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Trio returns for KlezmerQuerque

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By [David Steinberg / For the Journal](#) | Sun, Feb 2, 2014

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R2G will headline an evening concert and dance party on Feb. 15 as part of KlezmerQuerque.

The klezmer trio R2G first came together in the recording studio four years ago. But the ensemble didn't make its public debut until about a year later.

The debut was at KlezmerQuerque, said R2G's clarinetist Joel Rubin.

"After we were in Albuquerque we've tried to make it a regular thing. We play several times a year," Rubin said in a phone interview from Charlottesville, Va.

The trio will return to perform at the 12th annual KlezmerQuerque at Congregation Nahalat Shalom.

"Basically it will be the same material we performed in New York City in December as part of the New York Klezmer Series. It's what we call concert-form klezmer," Rubin said.

That form, developed by various musicians over many years, has resulted in the performance of longer medleys with different kinds of tunes.

Rubin said R2G's Pete Rushefsky came up with a form that works for the trio. It includes pieces with common musical modes. Those pieces can be tunes R2G members have composed or traditional numbers from the late 19th century and early 20th century, Rubin said.

"Actually, it works really well. We're getting positive responses from audiences about it," he said.

Rushefsky plays the tsimbl, which is akin to the hammered dulcimer. The third R2G member is violinist Steve Greenman of Cleveland.

The trio will give a short concert on Feb. 14 as part of KlezmerQuerque's Der Freylekher Shabbes and the ensemble will headline at the festival's Feb. 15 evening concert and dance party.

The term klezmer refers to the music that came out of Jewish communities in eastern Europe.

Rushefsky said the New York-based Center from

If you go

WHAT: 12th annual KlezmerQuerque

WHEN: Feb. 14-16

WHERE: Congregation Nahalat Shalom, 3606 Rio Grande NW

HOW MUCH: Some events are free and others as much as \$20. Early

Traditional Music and Dance was the first organization in the United States to present some old-time klezmer musicians in the 1970s. That initiated a growing interest in klezmer. It produced a resurgence that has spread internationally, especially in Europe.

R2G enjoys performing at major cultural festivals like KlezmerQuerque because there are large, responsive crowds.

“What I love about KlezmerQuerque,” Rubin said, “is that it’s a real community affair. You get to know people very well. ... There’s a lot of interacting with the audience – lectures, workshops, dance parties. I really like that.”

He also will give a “Lunch ‘n’ Learn” talk on Feb. 16 about klezmer music in New York City.

Rubin is a professor at the University of Virginia, where he runs the music performance program, teaches multicultural classes and directs the university’s klezmer ensemble.

KlezmerQuerque starts at 6 p.m. Feb. 14 with a special participatory concert for young children and their families that involves music, movement and puppets.

Other festival activities over the weekend will feature Bruce Bierman, who combines dance, theater and Jewish ritual performance, the Rebbe’s Orkestra, music by Beth Cohen and the Alavados ensemble, the Rikud Yiddish dance troupe, and the Nahalat Shalom Community Klezmer Band.

registration for an all-event pass is \$85 for the general public and \$70 for students, seniors and those on fixed income. The early registration deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 5. To buy tickets, to obtain early registration forms or for a full schedule of KlezmerQuerque events visit nahalatshalom.org. Tickets also available at the door

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