

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

In a time of deep division and conflict, two local bands bring healing and connection

Philadelphia, PA

January 20, 2018

“In a time of deep division and conflict and struggle in this country, music has the power to connect us in ways that go beyond words. When we gather people together in song, especially those very different from each other, we reopen our eyes to the possibility of unity beyond the conflicts of the moment, and we create a healing balm for our souls. Nothing is more necessary at this moment.” These are the words of Adam Zeff, senior Rabbi at Germantown Jewish Centre, and the creator of GJC’s homegrown band, G’vanim.

G’vanim, (the Hebrew root suggest both "hues" and "diversity") came together in 2013 in order to give expression to the immense variety of Jewish music from around the world, to use that music to deepen the spiritual journeys of who listen to the music, and to spread a vision of Jewish life that celebrates diversity of all kinds. Their lyrics range from ancient Aramaic poetry to Arabic folk traditions to Modern Hebrew and Spanish, and their tunes come from Iraq and Spain, Poland and the U.S. and Israel, and everywhere in between.

Jaffna is an acoustic ethnic fusion group that plays original music inspired by the rich musical traditions of the Middle East and India. Their music was born in the world music scene of Philadelphia in the early 1990s. This group of instant friends has spent the last 2 decades creating compositions characterized by driving rhythms, ornate melodies, and a dynamic range that spans from meditative to ecstatic.

Together these two bands will collaborate to bring an incredible musical experience that offers the comfort, connection, and healing. Germantown Jewish Centre invites the wider Philadelphia community to come together, sing together, listen together, and let music lift and fill us, and give us the strength we need to face what life sets before us.

The concert will be held on Saturday, January 20th at 7:00 PM. The concert has a suggested ticket price of \$18-\$20, but sponsorships are available, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information, please contact Kate Lawn at 215-844-1507 x19. This program is supported by the Wolfe Family Foundation.

Germantown Jewish Centre is a diverse and welcoming synagogue community that celebrates Jewish tradition in innovative and exciting ways and embraces multiracial, interfaith, and LGBTQ families and individuals. The synagogue is located at 400 W. Ellet Street, Philadelphia, PA 19119.

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