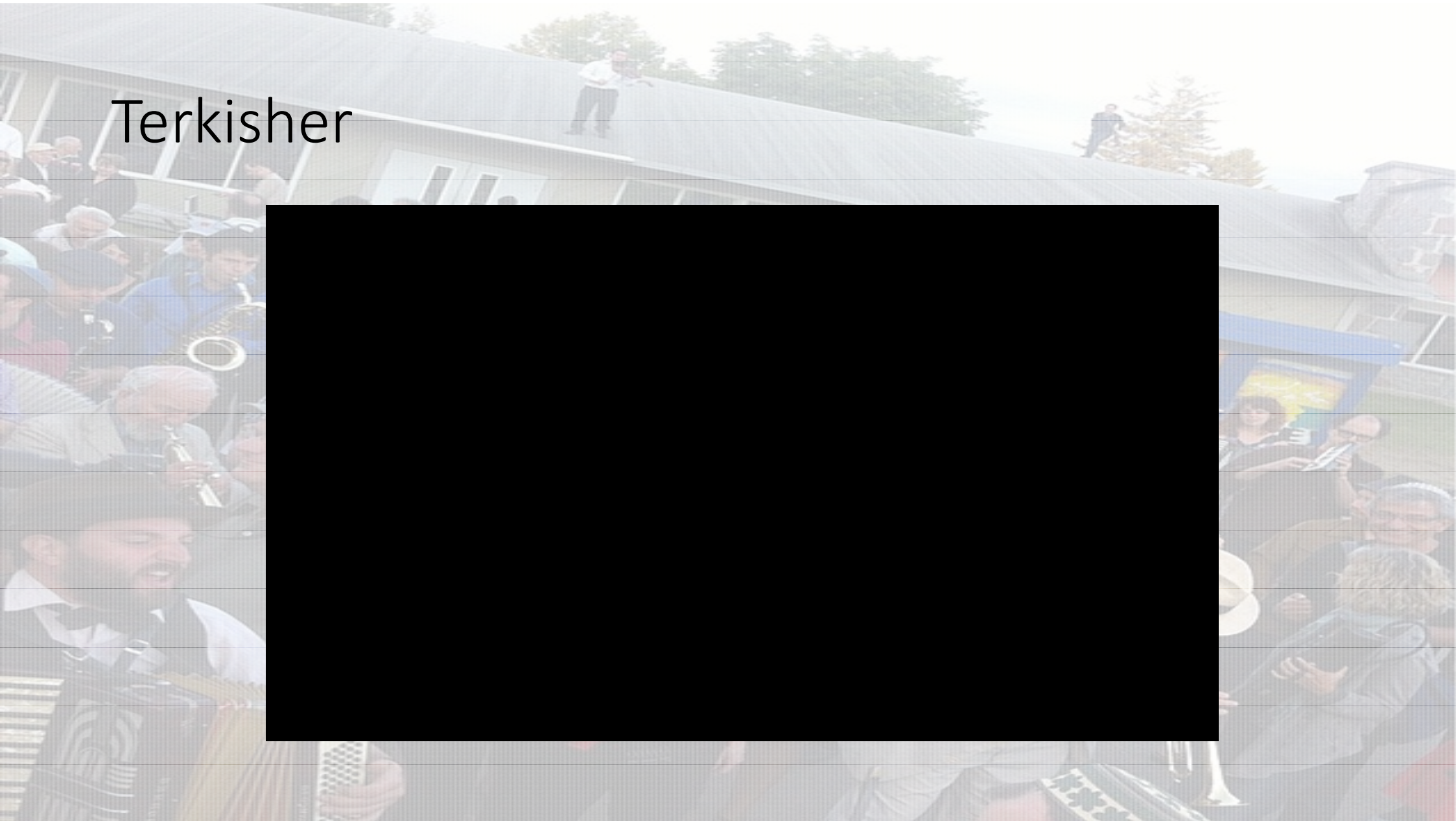
David Krakaur on Klezmer ornaments



Doina



Terkisher



Hora



Khusidl

“Ukranian Khusidl”, I. Hochman



Der Shtiller Bulgar (And the Angels Sing)

- P.s. Benny Goodman / Ziggy Ellman knew klezmer



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DER SHTILER BULGAR

(THE QUIET BULGAR)

HARRY KANDEL'S ORCHESTRA 1917
The old standard which became, through the good offices of one Ziggy Elman (nee Harry Finkelman), a swing standard called "And the Angels Sing". Straight C major throughout the "A" section, with plenty of room for trills, etc. The *Adonoi Molokh* is introduced in the "B" section with a surprise two measures in C minor; the "C" section is in relative minor and the use of the woodblock is most effective there.

