

Making Music for Life

The Sterling-Strba Duo

Best Little Klezmer Band in Texas
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MARCIA STERLING, Band Leader, Violinist, Vocalist was born into an eastern European Jewish musical family from New York's Lower East Side. She began her musical training on violin at age five and was concertizing by age ten. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Music from the Conservatory of Music at University of Missouri-Kansas City and a Masters in ethnomusicology from Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University. In 1977 Miss Sterling moved to Israel as a member of the Galilee Symphony Orchestra. In 1982 she returned to Chicago as violinist with the Frank Sinatra Orchestra, and as headliner and recording artist with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band appearing regularly at The Cafe Continental. In 1993 she and her husband, Dan Strba moved to Houston and started The Best Little Klezmer Band in Texas. The Band's albums *Schleppin West* and *Meshugena Mambo* have received critical acclaim. Miss Sterling's passion for Yiddish culture was the driving force behind the creation of B.L.K, Inc. which is dedicated to the preservation and regeneration of Yiddish culture through live performance. In addition to her work with the Band, Ms. Sterling serves as cantorial soloist for The L'Chayim Center of Houston, and teaches K-2 music at Congregation Beth Yeshurun. She also teaches private violin lessons at The Symphony Music Academy.

DAN STRBA, Violist/Pianist/Vocalist/Arranger began his career at age seventeen as a member of the United States Army Chamber Orchestra and Strolling Strings performing for official state functions at The White House. Upon his return to Chicago in 1979, Mr. Strba was a regular with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In 1992 he accepted a full-time position with the Houston Symphony. His illustrious free-lance career includes six years with The Frank Sinatra Orchestra, and as accompanist to Sammy Davis, Jr., Burt Bacharach, Julie Andrews, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Peggy Lee, Steve Lawrence and Edie Gormet, George Benson and The Moody Blues to name a few. His accomplished chamber music career has included membership in such prestigious groups as The Chicago Ensemble, The Governor's State University String Quartet, and Houston's own Greenbriar Consortium, and The Foundation for Modern Music. Mr. Strba holds a Bachelor of Music degree from DePaul University and a Master of Music degree from The Cleveland Institute of Music.