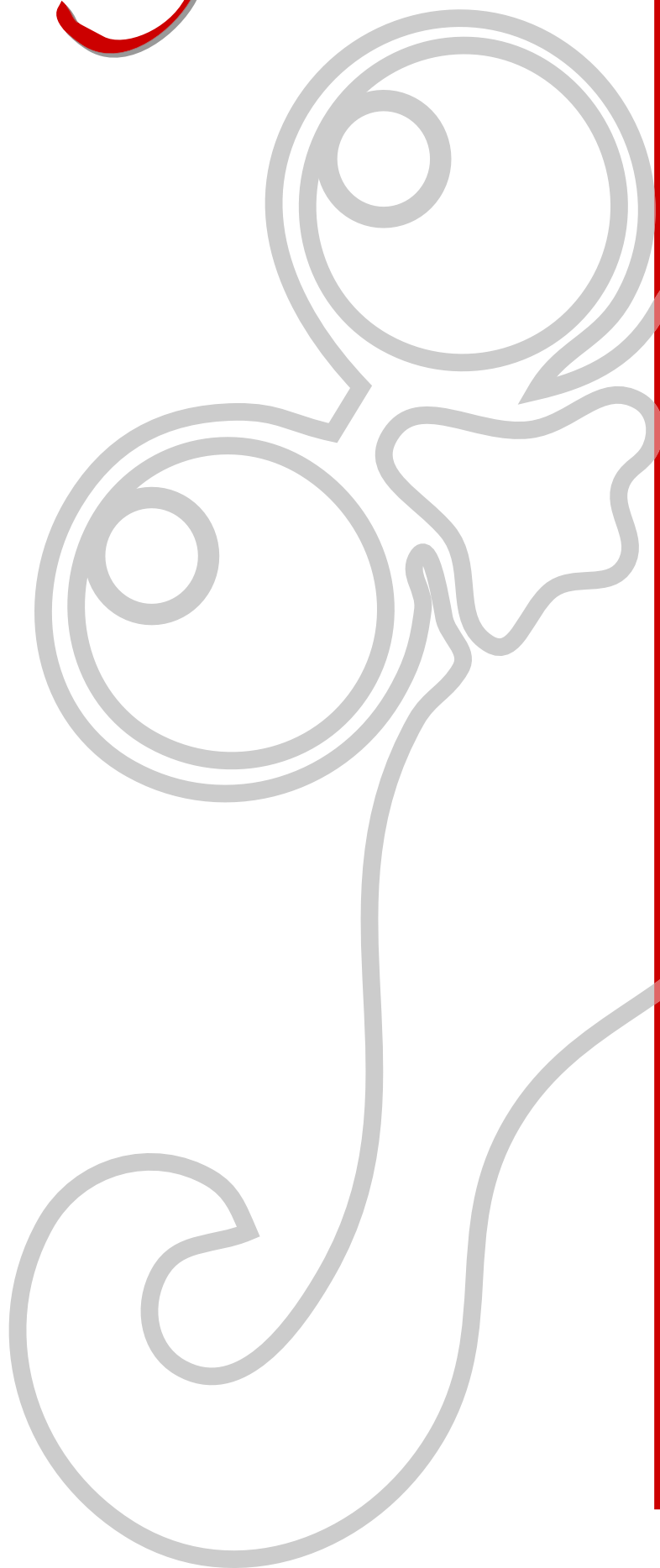


*Safam*



**The  
Jewish-American  
Sound**

# About Safam

Safam, the Boston based six-man band, has dominated Jewish music in America with their “Jewish-American Sound” since 1974. Often copied, never duplicated, they are originals – original music, original lyrics, original arrangements – their songs have become a fabric of our Jewish lives. Songs like Leaving Mother Russia, Am nesty, Just Another Foreigner, Moranno and Nachamu Ami by group composers Joel Sussman and Robbie Solomon have become classics and have kept Safam at the forefront of the Jewish music scene.

Safam’s music covers the wide breadth of American musical styles while maintaining a decidedly Jewish flavor. They use many settings – whether it be rock & roll, pop, folk, Latin, Chassidic or cantorial – to create their tapestry of music. Safam’s eclectic approach to its music has enabled it to reach out to Jews of all ages and denominations. With ten original recordings, a double Chanukah & Passover CD, and their Greatest Hits Collections, Safam has already earned a vital place in mainstream Jewish-American culture.

Safam is renowned not only for it’s highly regarded recordings, but is equally acclaimed for its inspirational and entertaining concerts. Typically, Safam performs for fundraisers, cultural events, and conventions sponsored by synagogues, Jewish Federations, schools, youth groups and national Jewish organizations. Through its music, humor, passion and sensitivity, Safam instills in its audiences a sense of pride about being Jewish in America.

Safam audiences range in age from nine months to ninety years – a testament to the diversity of style and content that Safam presents. Laughter and tears – singing and dancing – nostalgia and hope are among the whirlwind of emotional reactions that one experiences during a Safam concert.