Moderately

(A) C

G7 C tr G7

C G7 C G7 C

G7 C Fine 1. G7 2. C

(B) C7

C 3 3 C Cm C 3 3

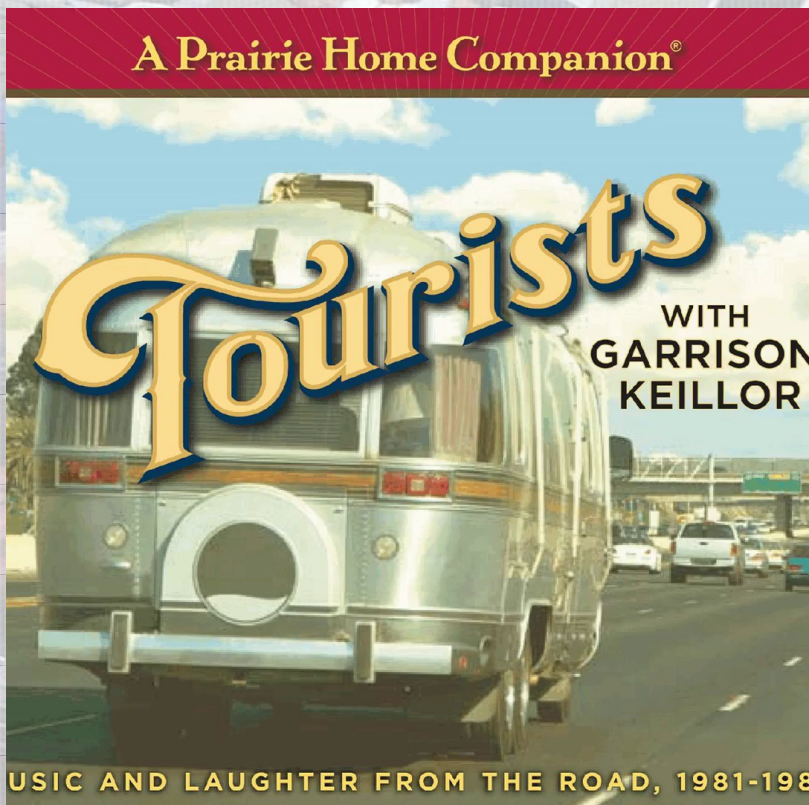
G7 C 1. C 2. C E7

(C) Am tr Dm 3 3 Am

E7 tr 1. Am 2. Am G7

D.C. al Fine

Freylechs



Dancing at KlezKanada
2011

Function of pieces

Dance music

Tish music

Weddings:

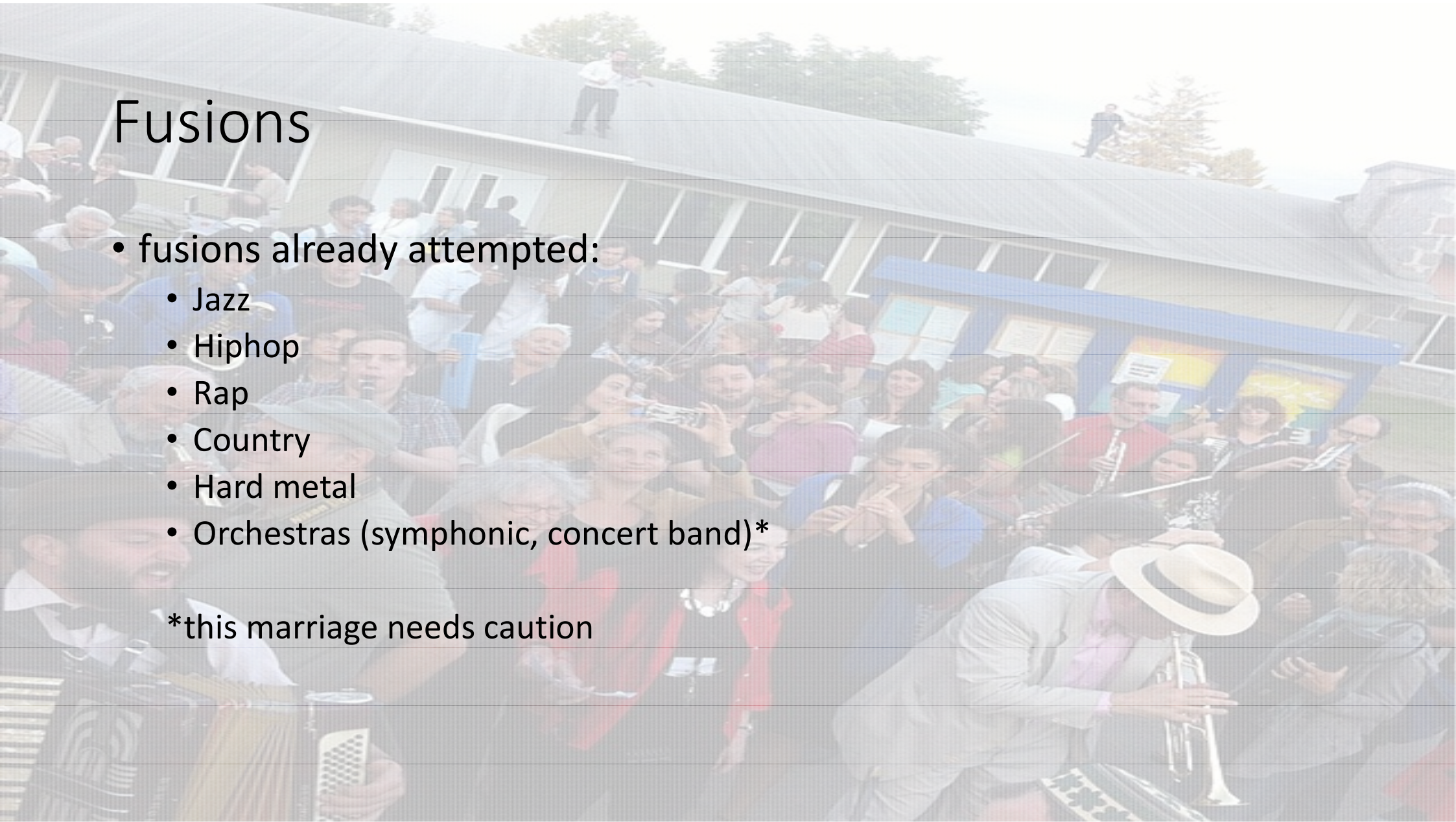
- Walking different family members to, from, and through the ceremony and party
 - Broiges tanz
 - Di mekhutonim geyen
 - Bedeken
 - Mitzvah Tanz
 - Dobranotsh waltz– “good night waltz”
 - Patsh Tanz - clapping dance
 - Badkhan (MC)



