



# *The Forgotten Kingdom*

A RADIO-THEATRE PERFORMANCE BY **GUY MENDILOW ENSEMBLE**

Folding radio drama-style stories into a top-flight world music concert, *The Forgotten Kingdom* conjures women's voices lost to war and upheaval. Audiences traverse picturesque Mediterranean port towns and faded memories of Ottoman villages, from Salónica to Sarajevo, guided by an "international tour-de-force" (Bethlehem Morning Call) whose world-class musicianship and cinematic storytelling restores living colour to tales of ordinary people living through extraordinary change.

Weaving together late 19th/early 20th-century women's songs from Sephardic enclaves of the former Ottoman Empire, the show evokes a panorama of the unraveling of an older Mediterranean world — not as we see it today with the benefit of textbook hindsight, but as ordinary people lived it, unaware of how the dots would connect. With song lyrics in Ladino, an endangered blend of archaic Spanish with Turkish and Greek, together with English narration, with heart and humour, the show renders scenes of daily life from WWI and the Ottoman Empire's collapse to the glimmers of democratic hopes crushed by fascist regimes that cloaked entire communities in a 'shroud of oblivion.'

*"...artistic quality of the highest caliber."*

— *Blake Smith, Clayton Center for the Arts, Maryville, TN*

*"a spellbinding original experience not to be missed....  
masterfully narrated"*

— *Rosamund Battye, Welland Port Colborne Concert Association,  
Welland, ON*

*"I dare any audience to NOT be swept away by this show"*

— *Natalie Neuert, UVM Lane Series, Burlington, VT*

**EXCLUSIVE TOUR REPRESENTATION**  
**(USA, CANADA, MEXICO, PUERTO RICO)**

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**VIDEO & AUDIO SAMPLES**

**Artist Website:**

**[GuyMendilowEnsemble.com](http://GuyMendilowEnsemble.com)**



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## About Guy Mendilow Ensemble

The Guy Mendilow Ensemble draws on traditional tunes, techniques, and tales but in elegant arrangements and with radical reframing. The emotionality of Western classical music is intensified by the bittersweet rawness of Tango, gorgeous vocal harmonies and the rhythmic fire of classical Arabic percussion. GME's storytelling is inspired by the dreamlike qualities of Pablo Neruda and Michael Ondaatje, and by Dan Carlin's vivid restoration of faded historical memory.

GME is honoured to be the recipient of multiple funding awards from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Boston Foundation, the New England Foundation for the Arts and Western Arts Alliance on the basis of its artistry, cultural preservation and the strengthening of communities through the arts.

## QUICK FACTS

- The show weaves together early 20th century women's songs from Sephardic communities of the former Ottoman Empire.
- Cinematic narration in English with song lyrics in Ladino, an endangered blend of archaic Spanish with Turkish and Greek.
- Full show configuration: quintet. Adaptable to quartet or trio

## HOME BASE

- GME: Based in Boston, MA/ New York, NY, USA, GME is "An international tour de force" (*Bethlehem Morning Call*) from the Middle East, South and North America

## PACKAGE WITH

- Breadth & depth of community/campus engagement
- *Around the World in Song* — interactive global adventure for grades K-4.

GME's tours & programs supported by funding awards from:

