**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