List of Jewish American Musicians



This page is a list of Jews.

For more on who is considered Jewish, see Who is a Jew?.

This is a list of famous <u>Jewish American</u> musicians. A list is also available of <u>Jewish American Composers</u>. For other famous Jewish Americans, see <u>List of Jewish Americans</u>.

Solo musicians

- Paula Abdul^[1]
- Herb Alpert^[2]
- Alex Band^[3]
- Beck^[4]
- Dan Bern^[5]
- Theodore Bikel^[6]
- Hal Blaine^[7]
- Michael Bolton^[8]
- Karla Bonoff^[9]
- David Bromberg^[10]
- Randy California Guitarist for the band Spirit
- Eddie Cantor^[11]
- Shlomo Carlebach^[12]
- Vanessa Carlton (1980) pop singer, songwriter, and pianist (2002)^[13]
- Eric Carmen^[14]
- Aaron Carter (1987) pop-rap singer/teen idol, brother of Nick Carter [15]
- Marc Cohn^[16]
- Sammy Davis, Jr. [17] (convert to Judaism)
- Taylor Dayne^[18]
- Neil Diamond [19]
- King Django^[20]
- Alix Dobkin^[21]
- Adam Duritz^[22]
- Bob Dylan^[23]
- Anthony Fedorov^[24]
- Eddie Fisher^[25]
- Debbie Friedman^[26]
- Kinky Friedman^[27]
- Kenny G^[28]
- Art Garfunkel^[29]
- Steve Goodman, folksinger
- <u>Mikalah Gordon</u> (1988) singer finalist on 4th season of *American Idol* [30]
- Lesley Gore^[31]
- Adam Goren (1975) sole member of punk band *Atom and His Package* [32]
- Sydie Gorme
- Adam Green (1981) singer-songwriter, originally with the group The Moldy Peaches, began solo career in 2002^[33]

- <u>Josh Groban</u> (1981) singer, known for his mature and lyrical baritone voice^[34]
- Stefan Grossman, guitarist, educator
- Arlo Guthrie, folk singer (Jewish mother)
- Janis Ian, singer/songwriter
- Dan Israel, singer/songwriter
- Billy Joel, singer/songwriter
- · Lucy Kaplansky, folk singer
- Carole King, singer/songwriter
- Lenny Kravitz, rock musician (Jewish father)
- Ben Kweller, singer/songwriter
- Tony Levin, bass player
- Lisa Loeb, singer/songwriter
- <u>Matisyahu</u>, singer/songwriter
- Barry Manilow, singer/songwriter
- <u>Bette Midler</u>, singer, actress
- Mirah, singer/songwriter
- <u>Juice Newton</u>, singer-songwriter whose songs have been hits on pop and country charts in the 1980's, born Judith Kaye Cohen
- Sara Paxton (1988) actress/pop singer [35]
- Glen Phillips, singer/songwriter
- · Phranc, folk singer
- Pink, singer (Jewish maternal grandparent; mother raised Jewish)
- Lou Reed, singer/songwriter
- Neil Sedaka, singer/songwriter
- Dinah Shore, singer, actress
- Shyne, rapper (Jewish grandmother, raised Jewish) (converted)
- Beverly Sills, opera singer
- Carly Simon, singer/songwriter (Jewish father)
- Paul Simon, singer/songwriter
- Regina Spektor, singer/songwriter
- Scott Storch, Hip Hop producer
- Barbra Streisand, singer, actress, director
- Tiny Tim, singer (Jewish mother)
- Sophie Tucker, singer, entertainer
- Elliott Yamin, singer
- Warren Zevon, singer/songwriter

