

# KLEZTORY

## Klezmer ensemble

### Review

#### Immensely entertaining Kleztory delights chamber music lovers

Natasha Gauthier, The Ottawa Citizen  
January 22, 2006

*Curse the control freaks at CBC Radio. If not for the conspicuous microphones everywhere and the emcee's ominous preconcert warning to sit still and behave, the entire audience at Friday's Thirteen Strings concert would have been on their feet dancing to that irresistible Jewish party music known as Klezmer.*

*Instead, the five hyperkinetic members of Montreal-based Kleztory were faced with the spectacle of people trying to pew-boogie as silently and discreetly as possible. A shame, really; the band was having so much fun on stage it seemed almost rude not to be able to join in.*

*Kleztory has played in Ottawa before, but if the chamber music lovers hadn't heard of the band before the concert, they were all fans by the end, won over by the group's immensely entertaining, exuberant renditions of traditional Yiddish songs and original compositions. Clarinetist Airat Ichmouratov and violinist Elvia Misbakhova were inspired by some secret, inner fire, with his reedy *cris du coeur* floating over her dark, plangent, gypsy tones like cream in strong coffee...*

### Excerpts from Reviews

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

—Marie-Hélène Proulx, Voo.ca, le média de la relève culturelle, Montreal

*...Kleztory transmit the feeling of joyous nostalgia that is so much a part of this style. A very fine discovery...*

—Yves Bernard, Ici, Montreal.

*...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, Montreal.

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