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For further information about [Veretski Pass](#):

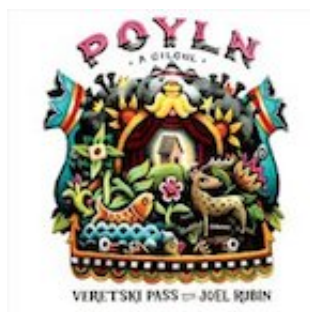
Don't miss Veretski Pass' [first album](#) (2004) their live second album, [Trafik](#), 2008, or [The Klezmer Shul](#) (2011).

Cookie Segelstein is also a member of [the Klezical Tradition](#) and appears on the following albums reviewed on the Klezmershack:

- [The Klezical Tradition / Family Portrait](#), 1998
- [Adrienne Greenbaum / FleytMuzik](#), 2002
- [Klezmer Bands Helfen Kosovo](#), 1999

# Veretski Pass with Joel Rubin / Poyln: A Gilgul

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Veretski Pass with Joel Rubin / Poyln: A Gilgul  
[Golden Horn Records](#), GHP-040-2, 2015  
[www.goldenhorn.com](http://www.goldenhorn.com)  
Available in the US from [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com)

Oh, my. Take one of my favorite bands, [Veretski Pass](#). It already contains three of the most experienced, skilled, and expressive klezmer musicians in the world. Add in Joel Rubin, one of their few compatriots about whom the same could be said. Rubin and tsimbalist Horowitz toured together in the mid-90s, and also spent considerable time in the field, gathering the shards of what survived the Holocaust. Rubin and Brotman were half of the seminal klezmer revival band, [Brave Old World](#). Professor Rubin is an acknowledged scholar of Polish Jewish music, something that has evolved more slowly following the murder of most of the Polish Jewish community in the Holocaust. If you are *klezmerim*, there is an obvious response. Gather old Polish urban and rural music. Mix in what you learned from your own and your colleagues ethnographic recordings and field research. And transform it all into the music that might have been created had their been no Holocaust, as Jewish klezmer forms mix with the old Polish melodies and update Hasidic and klezmer repertoire.

The result sparkles with life. From the opening "the

Joshua Horowitz is also a member of [Budowitz](#) and appears on the following albums reviewed on the Klezmershack:

- [Budowitz / Mother Tongue](#), 1997
- [Budowitz / Wedding without a bride](#), 2000
- [Fialke / A grus fun der alter heyim](#), 2003
- [Adrienne Greenbaum / FleytMuzik](#), 2002
- [Joshua Horowitz & Joel Rubin / Bessarabian Symphony](#), 1993
- [Alicia Svigals / Fidl](#), 1997
- [Rough Guide to Klezmer](#), 2000
- [Doyres \(Generations\) Traditional Klezmer Recordings 1979 - 1994](#)
- [Klezmer Music : A Marriage of Heaven and Earth](#)

Master's Song," the album proceeds through several suites of sparkling music. Sometimes it sounds more like a Polish contradance than klezmer as we know it. Sometimes, the tunes feel so familiar—but they're newly klezmerized, as in the "Polka Szarpana."

Others are newer—new enough to have a named composer, as the sad, end-of-the-wedding-ish "Gedankn" by Majer Bogdanski.

As I said, not all of the material is non-Jewish. That's what happens when you mine the rural folk traditions of people who once mixed together (not always, but sometimes to make music). Some of the material comes from previously unknown Hasidic melodies. Some, like the "Kylver Kozak," in "Rich Guests" suite, is traditional. Horowitz's accordion dances with exuberance as Brotman's bass cello keeps the beat. Others, like Joel Rubin's "Dinover Doina," ("The Dirge" suite) were composed just yesterday.

The album title comes from a story by the popular Yiddish author IL Peretz. It is not my favorite story. On the surface, it is shmaltz and bathos. But it is also satire and recreation of rural Jewish life and Hasidic belief. Here, there is no shmaltz nor bathos, but Veretski Pass and Joel Rubin instead take these threads of urban and rural Polish life and folkways, Hasidic and Polish, and weave them into a piece that can be enjoyed simply as traditional Jewish music (if composed of many modern threads). On another level, it is a delightful kick in the balls to those who tried to eradicate this culture and who did succeed in murdering millions. We're still here. Still creating. And the music still kicks ass.