Fusions

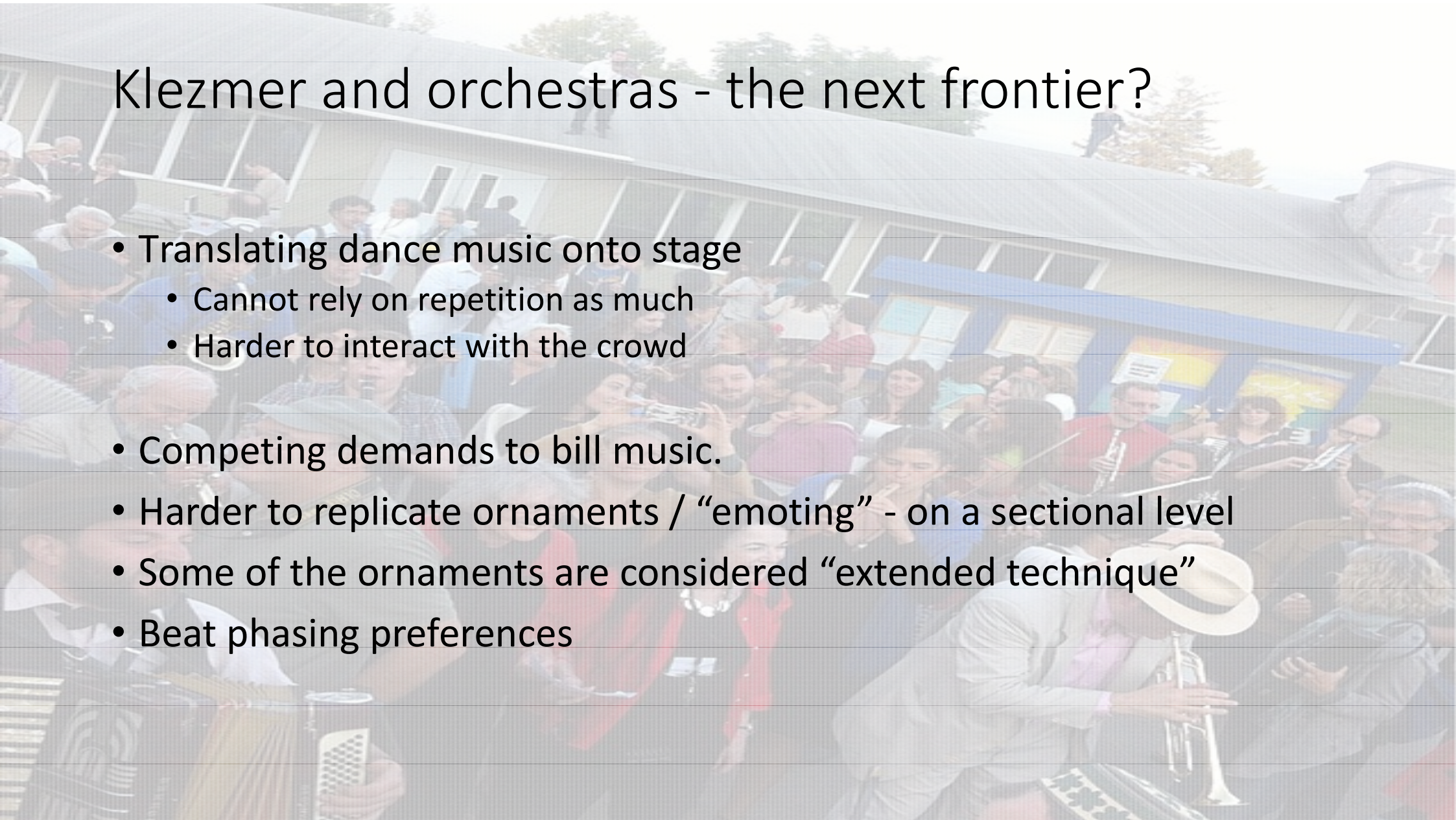
- fusions already attempted:
 - Jazz
 - Hiphop
 - Rap
 - Country
 - Hard metal
 - Orchestras (symphonic, concert band)*