References

Footnotes

- 1. ^ [1] American Idol contestant Elliott Yamin on Abdul: "She's got a big heart, like I do and I guess that's why she can identify with me. We're both Jewish, too. You know, us Jews, we have a bond at birth. Maybe that has something to do with it."
- 2. ^ [2] "How a good-looking Jewish boy from Brooklyn discovered the secret of success in an updated form of mariachi music is perhaps beyond our scope."
- 3. ^[3] "Alex: There are a lot of religious elements. Not that we're a Christian rock band. We're both pretty much Jewish."
- 4. ^ [4] "VAGINAL: Were Beck and Channing raised Jewish? BIBBE: Yeah, a bit. SEAN: When Jewish girls find out Beck is Jewish they'll just go crazy, cuz now they can bring him home to meet the folks."
- 5. ^ [5] "Dan, reared in Iowa, a first-generation American and a Jew from the heartland..."
- 6. ^ [6] "Theodore Bikel: I am what you might call a secular, cultural Jew..."
- 7. _____ "HB: No, I was the only Jewish kid in an all-Catholic drum and bugle corps, which was kind of a funny thing."
- 8. ^[8]
- 9. \(\bar{9}\) "Jewish singer-songwriter Karla Bonoff was one of the best of that breed."
- 10. ^ [10] "Bromberg plays up the irony of a nasal-voiced, skinny, white Jewish kid playing the blues."
- 11. ^ [11]
- 12. ^ [12]
- 13. ^ [13] "Carlton, who is Jewish..."
- 14. ^ [14] "Carmen, who is Jewish, sold more than 50 million records."
- 15. ^ [15] "Aaron's dad, Bob, is fully Jewish -- Aaron is half Jewish."
- 16. ^ [16] "Although Mark Cohn is actually Jewish..."
- 17. ^ [17] [18] "This deep reflection led Davis to convert to Judaism, a calling he embraced throughout his life--and characteristically worked in as fodder for his act, joking that he was entertainment's only one-eyed Jewish black man."
- 18. ^ [19] "Taylor Dayne Jewish girl Leslie Wonderman changed her first name to "Taylor" and her last name to "Dayne" to become one of the pop divas of the eighties."
- 19. ^ [20] "Known as the Jewish Elvis, Neil Diamond is responsible for some of the catchiest not-quite-rock songs of the twentieth century"
- 20. ^ [21] "He's a nice Jewish boy from Brooklyn who now makes the Lower East Side his home."
- 21. ^ [22] "claimed her own identity, as a Jewish Lesbian..."
- 22. 7 [23] "In March 2003, the Counting Crows' Jewish lead singer Adam Duritz was..."
- 23. ^ [24] "Bob Dylan--a Jewish loner from Hibbing, Minnesota..."
- 24. ^ [25] "Anthony Federov: I'm like half Christian, half Jewish. I'm like a mix."
- 25. ^ [26] "Eddie Fisher once known as the Jewish Sinatra"
- 26. ^ [27] "Debbie Friedman Is The Queen Of Jewish Music"
- 27. ^ [28] "Kinky Friedman—a Jewish cowboy from Texas"

- 28. ^ [29]
- 29. ^ [30]
- 30. ^ [31] "I'm also half Jewish so that helps!"
- 31. ^ [32] "By the time she finished that first song and asked whether it was wrong for a nice Jewish girl to do a show on Easter Sunday, the resounding answer had to be "NO!""
- 32. ^ [33] "Goren, age 26, is nothing if not a nice Jewish boy"
- 33. $\wedge \frac{a}{b}$ [34] "Green is Jewish"
- 34. ^ [35] "Notable Jewish Pisces: Josh Groban" [36] "Tell me, is your father..
 I'm guessing Jewish? J: (laughs) My Dad converted when he married my
 Mom, actually, to Christianity, but his whole families side is Jewish, and, uh,
 and so, I do have that whole history with my family."
- 35. ^ [37] "we are Jewish... I can't wait for Christmas and Hannuka... we celebrate both."
- 36. <u>^ [38]</u> "Not surprisingly for a bunch of Hollywood kids, lead singer Alex Greenwald, former drummer Jason Schwartzman, and guitarist Jacques Brauthbar are also all Jews"
- 37. ^ [39] "Jewish Mozart?... The son of a language professor and an Israeli-born painter...

