



"...Sweet nostalgia mixed with wild harmonies...The sound of Kleztory expresses their unique sensitivity combined with a true authenticity of interpretation..."

—Voo.ca, le média de la relève culturelle, Montréal

Kleztory's roots go back to 1997, when guitarist Alain Legault founded Les Gitans Sédentaires. Joined by bassist Mark Peetsma, the group performed more than two hundred shows in the following two years.

In 2000, this fine tuned rhythm section was joined by the classically trained clarinetist, Airat Ichmouratov, and became known as Simha. In early 2002, with the addition of violinist Elvira Misbakhova and accordionist Henri Oppenheim, Kleztory became a traditional klezmer ensemble and is one of the most dynamic klezmer ensembles in Canada today.

Kleztory has played in a wide variety of Montreal venues and in 2003 they per-

formed over forty concerts in Quebec, however the band credits their cohesion, their spirit and their signature sound to the experience they garnered while busking in the streets.

Klezmer is the traditional music of nomadic Jewish musicians who traveled throughout Eastern Europe in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These musicians took inspiration from the popular music of the day and integrated their own unique vocabulary, born from a history that was rich and too often tragic.

Similar to the music they perform, Kleztory is a rich mosaic of cultures (Russian, Canadian, Québécois and French), musical training (academic and

self taught) and musical tastes (classical, contemporary, jazz, blues, country and folk). Combining their talents, these five musicians perform with an emotion and a virtuosity that is the true spirit of klezmer. Through the use of innovative arrangements that are respectful of the original compositions, Kleztory has forged a unique, yet still authentic musical path.

Kleztory produced its first CD entitled *Kleztory – Musique Klezmer* at the beginning of 2003. They recently

recorded a second CD in collaboration with I Musici de Montreal, under the direction of Yuli Turovsky, distributed internationally on the Chandos Label in the spring of 2004. Diverse cultural backgrounds, passion, experience and dedication make Kleztory an exciting and unique ensemble in the world music scene.

Kleztory completed a tour of the Eastern US in fall, 2009. In January 2010, the ensemble will tour Belgium.

January 2010

Kleztory at Concordia

"...the band plays in a tight, charismatic manner that makes their professionalism shine...A mix of upbeat, fast-paced music that you couldn't help but dance to, and a tragic, chamberesque sounding drone that made you feel as if you were a peasant on the streets of Russia at the turn of the 1900's..."

—Sydney Smith,

The Link, Concordia University, Montréal