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### **Polish-Jewish History, Culture, and Music Explored at Two Public Programs in March**

NEW BRUNSWICK/PISCATAWAY, N.J. – A groundbreaking new look at the history of the Hasidic movement as well as a concert featuring little-known musical works of Polish Jews will be presented on March 4 and 5 at Rutgers. Both events are free and open to the public, and are presented in cooperation with the 5th Annual Polish Jewish Studies Workshop organized by the Center for European Studies at Rutgers.

On Sunday, March 4, professors Uriel Gellman (Bar-Ilan University) and Marcin Wodziński (University of Wrocław) will discuss the new book, *Hasidism: A New History*, which offers the first comprehensive history of the movement that dramatically transformed modern Judaism. The book offers a unique blend of intellectual, religious, and social history, and demonstrates that Hasidism is a product of modernity that forged its identity as a radical alternative to the secular world. Professors Gellman and Wodziński are contributors to the volume, published in 2017 by Princeton University Press.

The program, “Hasidism: A New History,” will be held at 7:00 p.m., at the Douglass Student Center, 100 George Street, New Brunswick. The talk is sponsored by the Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life, and supported by the Henry Schwartzman Endowed Fund. Free parking is available behind the Student Center. (For GPS search, use “57 Lipman Drive.”) Advance registration is requested - email [rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu](mailto:rsvpBildner@sas.rutgers.edu), call 848-932-2033, or online on the Bildner Center website [BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu](http://BildnerCenter.Rutgers.edu).

On Monday, March 5, at 7:30 p.m., Rutgers’ Mason Gross School of the Arts will present a concert, “Soundscapes of Modernity—Jews and Music in Polish Cities.” The concert will include choral pieces from nineteenth-century progressive (“Reform”) congregations, compositions associated with Jewish music societies, and avant-garde works by Jewish composers. The program features the Rutgers Kirkpatrick Choir and graduate performance students and will be held at Kirkpatrick Chapel, 81 Somerset Street, New Brunswick.



The Allen and Joan Bildner Center for the Study of Jewish Life connects the university with the community through public lectures, symposia, Jewish communal initiatives, cultural events, and teacher training.

Founded in 2013, the Polish Jewish Studies Initiative (PJSI) is an international, interdisciplinary forum for scholars involved in research and teaching at the intersection of Polish and Jewish studies. This year's Polish Jewish Studies Workshop will be held March 5 through 6 at the Rutgers New Brunswick campus.