

YID VICIOUS KLEZMER ENSEMBLE

Yid Vicious has been engaging and delighting audiences throughout the Midwest since 1995. The group has released four CDs and has received numerous Madison Area Music Awards for its unique blend of traditional and contemporary klezmer. In 2009, Yid Vicious became the first performing arts ensemble in Wisconsin to receive a USArtists International grant, to perform at Argentina's KlezFiesta, an international klezmer festival spanning three cities and including bands from ten countries. In 2006, Yid Vicious toured Chiba Prefecture, Japan as part of the Wisconsin-Chiba Sister State Goodwill Delegation. Yid Vicious is committed to keeping traditional klezmer music and dance alive, and collaborates frequently with internationally-renowned klezmer dance instructor Steve Weintraub. The group has participated in the New York-based "KlezKamp: The Yiddish Folk Arts Program", and was a featured performer at the "KlezKamp Roadshow" directed by Yiddish scholar Henry Sapoznik at the University of Wisconsin in April 2009. Yid Vicious has presented concerts, workshops, and clinics at performing arts centers, cultural festivals, universities, and K-12 schools in Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, Illinois, and Michigan, and has performed to statewide audiences on Wisconsin Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Television.

YID VICIOUS MEMBERS:

Matt Appleby, guitar

Matt Appleby moved to Madison, WI after completing a BA in Music & Film Scoring at the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. Appleby is a founding member of Yid Vicious, plays balalaika with the UW Russian Folk Orchestra, and lends his talents to many local folk and rock ensembles. Appleby holds an MLS in Library and Information Services from the University of Wisconsin with a specialty in Ethnomusicology, and works as a Technical Services Librarian at the University of Wisconsin Mills Music Library.

Geoffrey Brady, percussion

Geoffrey Brady is a versatile percussionist and composer who performs and records with Madison-area classical, jazz, world, and rock ensembles. Brady performs as a solo recitalist, composes music for many area ensembles, works in freelance commercial recording, and maintains a percussion teaching studio. His work as a performer and composer has been profiled on Wisconsin Public Television and Wisconsin Public Radio. Brady studied percussion performance at Interlochen Arts Academy, New England Conservatory of Music, and University of Wisconsin, where he received his Bachelor of Music degree in percussion performance.

Kia Karlen, horn & accordion

Kia Karlen holds a Bachelor of Music degree in horn performance from the University of Wisconsin Madison and a performance certificate from Musikhogskollan in Goteburg, Sweden. Karlen has performed and recorded with many Madison-area chamber groups and world music ensembles. Karlen recently received the 2009 "Brass Player of the Year" award from the

Madison Area Music Awards, and began playing the accordion in 2007 after studying piano for many years. Karlen is active in promoting the performing arts and coordinates large-scale arts events for museums, performing arts centers, and the City of Madison.

Melissa Reiser, tenor and soprano saxophone

Melissa Reiser holds a Bachelor of Music degree in saxophone performance from the Eastman School of Music, an Artist Diploma from the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Région de Boulogne-Billancourt (Paris, France), an MA in Ethnomusicology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and is presently a PhD candidate at the UW in ethnomusicology. Melissa performs extensively area symphony orchestras, chamber ensembles, and world music groups. Internationally, she has performed at festivals in France, China, Korea and Japan, and has conducted ethnographic fieldwork on indigenous popular music in Mali's Saharan region. Melissa has taught saxophone, world music, and world arts courses as an adjunct professor at Luther College (Decorah, IA) and at the University of Wisconsin's Madison, Milwaukee, and Whitewater campuses.

Greg Smith, clarinet and bass clarinet

Greg Smith has engaged in an ever-widening variety of styles throughout his musical career. He has been the bass clarinetist in the Madison Symphony Orchestra since the early 1970's, and today performs with numerous regional ensembles in genres including Dixieland jazz, Balkan dance music, Gypsy swing, Salsa, and country-western swing. A Madison native, Smith holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Wisconsin and works for the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration.

David Spies, tuba

David Spies, Instructor of Music for Marian University of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, is an active performer and teacher throughout the United States. In addition to numerous solo recitals, he has performed with orchestras throughout the United States, Madison jazz ensembles, the United States Coast Guard Band, and the Iowa Brass Quintet. An active freelance musician, David Spies is Solo E-flat Tubist with the Madison Brass Band and serves as its Assistant Director. David holds a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of North Texas, Master of Music degree from Yale University, and Bachelor of Music from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Daithi Wolfe, fiddle

Daithi began his musical studies as a Suzuki violin student in Ann Arbor, MI in 1968. After studying traditional music in Ireland in 1983, he changed his name from David to its Irish counterpart, Daithi, and commenced a career as a professional fiddler in the Irish folk tradition. In 1995, he found a new passion for klezmer music and co-founded Yid Vicious with guitarist Matt Appleby and Yid Vicious emeritus member Bob Jacobson. Wolfe taught in the Madison Metropolitan School District for 16 years and now divides his time between work as a professional musician and working as an early childhood education advocate.