This is Eastern European klezmer. No brass. No drum kit. But just about the most exquisite violin, clarinet, accordion, tsimbl, or bass cello you'll ever heard. And music that swings and bows and glides along, from dance tunes to sad doinas to thoughtful hasidic *nigns*. It's not just music. It is life in its next

Stuart Brotman is also a member of [Brave Old World](#) and appears on the following albums reviewed on the Klezmershack:

- [Brave Old World / Klezmer Music](#), 1990
- [Brave Old World / Beyond the Pale](#), 1992
- [Brave Old World / Royle Pomarantsn \(Blood Oranges\)](#), 1997
- [Brave Old World / Bless the Fire](#), 2003
- [Brave Old World / Song of the Lodz Ghetto](#), 2005
- [Brave Old World, et al / Metropolis Shanghai: Showboat to China](#), 2005
- [Khevrisa / European Klezmer Music](#), 2000
- [Itzhak Perlman / In the Fiddler's](#)

*gilgul*, here, now. It suspect that it is also music that sounds familiar, deeply listenable, and danceable to fans of traditional Polish music as well. Get a few copies, share them, and see for yourself.

*Reviewed by Ari Davidow, 23 July 2016.*

### Personnel this recording:

**Cookie Segelstein:** violin

**Joel Rubin:** C clarinet

**Joshua Horowitz:** accordions, tsimbl

**Stu Brotman:** bass cello

### Songs

#### The Master

1. **The Master's Song** (comp. arr. Joshua Horowitz) 2:25
2. **Petrikever Promenade** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:45
3. **Raysher Krakowiak** (trad. arr. Cookie Segelstein) 2:00

#### The Street

4. **Belfer's Overture** (trad. arr. Cookie Segelstein, Stuart Brotman) 2:44
5. **Bottler's Gallop** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 3:10
6. **Polka Szarpana** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:45

#### The Dirge

7. **Dinover Doina** (comp. Joel Rubin) 2:07
8. **Dinover Nign** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass, Joel Rubin) 3:17
9. **Reb Chaiml's Freylekhs** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 2:01

#### The Rich Guests

10. **The Old Way** (comp. Joshua Horowitz) 2:05
11. **Kyiver Kozak** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 3:06
12. **Hutsul Kin** (trad. arr. Cookie Segelstein) 1:51

#### The Theater

13. **Gedankn** (comp. Majer Bogdanski, arr. Veretski Pass) 2:29
14. **Prince and Princess** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 2:53
15. **Dark House Oberek** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 2:07

[House,](#)  
1995

- [Itzhak Perlman / Live in the Fiddler's House,](#)  
1996
- [San Francisco Klezmer Experience / Zing!,](#)  
1998
- [Steven Greenman / Stempenyu's Neshome,](#)  
2010
- [Rough Guide to Klezmer,](#)  
2000
- [Klezmagic compilation,](#)  
1997
- [Doyres \(Generations\) Traditional Klezmer Recordings 1979 - 1994](#)
- [Klezmer Music : A Marriage of Heaven and Earth](#)

Web:

[www.veretskipass.com](http://www.veretskipass.com)

### [About Joel Rubin](#)

Rubin has recorded many albums, and written some excellent scholarly works. Albums reviewed on these

## The Organ Grinder

16. **The Rake's Chant** (comp. Cookie Segelstein, arr. Veretski Pass) 1:10
17. **Stefciu, The Tumbler** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:40
18. **Acrobat Polka** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:23

## The Beggar

19. **I Went Away** (Cookie Segelstein) 2:59
20. **Beggar's Hymn** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:58
21. **Ghost Light** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:54

## The Scholar

22. **The Blind Orphan** (trad. arr. Cookie Segelstein) 0:55
23. **Luminous Kujawiak** (trad. arr. Cookie Segelstein, Stuart Brotman) 1:23
24. **Katzner's Obereks** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 2:10

## The Rabbi

25. **Silver Bell** (comp. Joshua Horowitz) 1:33
26. **Warshaver Dance House** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 3:27
27. **The Lamden's Mazurkas** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 2:07

## The Disciples

28. **Gilgul** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:21
29. **Petrikever Recessional** (trad. arr. Cookie Segelstein, Joshua Horowitz) 2:11
30. **Feygele Beygele and Hager's March** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 2:16
31. **Katz's March** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:31
32. **Polka Szabasowka** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:28
33. **Petrikever Polka** (trad. arr. Veretski Pass) 1:28

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