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Jewish MUSICIANS

Classical

- Larry Adler, harmonica player
- Leopold Auer, violinist & conductor
- Emanuel Ax, pianist
- Joshua Bell, violinist (Jewish mother)
- Leonard Bernstein, conductor
- Leon Botstein, conductor, academic
- Yefim Bronfman, pianist
- Shura Cherkassky, pianist
- Harriet Cohen, pianist
- Sergiu Comissiona, conductor
- Bella Davidovich, pianist
- Walter Johannes Damrosch, conductor
- Misha Dichter, pianist
- Glenn Dicterow, violinist [41]
- Antal Dorati, conductor
- Huguette Dreyfus, harpsichordist
- · Mischa Elman, violinist
- Arthur Fiedler, conductor
- Leon Fleisher, pianist
- Ignaz Friedman, pianist
- George Gershwin, pianist
- Alexander Goldenweiser, pianist
- · Richard Goode, pianist
- Gary Graffman, pianist
- <u>Jay Greenberg</u> (1991) child prodigy composer who entered the <u>Juilliard School</u> in 2002 and has composed numerous works^[37]
- Manfred Gurlitt, conductor
- Matt Haimovitz, cellist
- Clara Haskil, pianist
- Jascha Heifetz, violinist
- David Helfgott, pianist
- Alfred Hertz, conductor
- Myra Hess, pianist
- Ferdinand Hiller, pianist
- Vladimir Horowitz, pianist
- Mieczyslaw Horszowski, pianist
- Eugene Istomin, pianist (Jewish mother)
- Byron Janis, pianist
- Otto Klemperer, conductor
- Serge Koussevitzky, conductor
- Fritz Kreisler, violinist (Jewish father)
- Wanda Landowska, harpsichordist
- Erich Leinsdorf, conductor
- Oscar Levant, pianist
- Hermann Levi, conductor
- James Levine, conductor

- Rosina Lhévinne, pianist
- George London, baritone
- Jerome Lowenthal, pianist
- Radu Lupu, pianist
- William Kapell, pianist
- Lorin Maazel, conductor
- Charles Mackerras, conductor
- · Yehudi Menuhin, Lord Menuhin of Stoke d'Abernon; violinist and educator
- Robert Merrill, baritone
- Nathan Milstein, violinist
- · Shlomo Mintz, cellist
- Benno Moiseiwitsch, pianist
- Pierre Monteux, conductor
- Ignaz Moscheles, pianist
- Eugene Ormandy, conductor
- Vladimir de Pachmann, pianist
- Jan Peerce, tenor
- Murray Perahia, pianist
- Itzhak Perlman, violinist
- Vlado Perlemuter, pianist
- Roberta Peters, soprano
- Gregor Piatigorsky, cellist
- André Previn, conductor
- Fritz Reiner, conductor
- Leonard Rose, cellist
- Joseph Rosenstock, conductor
- Moriz Rosenthal, pianist
- Mstislav Rostropovich, cellist
- Arthur Rubinstein, pianist
- Andras Schiff, pianist
- Artur Schnabel, pianist
- Gerard Schwarz, Conductor
- Peter Serkin, pianist (Jewish father)
- Rudolf Serkin, pianist
- Beverly Sills, soprano
- Leo Sirota, pianist
- Leonard Slatkin, conductor
- Alexander Smallens, conductor
- Solomon Cutner, pianist
- János Starker, cellist
- Isaac Stern, violinist
- Richard Stoltzman, clarinetist
- Fritz Stiedry, conductor
- George Szell, conductor
- Carl Tausig, pianist
- Sigismund Thalberg, pianist
- Michael Tilson Thomas, conductor
- Richard Tucker, tenor
- Rosalyn Tureck, harpsichordist
- Bertram Turetzky, contrabassist

- Maxim Vengerov, violinist
- Bruno Walter, conductor
- Felix Weingartner, conductor
- Paul Wittgenstein, pianist
- Yehudi Wyner, pianist & conductor Efrem Zimbalist, violinist
- David Zinman, conductor
- Pinchas Zuckerman, violinist