



World beat fusion with Jewish roots music on the cutting edge.

A versatile musician with an innate gift for telling a story, RebbeSoul brings a new voice to the sometimes-stagnant realm of Jewish music. He blends rock sensibilities, world-fusion stylings and traditional Hebrew melodies to create a sound that is ageless yet completely progressive. His evolution as an artist, just like his journey to the heart of Judaism, has been unorthodox .

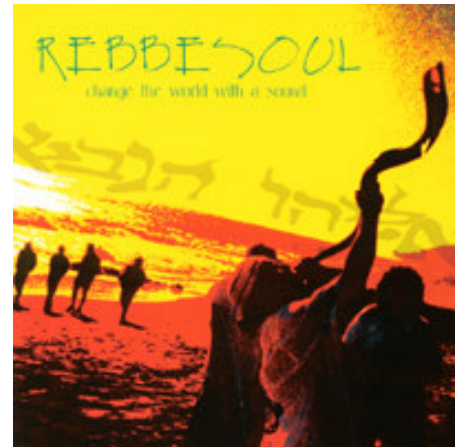
RebbeSoul's influences were old-school rockers Jimi Hendrix and Led Zeppelin. From the time he began to play guitar at 13, he had an innate ability to hear, understand and reproduce any style of music.

Producers appreciated his ear and his versatility, and though he kept busy with sessions and rock/jazz collaborations, he never really took the time to discover his own musical voice - until he heard the traditional Hebrew prayer "Avinu Malkenu" at a temple one day.

Inspired by its haunting beauty, produced an acoustic instrumental version in his living room. People loved it. RebbeSoul felt a connection to it that went far deeper than anything he'd experienced previously.

Several months later, the acoustic rendition of "Avinu Malkenu" garnered the highest-ever amount of listener call-ins when played on maverick San Francisco radio station KKSF. Propelled by the success of "Avinu Malkenu", RebbeSoul's first full-length, self-titled release became an instant hit with Jewish and non-Jewish listeners alike.

It landed him a record deal for the second album, *Fringe of Blue*. This album went on to sell more copies than almost any other Jewish music album in the country. RebbeSoul followed it with *Rebbe Soul-O*, the soundtrack to the award-winning one-man show written by Richard Krevolin about RebbeSoul's life and musical journey.



RebbeSoul's acclaimed recent album, [Change The World With A Sound](#), mixes Mizrahi chant and electronic beats with the signature funk/folk/ethnic rock style that his audience has come to know and love.

Now, Burger leads ensembles ranging from a seven piece band to a percussion trio, blending rock sensibilities, world fusion stylings and traditional Hebrew melodies for an ageless yet totally progressive sound. RebbeSoul mixes Mizrahi chant and electronic beats with the funk/ethnic rock style, layering balalaika, guitar and mandolin over of darbouka, djembes, riq and cajon driven percussion.

RebbeSoul performs melodies from throughout the Jewish world, from Sephardic romancers in Ladino to Lubavitch niggunim to tunes from Ashkenazi nusach. Carlebach melodies and Mizrahi piyyutim collide with a World beat rhythms- its the sound of the Jewish Diaspora coming home. And in after a Rebbesoul show, everyone will go home humming something new!

For information on RebbeSoul, call J-ARTS at 773.550.1543 or email info@j-arts.org



Change The World With A Sound review

Written by Cat Delaney, Lucid Forge

March 5, 2006

If the title of this album sounds idealistic, and it is, but it's quite serious about carrying through on its message, that the universality of music can change the world, or at the very least, how we view the world.

In this album I heard jazz, folk, rock, even rap. The music being played is in its most global form but with a linear message. A quick word of advice, this CD is not to be used as banal background music, so please give its due and listen like you mean it.

The music that influenced RebbeSoul (known to friends as Bruce Burger) are audible, and quickly apparent: Led Zeppelin is there; and Jimi Hendrix, too. But their influences are nuanced within the framework of a statement steeped in Judaic heritage, proud but not bold, spiritual but not drowning in religious tones. Most importantly: it rocks!

Years ago, Burger stumbled upon a traditional Hebrew prayer called "Avinu Malkenu" and was consumed by the "haunting beauty" of it that he produced an acoustic instrumental version, which was met with rave reviews. Since then it has appeared in different incarnations on every album he has recorded.

If you don't speak Hebrew though, it doesn't matter. This is about us, as in the big "us", not about individuals, biases, cultural clashes or any of that other clutter that junks up our daily lives. This album is about how we are more alike than different. Listen to the bond forming; this is human glue.

The range of instruments is staggering. Forget guitars and bass, here we get balalaika and mandolin. The musicianship that RebbeSoul demonstrates is outstanding, whether it's the almost honky-tonk, brassy Middle-Eastern percussions found in "Tzamah L'Cha Nafshi" or the flamenco-style guitar in "Qaafilah."

