**Music (jazz)**

Today you are invited to listen to two pieces by Jewish American composers, performed by Israeli-American violinist Itzhak Perlman and Canadian pianist Oscar Peterson

**Listen:** Irving Berlin’s “[Blue Skies”](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=itzhak+perlman+oscar+peterson&&view=detail&mid=CBC91578765EA646868FCBC91578765EA646868F&&FORM=VDRVSR) (lyrics below)

**Listen:** Harold Arlen’s [“Stormy Weather”](https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=itzhak+perlman+and+oscar+peterson+stormy&docid=608048226848411601&mid=F2F4202FA76A0DE67F74F2F4202FA76A0DE67F74&view=detail&FORM=VIRE) (lyrics below)

**Questions to Ponder:** Both of these songs, one of sadness, one of happiness, are classics in the American songbook tradition. Both are played by virtuoso musicians. How does the heart-opening experience of secular music intersect in your life with the heart-opening experience of Jewish liturgical music?

**Deepen the Experience:**

***Do you like to write?*** Write or tell your musical autobiography. When you tell yourself the story of your life in music, what kind of music comprises your earliest memories? When you seek out jazz or other particular forms of music, what experience are you seeking? What is the unique role of Jewish liturgical music in your life? How do the contributions of Jewish musicians to the American songbook tradition and to jazz traditions affect your experience or understanding of Jewish life in America?

***Do you like to go outdoors? For Singles or Families and Households of All Ages:*** What’s the weather like today outside? Blue skies or stormy weather? Go outside and look at the sky. Can you see shapes in the clouds? How strong is the breeze today? If you look at the sky for a long time, what do you begin to think about? What would you say if you wrote a postcard from today’s sky? To whom would you send it? What parts of the Holidays lead you to contemplate the limits of our vision upwards, the extent of our breathable home on earth?

About Itzhak Perlman <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/26/arts/music/itzhak-perlman-violin.html?ocid=uxbndlbing>

About Oscar Peterson: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Oscar-Peterson>

About Irving Berlin: <https://www.irvingberlin.com/>

About Harold Arlen: <https://jewishcurrents.org/harold-arlen/>

Lyrics:

Blue Skies:

"Blue skies smilin' at me
Nothin' but blue skies do I see
Bluebirds singin' a song
Nothin' but bluebirds all day long
Never saw the sun shinin' so bright
Never saw things goin' so right
Noticing the days hurrying by
When you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days, all of them gone
Nothin' but blue skies from now on
Blue skies smilin' at me
Nothin' but blue skies do I see

Never saw the sun shinin' so bright
Never saw things goin' so right
Noticing the days hurrying by
When you're in love, my how they fly

Blue days, all of them gone
Nothin' but blue skies from now on"

Stormy Weather

Don't know why
There's no sun up in the sky
Stormy weather
Since my gal and I ain't together
Keeps raining all the time
Life is bare
Gloom and misery everywhere
Stormy weather
Just can't get my poor old self together
I'm weary all the time
Every time
So weary all of the time
When she went away
The blues walked in and then they met me
If she stays away
That old rocking chair's bound to get me
All I do is pray
The lord above will let me
Just walk in that sun again
Can't go on
Everything I had is gone
Stormy Weather
Since my gal and I ain't together
Keeps raining all the time
Keeps raining all of the time