*this marriage needs caution



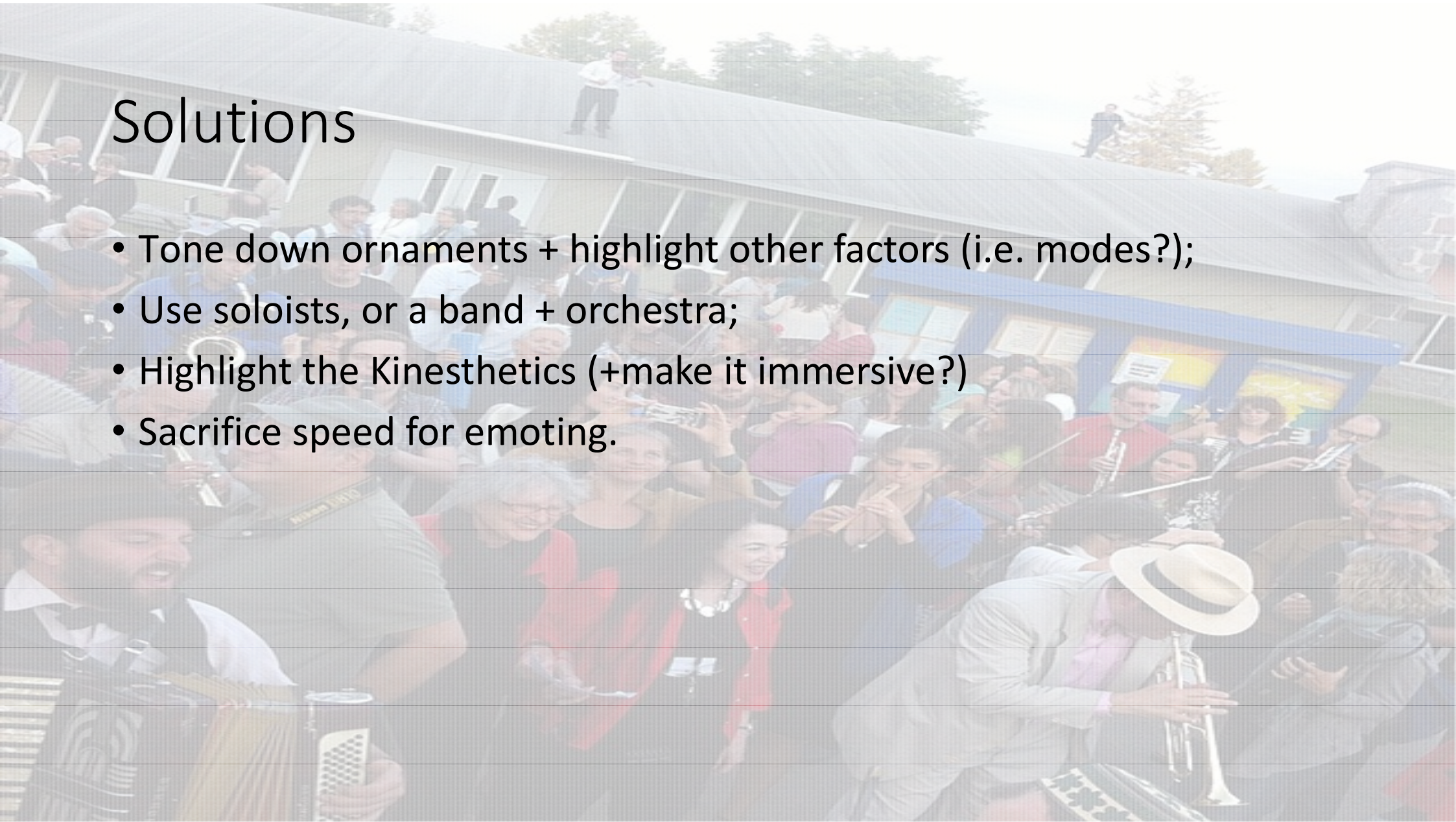
Klezmer and orchestras - the next frontier?

- Translating dance music onto stage
 - Cannot rely on repetition as much
 - Harder to interact with the crowd
- Competing demands to bill music.
- Harder to replicate ornaments / “emoting” - on a sectional level
- Some of the ornaments are considered “extended technique”
- Beat phasing preferences



Solutions

- Tone down ornaments + highlight other factors (i.e. modes?);
- Use soloists, or a band + orchestra;
- Highlight the Kinesthetics (+make it immersive?)
- Sacrifice speed for emoting.



