

# Ensemble Nuria

## Reviving early Italian Jewish music

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Ensemble Nuria is an international ensemble based in Jerusalem, specializing in early Italian-Jewish music. Founded by Ayela Seidelman, the group focuses on the symbiosis of early Jewish music with neighboring cultures, promoting respect and tolerance among diverse backgrounds, faiths, and cultures.

Known for their dynamic interpretations and adventurous programming, the ensemble brings together virtuosic musicians with a shared passion for pushing artistic boundaries. Whether performing new compositions or reimagining historical works, Ensemble Nuria captivates audiences with its expressive depth and technical brilliance.



# Meet Our Team

Artistic Director, Research and Cello – **Ayela Seidelman**

Original Arrangements, Theorbo, lute, baroque guitar – **Bari Moscovitz**

## Traditional Singers

**David Lavi, Yair Harel, Father Alberto Pari** (Italy), **Keren Kedem**

## Instrumentalists

**Richard Paley** (Baroque bassoon) **Mati Bobek** (clarinet)

**Adi Silberberg** (recorders, viola da gamba) **Refael Negri** (Italy– Baroque violin)

**Daniel Hoffman** (Jewish violin) **Abe Doron** (Percussion)

## Ensemble Nuria team

Audio engineering – **Yuval Amit**

Production : **Itamar Ben Moshe**



# About Jewish Italian Music

Italian-Jewish music has deep historical roots, tracing back to the exiles brought to Rome from Israel after the destruction of Jerusalem in 70 CE. The oldest communities, the Italyani and Bnei Romy, preserved ancient prayer rites believed to originate from pre-exilic Israel.

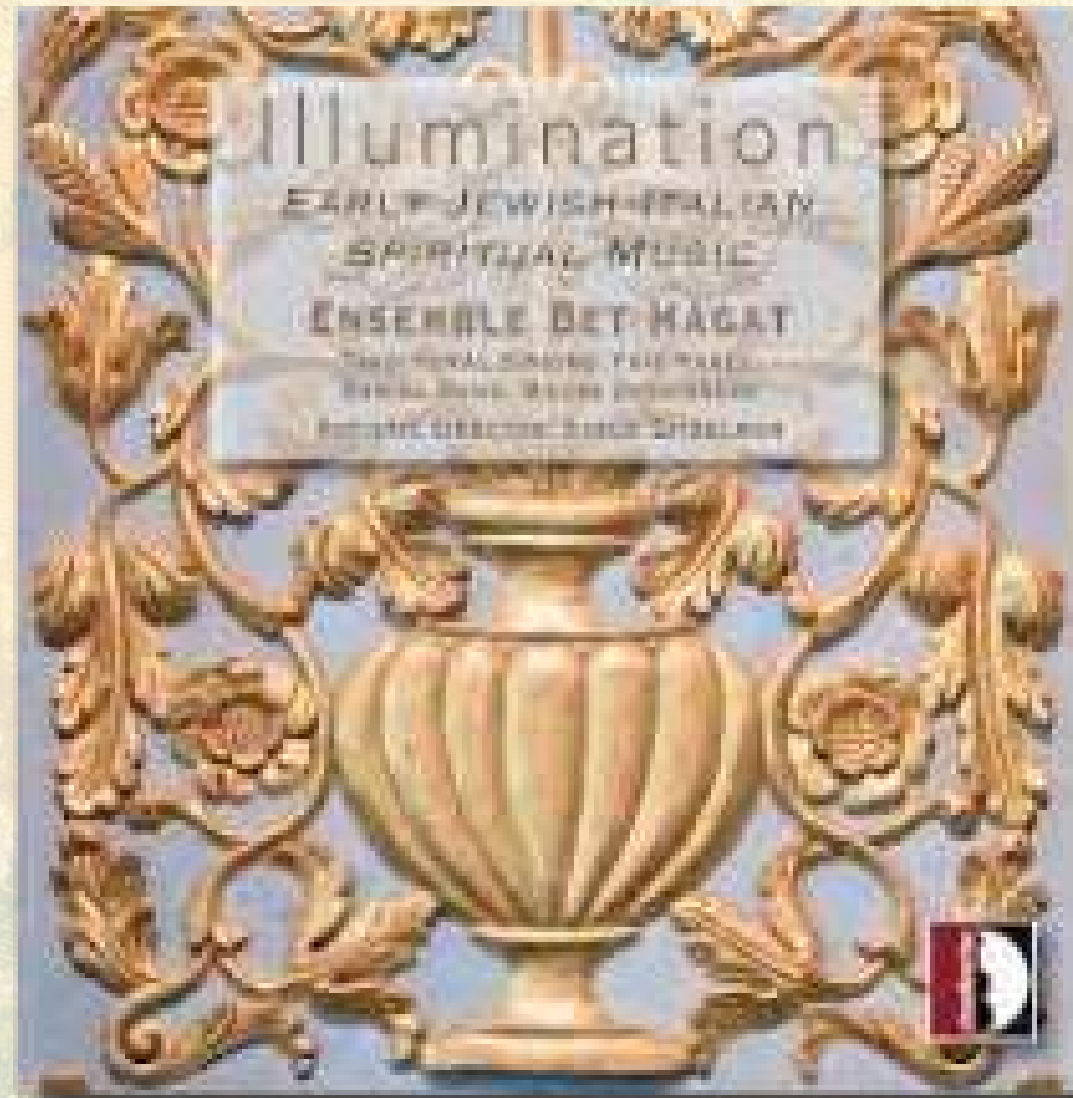
Over time, Italian Jewry expanded with Sephardic exiles from Spain and Portugal, Ashkenazi migrants from Germany, and the APAM community from France, each contributing to Italy's diverse Jewish musical heritage. Synagogue music in Italy evolved through interaction with the surrounding Renaissance and Baroque cultures, blending Jewish traditions with contemporary Italian styles. Ethnomusicologist Leo Levi played a crucial role in preserving these traditions by recording Italian-Jewish synagogue melodies after WWII, preventing them from vanishing completely.

