

# GEOFF BERNER – WEDDING DANCE OF THE WIDOW BRIDE



With *Wedding Dance of the Widow Bride*, **Geoff Berner** continues with his mission to “Drag klezmer music into the bars kicking and screaming”.

This is the next chapter in a project that began with the 2005 release of Geoff’s internationally acclaimed second album *Whiskey Rabbi*. ...*Widow Bride* is all at once dirtier, prettier, more deeply rooted in klezmer scholarship, and more transgressive. The lyrics are sometimes humorous, sometimes frighteningly dark, and often both at the same time.

“Because klezmer is largely wedding music, I decided to write a wedding album. But it’s my wedding album, so it’s a bit fucked up.” observes Berner. “It’s not a ‘concept’ album, but all the songs are linked to a general theme. The theme is this idea of wondering how much of our happiness is built on the misfortune of others.”

The album features 9 original klezmer punk songs, and a blistering, discordant cover of Leonard Cohen’s *Queen Victoria*. Several of the originals are based on song concepts that appear in the Jewish wedding ritual, such as *Weep, Bride, Weep*—a re-imagining of the traditional *Song to Make the Bride Weep*, and *The Fiddler Is A Very Good Woman*, based on the folk tune *The Fiddler Is A Very Good Man*. But with their explicit sexual and political lyrical content, it’s unlikely that these new songs will ever be mistaken for their source material.

The trio of Berner, violinist **Diona Davies** and percussionist **Wayne Adams** returned to the Factory studio in Vancouver, with Adams also running the board, recording live off the floor to create a raw, emotionally powerful, acoustic sound that emphasizes a mix of “joyfulness and despair” of traditional Jewish music, combined with a raging energy.

The last 2 years have been a whirlwind for Berner. After launching *Whiskey Rabbi* on unsuspecting ears everywhere Geoff has played in 17 different countries, playing live on national radio in 8 of those countries and has played over 30 shows for Kaizers Orchestra, one of the most popular bands from Scandinavia. Geoff was featured on their live DVD, *Viva La Vega*, in a performance of *Lucky Goddamn Jew* which has sold over 100,000 copies. He has played with Billy Bragg 7 times, hooking up with Sincere Management along the way and releasing his album in Scandinavia by Norway’s Checkpoint Charlie (Thomas Dybdahl) becoming the only non-Norwegian on the label.

What does 2007 hold for Geoff Berner and his Gogol Bordello meets Leonard Cohen musings? Lord only knows but rest assured it will be quite a ride. A marriage between Fiddler on the Roof meets the Fall. A “Wedding Dance of the Widow Bride.”

1. Good Luck Now 2:08
2. Weep, Bride, Weep 5:53
3. Widow Bride 5:53
4. Queen Victoria 3:13
5. The Fiddler Is A Good Woman 4:21
6. Traitor Bride 3:20
7. Can’t Stay Dry 2:34
8. Song to Reconcile 3:18
9. Would It Kill You? 3:04
10. Instrumental Weep Bride Weep 4:32

## Upcoming Tour Dates:

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Feb. 2  | Vancouver, BC - ANZA Club, with Carraig de Forest and Kris Demeanor |
| Feb. 3  | Victoria, BC - Logan’s, with Kris Demeanor                          |
| Feb. 4  | Cumberland, BC - Venue TBA. with Kris Demeanor                      |
| Feb. 8  | Lethbridge, AB - The Tongue n Groove, with Kris Demeanor            |
| Feb. 9  | Calgary, AB - The Ironwood, with Matt Allen                         |
| Feb. 10 | Edmonton, AB - The Power Plant, with AA Soundsystem                 |
| Feb. 14 | Brampton, ON - Brampton Indie Arts Festival                         |
| Feb. 15 | Guelph, ON - The Ebar, with Bob Wiseman                             |
| Feb. 16 | St. Catharines, ON - Niagara Artists Centre, with Bob Wiseman       |
| Feb. 17 | Toronto, ON - Tranzac Club, with Bob Wiseman                        |
| Feb. 18 | Waterloo, ON - The Jane Bond, with Bob Wiseman                      |
| Feb. 19 | Peterborough, ON - Sadlier House, with Bob Wiseman                  |
| Feb. 20 | Hamilton, ON - The Casbah, with Bob Wiseman                         |
| Feb. 22 | Montreal, PQ - Sala Rosa, with Bob Wiseman                          |
| Feb. 23 | Wakefield, PQ - The Black Sheep, with Bob Wiseman                   |
| Feb. 24 | Kingston, ON - The Grad Club, with Bob Wiseman                      |
| Feb. 25 | Oshawa, ON - The Velvet Elvis, with Bob Wiseman                     |



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