Mahler's 1st Symphony



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**G I O R A
F E I D M A N**

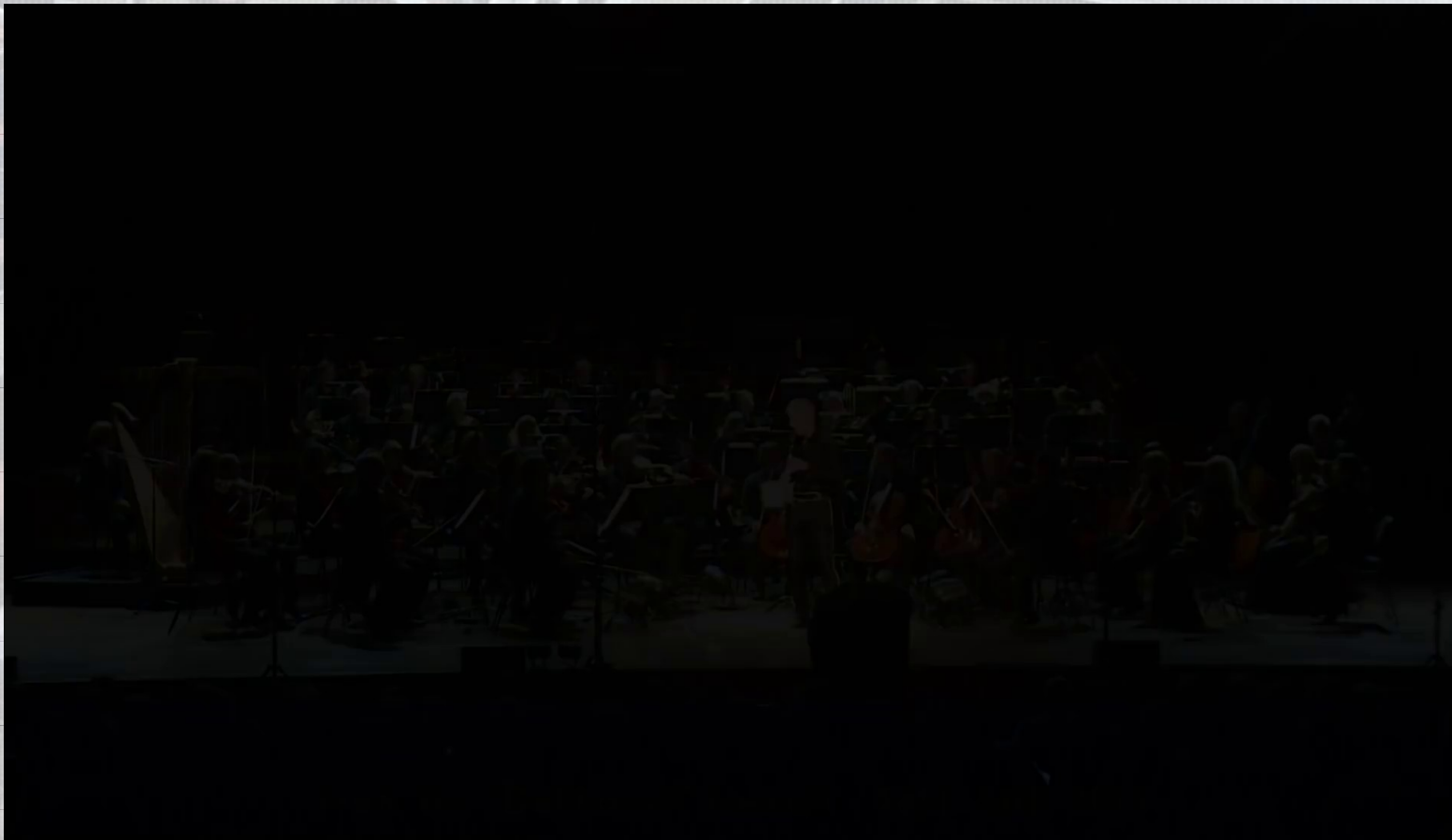


**G E R S H W I N
& T H E K L E Z M E R**

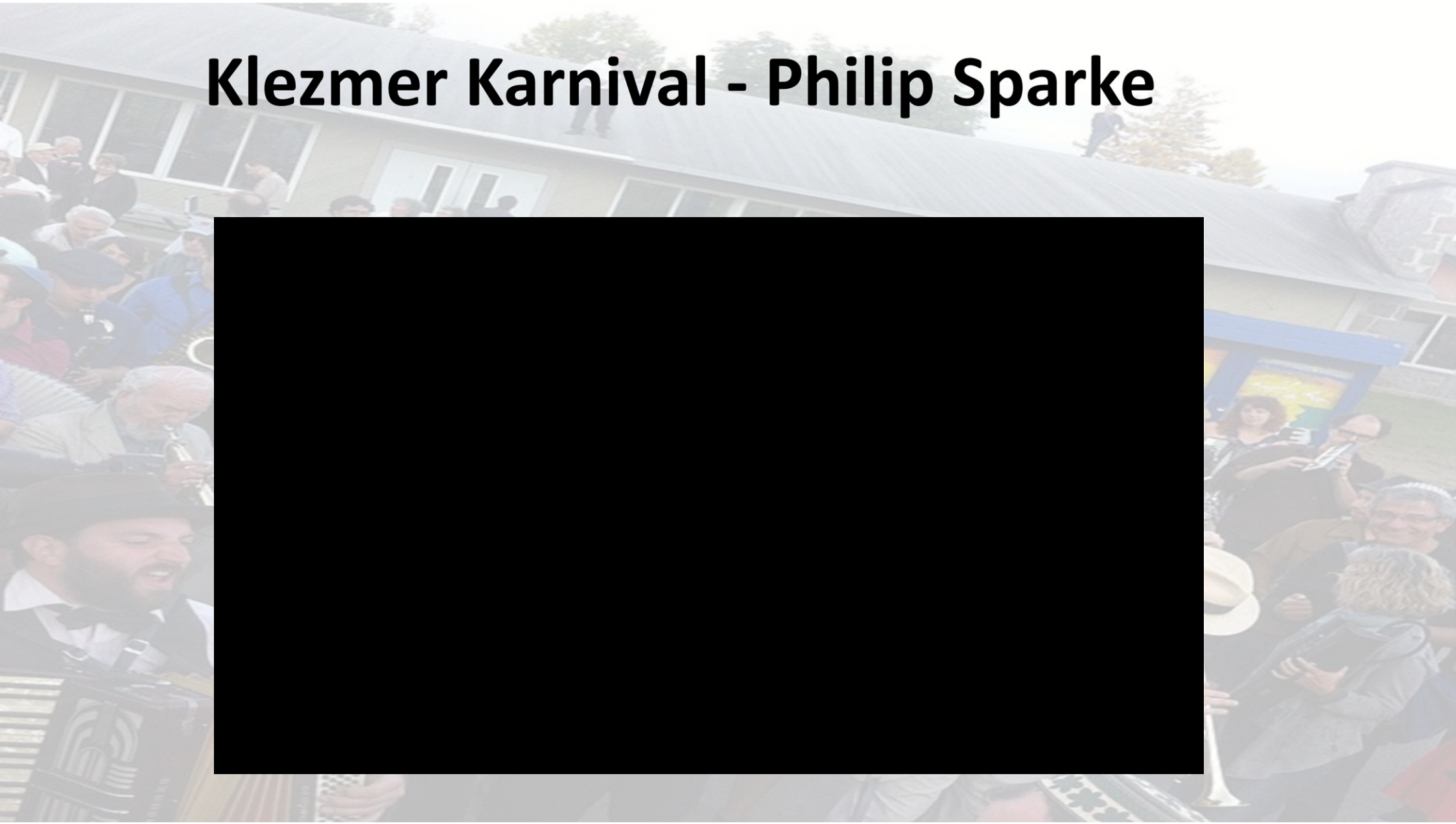
Giora Feidman + Terem Orchestra



Martin Fröst plays Klezmer Dances by Göran Fröst:



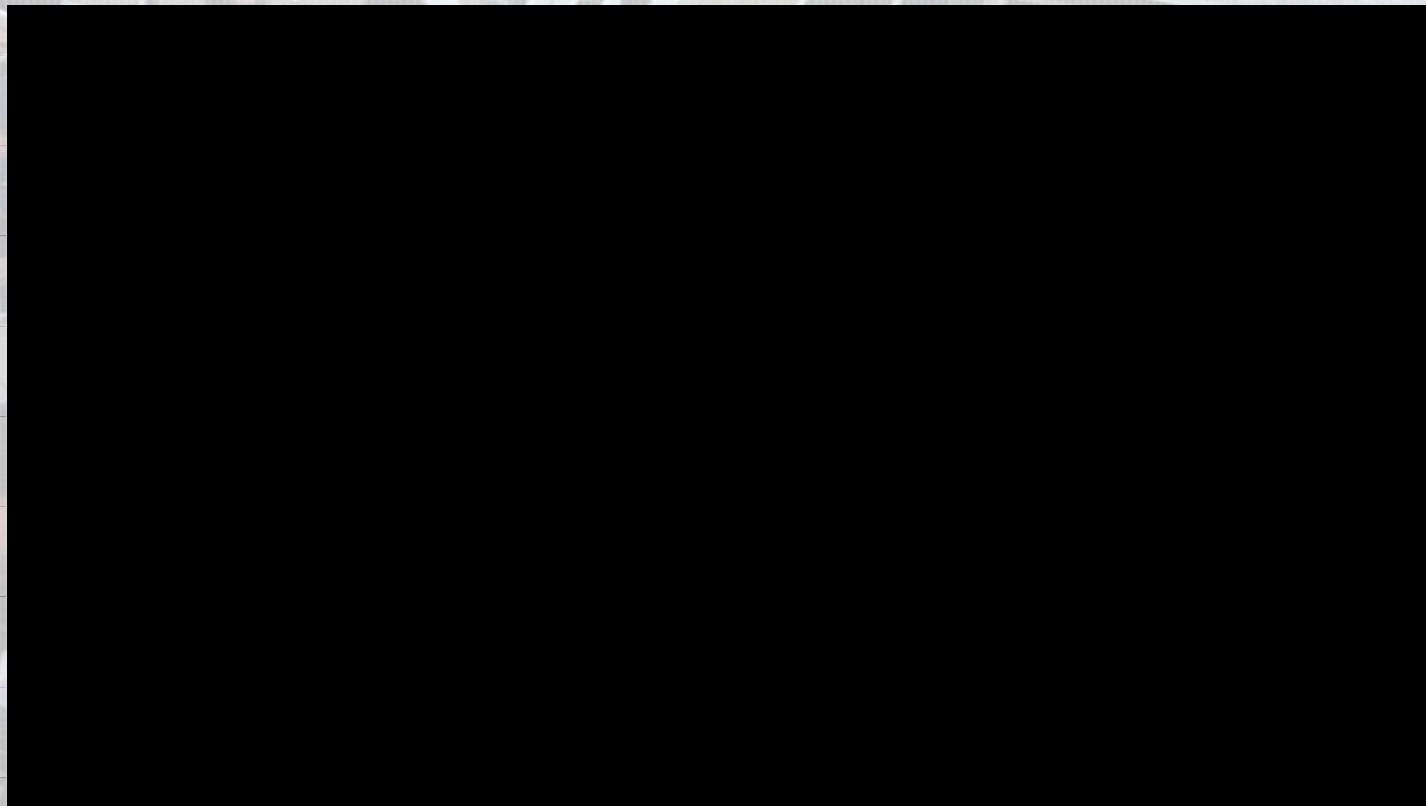
Klezmer Karnival - Philip Sparke



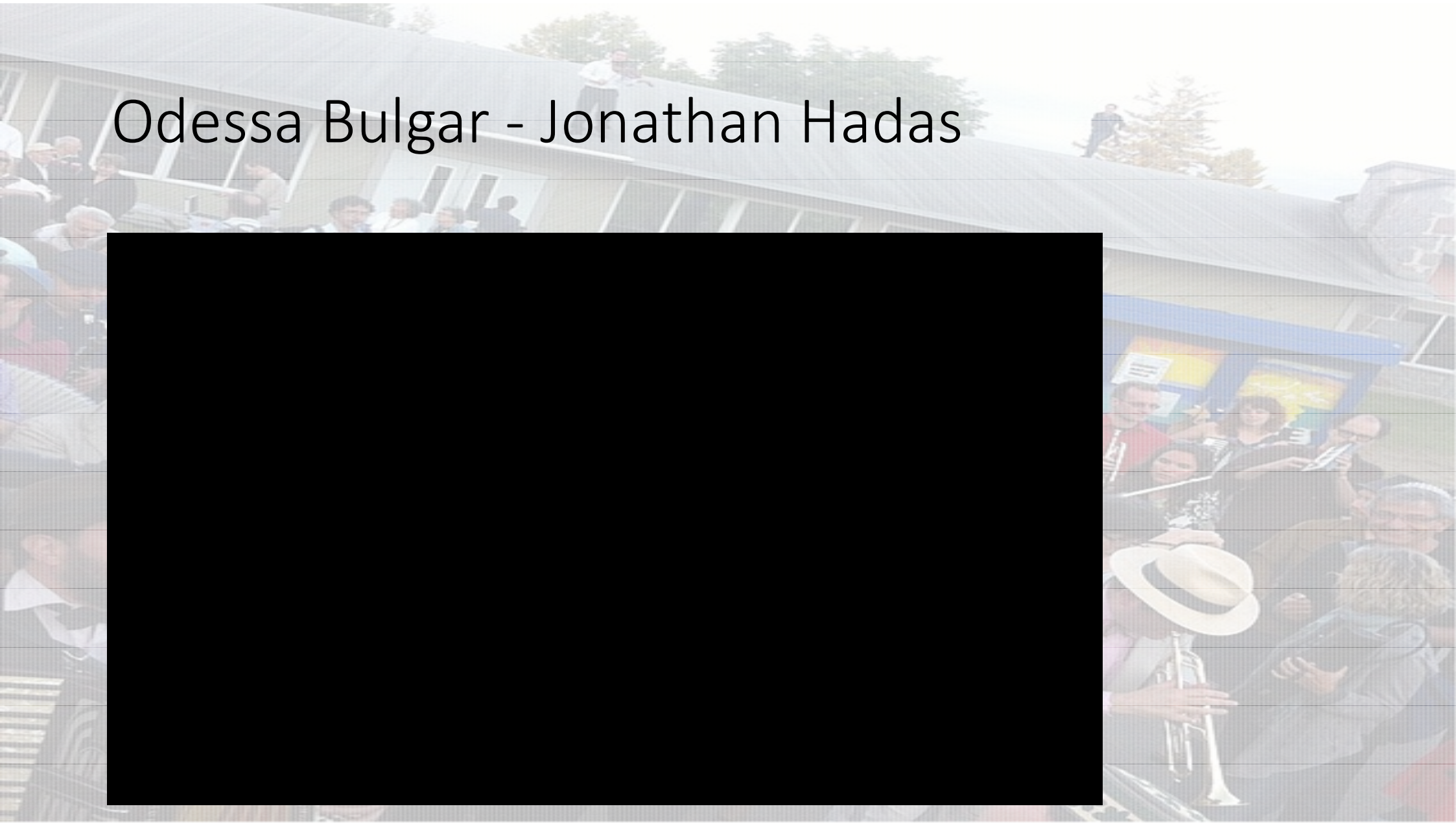
