



NEWS RELEASE

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Marie Estrada | (818) 677-6691  
marie.estrada@csun.edu

Gary Murphy | (213) 700-9645  
gmurphypr@gmail.com

*"No other Fiddler moved me as much as this one."*

— New York Post

## **CAST JUST ANNOUNCED:**

**A Soraya Concert Production and West Coast Premiere of  
National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's**

### ***Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish**

**With English Supertitles**

- Tony nominee Steven Skybell reprises role of Tevye joined by original Off-Broadway principal cast and local ensemble
- A lively concert version of *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish with English supertitles and directed by Broadway legend Joel Grey
  - Music Director and Conductor, Zalmen Mlotek

***The Soraya's Opening Weekend — Three Performances Sept. 13-14.***

***Tickets \$59– \$137; On Sale Now at [TheSoraya.org](https://www.thesoraya.org).***

(Los Angeles, CA) Aug. 19, 2025 — Casting has been announced for The Soraya's concert production of **National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish** with English supertitles. The Soraya will open its 2025-26 Season with a lively concert production of this beloved musical, led by Tony Award nominee **Steven Skybell**. For this West Coast premiere, most of the original cast members will return, joined by a Los Angeles-based ensemble and orchestra.

*The New York Times'* Jesse Green exclaimed about the **National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's production**, "*Fiddler on the Roof* strikes a deep emotional chord" and "even the jokes were making me cry."

“In order to bring *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish to the West Coast, our foremost objective was to secure the original cast, not only for their highly acclaimed performances, but also because training a new cast to speak and sing Yiddish would have been a difficult undertaking,” said The Soraya’s Executive and Artistic Director Thor Steingraber. “Our task was difficult because many of the cast members have moved on to other projects. For example, Steven Skybell has been starring in *Cabaret* on Broadway for the last 18 months. Having all but one of the principal cast from New York come to Los Angeles will surely recreate the spirit of authenticity that made the original 2018 production such a hit.” In Los Angeles, the role of Leyzer Volf will be performed by new cast member Samuel Durhora.

For the sake of The Soraya’s concert format, the entire musical score from the original production will be performed in this concert version. Featuring some of LA’s finest instrumentalists and conducted by NYTF’s Artistic Director Zalmen Mlotek, who musically helmed the project since its American debut in New York City, the concert will also feature a cast of actors onstage who will fully embody their roles. The dialogue has been reduced to about half of the original, and along with all lyrics, will be translated via English supertitles projected onto a large projection of the original New York scenery spanning the full width of the stage. Performances are scheduled for Sat, Sept. 13 at 8 p.m., and Sun, Sept. 14 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

### **About *Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish**

The original 1964 *Fiddler on the Roof* garnered nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical. The beloved show, centered around Tevye — a funny and honest milkman navigating family and faith in the little Russian shtetl of Anatevka — and leaned on universal themes of old-world traditions, changing times and a household torn by young love.

In 2018, New York-based **National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene (NYTF)** reclaimed *Fiddler* 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 pandemic interrupted the 2020 touring plans, but now The Soraya partners with the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene to bring it to the West Coast for the first time in a lively concert production.

Skybell will star alongside most the original Off-Broadway principal cast, including Jennifer Babiak as Golde (*Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish*, 2018). The performers will be joined by a local ensemble and one new principal actors to perform in a version of *Fiddler* that Harold Prince, the legendary

and original producer of *Fiddler on the Roof*'s first Broadway production called a presentation that, "will make you feel you are seeing *Fiddler* for the first time."

**Joel Grey**, the Tony and Academy Award-winning American actor, singer, dancer, photographer, and theatre director best known for portraying the Master of Ceremonies in the musical *Cabaret* on Broadway and in the film, will also return to direct the project.

In a conversation with the Yiddish Book Center in [2024](#), Grey said when NYTF Artistic Director Zalmen Mlotek approached him for the 2018 production, he offered him the opportunity he'd dreamed of years before — the role of Tevye. As he felt that he was too mature for the role, he leapt at the opportunity and their offer to be the first to direct the Yiddish version of the material in the United States. "I love the material. So, I woke up in the morning and I said 'I'll do it! It was one of the joys of my life,'" Grey said. In [interviews](#) shortly after the 2018 Yiddish production with NYTF, Grey said the production works in Yiddish for all audiences because its stories are relatable, human, and current.

"The idea that...very close friends of mine who have come who are not Jewish and are weeping at the end and don't know why...I think it's that we're all part of a humanity and that everybody's stories are ours."

#### **About The Accompanying Soraya Art Gallery Exhibition:**

##### **Through the Eyes of David Labkovski: Sholem Aleichem and His Heroes**

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*. [To read more about the exhibit, available through Dec. 2025, click here.](#)

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

- The Soraya Communications Associate Marie Estrada ([marie.estrada@csun.edu](mailto:marie.estrada@csun.edu))
- PR Consultant Gary Murphy ([Garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com](mailto:Garymurphypr@garymurphypr.com)).
- [CLICK HERE](#) to access your press kit for photos and press releases.

### **Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish Cast Members**

- **Tevye** | Steven Skybell
- **Golde** | Jennifer Babiak
- **Tsaytl** | Rachel Zatcoff
- **Hodl** | Yael Eden Chanukov
- **Khava** | Rosie Jo Neddy
- **Motl** | Kirk Geritano
- **Pertshik** | Drew Seigla
- **Fyedka/Ensemble** | Griffith Frank
- **Leyzer Volf** | Samuel Druhora
- **Yente/Bobe Tsaytl** | Lisa Fishman
- **Constable/Ensemble** | Bobby Underwood
- **Shprintse/Ensemble** | Carly Post
- **Rabbi/Ensemble** | Glenn Rosenblum
- **Fruma-Sara/Beylke** | Jodi Snyder
- **Mendl/Ensemble** | James Monroe Števkó
- **Nokhem/Mordkhe/Ensemble** | Mikhl Yashinsky
- **Avrom/Ensemble** | John Reed
- **Fiddler** | Lauren Jeanne Thomas

### **Fiddler on the Roof in Yiddish Ensemble**

Michelle Azar, Jessica Fishenfeld, Michael P. McDonald, Rachel Oremland, Rachel Policar, Bryan Vickery, Brooke Wetterhahn

### **About National Yiddish Theatre Folksbeine**

The National Yiddish Theatre Folksbeine's 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. At The Soraya, we share a common vision of the Valley where a thriving performing arts center forges a future for the region and uplifts its peoples.

### **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:**           **National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene’s**  
                      ***Fiddler on the Roof* in Yiddish**  
                      A Soraya Concert Production and West Coast Premiere  
                      with English Supertitles  
                      Directed by Joel Grey

**When:**         Sat Sep 13 | 8PM  
                      Sun Sep 14 | 3PM  
                      Sun Sep 14 | 7PM

**Where:**        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**

**Marie Estrada, The Soraya**

**Marketing & Communications Specialist**

P: 818-677-6691 | E: [marie.estrada@csun.edu](mailto:marie.estrada@csun.edu)

**Gary W. Murphy, Consultant**

P: 213-700-9645 | E: [gmurphypr@gmail.com](mailto:gmurphypr@gmail.com)

# # #