

"Listening to Pardes...it's easy to feel like you've been transported to a musically intoxicating garden of eden" The Whole Note, May 29, 2018

"Exuberant jazz arrangements of Jewish songs" Canadian Jewish News, March 2, 2017

ABOUT THE PROJECT

For years, Hoffman and Lemish have been collecting Jewish melodies from different parts of the world including Kurdish, Yemenite, Moroccan, Ladino, Russian and Israeli songs. The quartet's lyrical and vibrant reimaginations of beloved Jewish melodies have been captivating audiences all across North America and their new album has been garnering rave reviews. In their two years of performances of the *Pardes* repertoire Hoffman and Lemish have played an array of festivals and venues in both the US and Canada including: Toronto Jazz Festival, numerous clubs in NYC, Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa, San Francisco, Buffalo, Jewish Community Centres in Rochester, Portland, Columbia (SC) as well as to sold out audiences at UC Berkeley and San Diego State University.

Hoffman and Lemish, both of whom have roots in Israel but have spent much of their adult life in North America, began collaborating in January 2016. Lemish is deeply rooted in jazz and classical music and Hoffman is equally well-versed in jazz, Arab classical music, and North African vernaculars. Together they create a refreshing and compelling sound, filled with vibrant sonorities, unique instrument combinations and compelling arrangements.

If you'd like to check out the music, you can [listen to it on SoundCloud](#)

If you'd like to check out some video, you can [check it out here](#).

Their work together started when Lemish, who grew up admiring Hoffman's pioneering blend of jazz & middle-eastern influences invited Hoffman for a series of performances in Canada. The two musicians clicked on their initial tour and decided to launch the *Pardes* project. The pairing of their unique talents and backgrounds brings about this truly exciting project.

The meaning of the word *Pardes* in Hebrew is "orchard" or "fruit garden". The word also carries with it many layers of meaning in Jewish philosophy. *Pardes* is etymologically rooted in Farsi and is the origin of the word "paradise". The songs presented in this project are both geographically diverse in origin and cover a wide-range of emotional terrain and sonic landscapes. The renditions are simultaneously faithful to the songs' origins and rooted in the African-American and Afro-Caribbean musical traditions. The result is a joyous, uplifting celebration, texturally rich music, filled with groove, lyrical melodies and outstanding solos. In *Pardes*, Hoffman and Lemish breathe new life into gorgeous melodies that had been forgotten and create music that is appealing both to listeners completely unfamiliar with the melodies in their original context and to those who recognize these songs.

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Amos Hoffman & Noam Lemish Quartet

hoffmanlemish.com