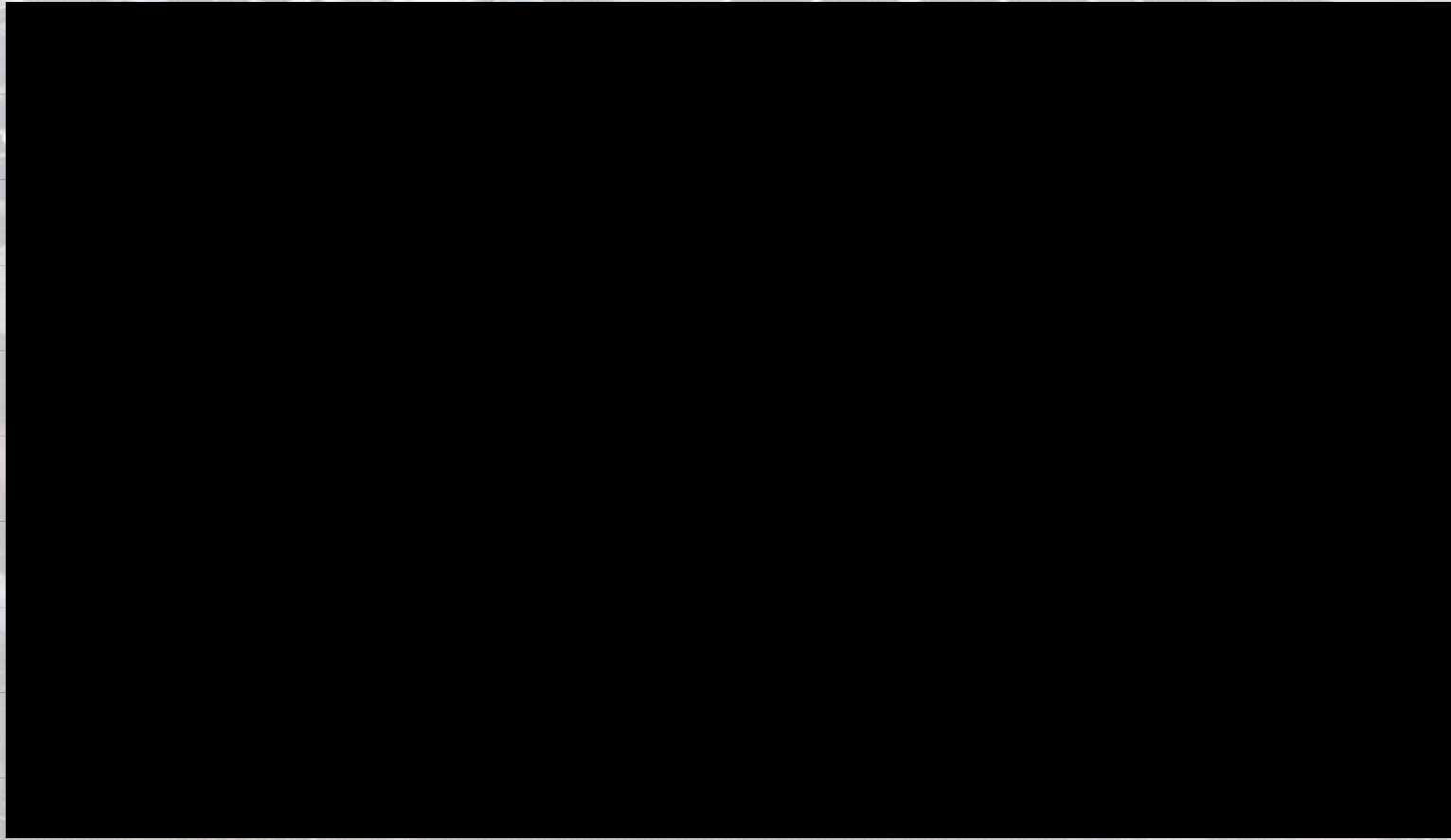
Margot Leverett: "Klezmer Fantazi" arranged by
Matt McGarrell, with Mesilla Valley Concert Band



