

*"Art is a powerful tool to begin difficult conversations and break down barriers,"  
— Leora Riakin, Founder and Executive Director, David Labkovski Project*

## Through the Eyes of David Labkovski: Sholem Aleichem and His Heroes On Display in The Soraya's Art Gallery Sept. through Dec. 2025

- Lithuanian Israeli Jewish Artist David Labkovski (1906-91) illustrated the tales of Sholem Aleichem as a window into the world that existed prior to the Holocaust
- Exhibit opening will complement National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's ***Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish***, a Soraya Concert Production, Sat Sept. 13 at 8 p.m. and Sun Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- *Fiddler on the Roof* Tickets now on sale starting at \$59 at [TheSoraya.org](https://thesoraya.org).

(Los Angeles, CA) August 26, 2025 — A new art exhibition titled, **Through the Eyes of David Labkovski: Sholem Aleichem and His Heroes**, will be unveiled during **The Soraya's Season Opening Weekend** performances of ***Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish***, Sept. 13 and 14, 2025. The display, located in the performing art center's Loge Level Art Gallery creates a living bridge from the lessons of the Holocaust to the realities of today's world and will share a special selection of original works from the renowned **Lithuanian Israeli Jewish Artist David Labkovski** (1906-1991). Some of Labkovski's most notable works, beyond his paintings depicting Jewish Vilna (Vilnius, Lithuania), were illustrations inspired by author Sholem Aleichem, especially the stories about Tevye the milkman, Aleichem's character who eventually inspired *Fiddler on the Roof*.

National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's ***Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish*** will make its West Coast Premiere in a Soraya Concert production with three performances: Sat, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m., and Sun, Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

In 2018, New York-based National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene reclaimed ***Fiddler on the Roof***, the original Tony Award-winning "Best Musical" of 1964 as a piece of Jewish culture, translating the script and lyrics into Yiddish, with English supertitles. They engaged a top-notch Off-Broadway cast led by **Steven Skybell** as Tevye and directed by Oscar and Tony Award-winner **Joel Grey**. The

results were historic, praised as fresh, authentic, personal, and highly emotional. *The New York Times* critic Jesse Green exclaimed, “Even the jokes were making me cry.” Harold Prince, the legendary and original producer of *Fiddler on the Roof*’s first Broadway production said, “If you have seen *Fiddler* before, you must see this production because it will make you feel you are seeing *Fiddler* for the first time.”

**For story development and interview requests, please contact:**

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**About The David Labkovski Project and *Fiddler on the Roof* at The Soraya**

On exhibition in The Soraya’s art gallery, located on the Loge level, will be a special selection of original works from the renowned Jewish-Lithuanian painter David Labkovski (1906-1991), a Jewish artist whose paintings portray his life and the lives of other Holocaust survivors. His works depict “the world that was” as seen through his perspective; he paints colorful scenes of his life in Vilna (current-day Vilnius, Lithuania) before the war and the devastation he finds there upon his return from prison.

Founded in 2015 in Los Angeles, the [David Labkovski Project](#) (DLP) works to educate students and the general public about the Holocaust using the art of Holocaust survivor David Labkovski. David Labkovski grew up in the town of Vilna, Lithuania, was arrested and sentenced to [the Soviet Gulag](#) as an enemy of the State, survived brutal conditions using his art, returned to his destroyed hometown post-World War II, and immigrated to Israel in 1958. By engaging viewers with his paintings and sketches through various formats including virtual reality, DLP shares lessons of life, survival, tolerance, acceptance, and the importance of bearing witness to history.

The National Yiddish Theatre Folksbeine’s (NYTF) mission is to preserve and celebrate the vibrant Yiddish experience through the performing arts. They are the world's longest-consecutively producing Yiddish theatre company, whose work bridges divides, dramatizes the Jewish journey, educates future artists and audiences, and strengthens cultural identity. These guiding values uniquely align with The Soraya’s core mission to celebrate and raise up the San Fernando Valley’s rich and diverse community.

**About the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)**

The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for The Performing Arts (The Soraya) is an award-winning, state-of-the-art 1,700-seat theatre that opened in 2011 as the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC). Through a transformative gift by Younes and Soraya Nazarian, the venue was renamed The Soraya in 2017.

The Soraya is located on the campus of California State University Northridge, the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley. Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber, in his 12th year leading the organization, sums up what makes The Soraya a central piece of Los Angeles arts and culture. “At The Soraya, we hold a high standard of excellence for every performance from a vast array of artistic disciplines, and we hold steadfast to our commitment to the value and impact of the performing arts in community-building, for the Valley’s 1.8 million residents and beyond.”

The Soraya’s 2025-26 Season is a journey through the expansive sounds of orchestras, the freestyle vibes of jazz, the innovations of dance luminaries, and a vast array of global voices. The Soraya continues its vigorous commitment to excelling, innovating, and amplifying access for Valley residents, students, and arts lovers across Southern California.

**What:**           **Through the Eyes of David Labkovski: Sholem Aleichem and His Heroes**  
On Display in The Soraya’s Art Gallery  
Sept. 13 through Dec. 2025

**Where:**       The Soraya Art Gallery  
Loge Level  
Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya)  
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330

**Website:**    [www.TheSoraya.org](http://www.TheSoraya.org)

**Ticket Office:** 818-677-3000

**Soraya Press Contacts**

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