## Musical Sources we explore

- Recorded archival source material used in transcriptions:
- Leo Levi collection and Jewish Music Research Center (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) collections via: 'An Invitation to Piyut' website of the Jewish National Library
- 'Italian Jewish Musical Traditions' from the Leo Levi Collection (CD; Edited by Francesco Spagnolo) Rome/Jerusalem (Jewish Music Research Center-2001)
- National Sound Archive, Israel National Library
- The Online Thesaurus of Italian-Jewish Liturgical Music



# Discography



## ILLUMINATION

Early Jewish-Italian Spiritual Music – This album Features traditional Italian-Jewish liturgical music, bringing to light nearly lost musical heritage.  
(STRADIVARIUS)



## ILLUMINATION II

Italian-Jewish Music of Solace and Hope – A profound musical journey celebrating the resilience and spirit of the Italian-Jewish community, intertwining historical and contemporary compositions reflecting themes of solace, hope, and cultural preservation.  
(STRADIVARIUS)



# Media Coverage & Reviews

***"The quality of the music and the performances, both are exemplary. The repertoire, instruments, languages, and singing styles bring together what happened in the Jewish ghettos and beyond."***

American Record Guide

***"The performances are beautifully idiomatic and sensitive... engaging and enjoyable."***

Early Music Review

***"(A) fascinating disc... The sound of Ensemble Nuria is rich and sonorous, with a depth that brings emotion to the fore... Well worth having."*** – Fanfare Magazine

***"Ensemble Nuria is dedicated to reviving nearly lost Italian-Jewish musical traditions with a masterful touch."*** – Pamela Hickman's Blog

***"Con il sottotitolo 'Italian-Jewish Music of Solace and Hope', si tratta appunto di un lungo viaggio di 'conforto e speranza' che si declina in diversi percorsi ideali carichi di forti significati simbolici."*** –

Avvenire



# Contact Us



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