Klezmer Fantasy, Marcel Saurer

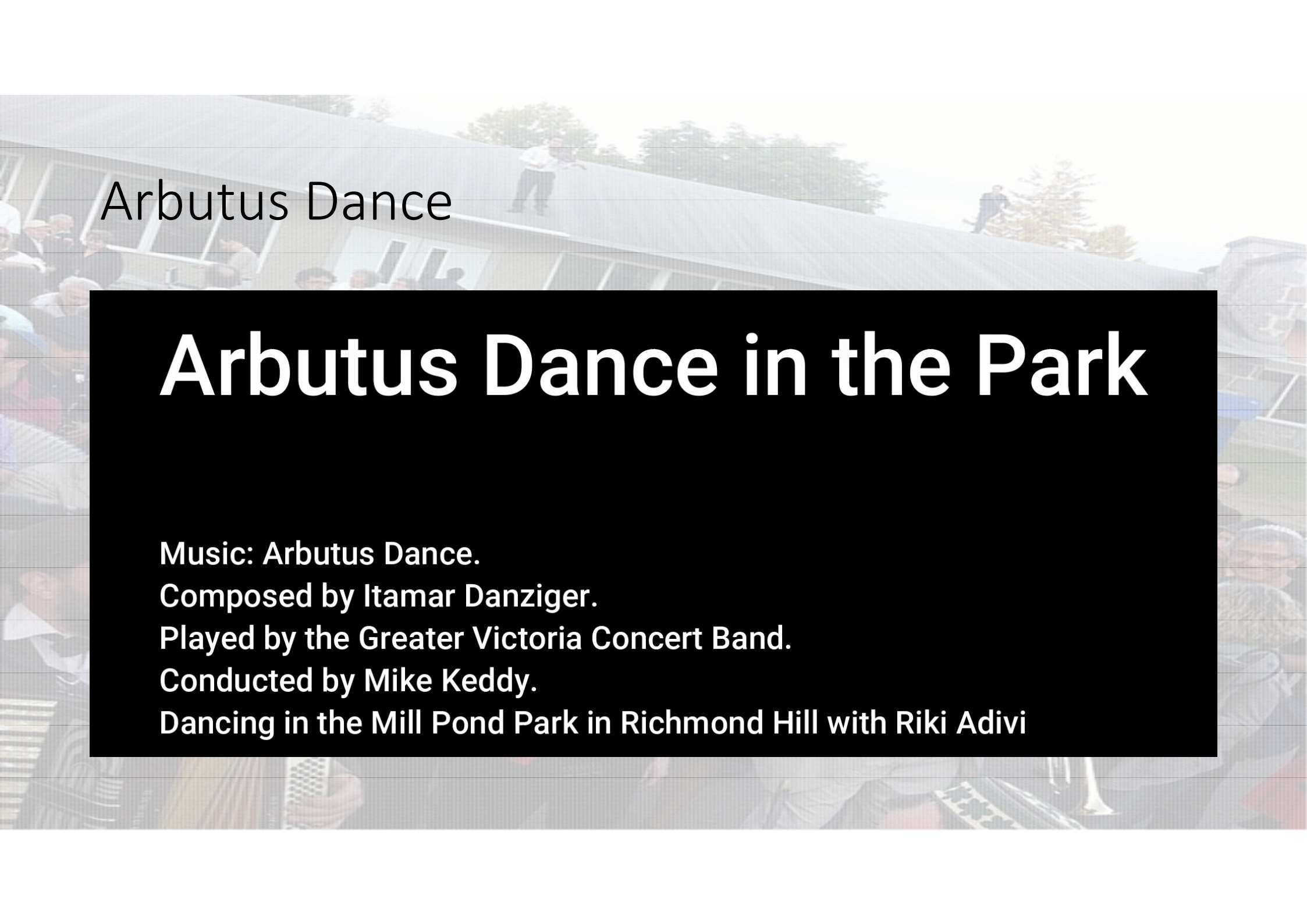


Odessa Bulgar - Jonathan Hadas



Kitchener Bulgar - Itamar Danziger



The background image shows a park event. In the upper part, a band is performing on a raised platform or stage. In the lower part, a crowd of people is gathered, some of whom are dancing. The scene is outdoors with trees and a clear sky in the background.

Arbutus Dance

Arbutus Dance in the Park

Music: Arbutus Dance.

Composed by Itamar Danziger.

Played by the Greater Victoria Concert Band.

Conducted by Mike Keddy.

Dancing in the Mill Pond Park in Richmond Hill with Riki Adivi

Nonantum Bulgar - Hankus Netsky