RebbeSoul also includes a new version of "Rock of Ages," a song often called one of the most powerful ever written. On this disc it's got an element of sound that can almost be described as East Coast, as well as a hint of Rod Stewart's "Maggie May." The seventh track, "Shmelke's Nigun," was an instrumental track, quick, jazzy, and with remembrances of a day I spent in Jerusalem in '72. It's polished, professional, and finished off with stellar production. My only criticism is that the poignant lyrics are not printed in the liner notes.

RebbeSoul dedicates this album to "peace in the Middle East and the rest of the world", and precedes that with a moving blank verse in justification of the CD's title: "While the Baal Shem was praying, / he climbed a ladder of prayer / reaching a place where he saw / a golden bird, whose lovely song / would bring tranquility to all who / heard it... He knew that if its song / were brought to the physical world, / it would surely bring peace and / change the world with a sound..." Amen, brother.

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Overview:

RebbeSoul infuses cutting-edge world beat with the influence of his Hebrew roots. As an artist, he has been featured in BILLBOARD, on CNN INTERNATIONAL, National Public Radio (NPR), interviewed on the CBC of Canada and VTV's GABAREAU LIVE, named to MUSICAL STARSTREAMS TOP 20, and written up in the Jewish Press too many times to count. Several record companies including Island and Rhino Records have licensed his tracks and The American Film Institute (AFI) included two of his tracks in their Tribute To Barbara Streisand airing on network television.

RebbeSoul and his band have played LA's HOUSE OF BLUES and BILLBOARD LIVE, New York's WETLANDS and THE KNITTING FACTORY, San Francisco's GREAT AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, the SEATTLE CENTER, and many other popular venues as well as colleges and universities. He is also the star of the one-man show, REBBESOUL-O which he has already performed in LA and NY, among other cities. It was nominated for three VALLEY THEATER AWARDS.

As a producer and composer, RebbeSoul's music has been featured on JEFF FOXWORTHY, GOOD MORNING AMERICA, NPR, the PLAYBOY CHANNEL's Anniversary Program, and numerous sports programs such as the CANADIAN HOCKEY ASSOCIATION'S TV segments. He is also the bandleader and producer of the new eclectic, planet hop band, COMMON TONGUE featuring players from THE JERRY GARCIA BAND, SPEARHEAD, and STRUNZ AND FARAHA. Their new, debut release, STEP INTO MY WORLD is now available. CHANGE THE WORLD WITH A SOUND is RebbeSoul's fourth album.

Press Accolades:

"His compositions take acoustic rock into a mystical realm." *Charles M. Young, Playboy*

"Multi-talented RebbeSoul seamlessly mixes international musical influences into his own unique sound. Rhythms from Eastern Europe, Africa, and the Middle East are evident as they weave and wind through rock, pop, and jazz tones." *Joey Alkes, Music Biz Magazine*

"Rebbe Soul-O is an unusual singer/acoustic guitarist that both folk-rockers and world music enthusiasts should take note of. One could describe this promising CD as folk-rock and note the influence of Bob Dylan on "Sister Sarah," "How You Gonna Know" and other songs. But unlike Dylan, Soul-O does his share of singing in Hebrew, often using his Jewish heritage as a source of inspiration; much of the time, the results are fresh-sounding as well as memorable. Other high points of CD are his arrangements of the traditional Jewish songs "Avinu" and "Et Dodim Kalah." This disc let us know that Soul-O was an artist with serious potential" *Alex Henderson, All Music Guide*

"His skills as a musician are unquestionable, and the music is the high point..." - *LA Weekly*

"[Rebbe Soul] blends melody and electricity... there's a depth of soul that sucks you in." *Gavin Report*

"The first time Avinu played, 19 people called to say how much they loved it. To our knowledge that's the most any song has ever received in the station's entire history." *Dore Stein, KKSF San Francisco*

"RebbeSoul crafts an energetic sound ...packs an eclectic armament ...from Jewish and Arabic music...RebbeSoul forges a danceable fusion defying easy categorization" - *Popmatters*

"Soulful mission: RebbeSoul dedicates his long-awaited CD, Change the World With a Sound, to peace in the Middle East and throughout the world. This fusion of traditional Hebrew melodies and rock makes for a stylish Middle-Eastern groove." - *Halifax Herald*

"It's a thick and soupy blend of Middle-Eastern percussion, growling rock guitar, plucked balalaika and funk bass that builds to a perfect simmer... "Kaddish",... a meditative instrumental piece over recordings of Kaddish prayers from all around the globe, to powerful effect." - *Splendid*

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