For information about booking Safam, please call or fax Dan Funk at the toll free number 866-89SAFAM, or write to: SAFAM, 36 Hamlin Road, Newton Centre, MA 02459, or e-mail: [safam@safam.com](mailto:safam@safam.com)

There is simply no one quite like Safam.



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[www.safam.com](http://www.safam.com)

## The Jewish-American Sound

# Biographies



## Joel Sussman - Vocals, Piano, Synthesizer and Guitar

Joel began playing professionally in rock bands at the age of 15 while growing up in Edmonton, Canada. After graduation from the University of Alberta, and a year working as a social worker in Israel on Sherut La'am, he moved to Boston to acquire an MBA from Northeastern University, and now runs his own financial services company. He also has served since 1992 as a High Holiday Cantor at Temple Israel of Natick. As one of the group's two songwriters, Joel composes SAFAM's music from his home in Newton, MA where he lives with his wife Debbie. They have three children - Ari, Jonathan and Mera.

## Robbie Solomon - Vocals, Guitar, Mandolin and Flute

Originally from Baltimore, Robbie lived in Israel for four years studying at Hebrew Union College rabbinical seminary, and at the Reuben Academy in Jerusalem. He continued his studies in composition at The New England Conservatory and Berklee College of Music in Boston. He now serves as cantor of Temple Ohabei Shalom in Brookline, MA. He lives in Jamaica Plain, MA with his wife Helen. They have two sons Byron and Samuel. Along with the music Robbie composes and arranges for SAFAM, he composes music for synagogue services often on commission by other cantors and music directors.

## Alan Nelson - Vocals, Synthesizer and Accordion

Alan was born and raised in the Boston area where he is Purchasing and Marketing Director of a retail auto parts chain. While studying accordion and piano at the Chaloff School of Music, he directed Temple and youth group choirs, was music director at a Jewish summer camp, and served as Assistant Conductor of the Zamir Chorale of Boston. Alan currently resides in Natick, MA with his wife Debbie and his children Michelle and Adam.

## Dan Funk - Vocals

Dan is a native of Highland Park, NJ, attended Rutgers University, and received his law degree from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston. He lives with his wife Marcia, sons Joshua and Aaron and nieces Jessica and Emily in Newton, MA where he has been serving as City Solicitor. Dan's musical career began in high school where he performed in a barbershop quartet, a choir and a rock band. After performing with the Zamir Chorale of Boston where he met Alan and Joel, he helped form SAFAM in 1974. Dan is also a High Holiday Cantor at Temple Beth Torah in Holliston, MA.

## Mark Snyder - Bass

Mark has been a fixture on the Boston music scene since 1976. His sideman credits include work with the Gary Burton Quartet, The Coasters, the Marvelettes, Little Anthony, Brian Hiland, and the Ink Spots. He has recorded and toured extensively, playing in New York City jazz clubs as well as concerts and nightclubs across the United States and Europe. He is the leader of the Mark Snyder Quartet. Mark holds a degree in Composition from Berklee College of Music. He is a prolific composer with experience in film scoring. He is a member of the faculties of Noble & Greenough School and the South Shore Conservatory.

## Bob Weiner - Percussion



[www.safam.com](http://www.safam.com)

# The Jewish-American Sound

# Reviews

Safam's music is indescribably wonderful. The spirit you inspired was nothing short of a miracle.

Rabbi Scott Glass, Temple Beth El, Ithaca, New York

## The Jewish Calendar

... Through its music, humor, passion and sensitivity SAFAM instills in its audience a sense of pride about being Jewish in America.

## The Voice

Safam's style is unique and has yet to be successfully imitated. As the original Baby Boomers of the Jewish American sound, they have improved with age.

Safam remains for me one of the most vital and important Jewish musical groups on the scene today. I am particularly impressed with the respect they have for the Jewish musical tradition while leading the way for an "American sound" to be part of the mix, Kol hakavod!

Cantor Jacob Ben Zion Mendelson  
President, Cantors Assembly

Safam holds a special place in the annals of American Jewish Music. Your songs are the soundtrack of Jewish history and Jewish life. Your lyrics and melodies have the power to lift our spirits, cause us to think and celebrate our Jewishness, all at the same time.

Rabbi Martin I. Sandberg  
Suburban Jewish Community Center  
Bnai Aaron, Havertown, PA

Thank you for making our fundraising evening a financial and social success. All who attended went away delighted and are still talking about your wonderful and memorable performance.

Alex Klein, Talmud Torah,  
Manchester, England

Spectacular concert!! You have brought young and old as well as every sect of Judaism together to share in an experience rich in Judaic culture.

Paula Mann,  
Ohev Shalom of Bucks County,  
Richboro, PA



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# The Jewish-American Sound

# Reviews

Safam is the undisputed leader of Jewish music in America. But don't take our word for it. This is what others are saying.



## BALTIMORE Jewish Times

Since the Boston based group formed in 1974, American Jewish Music has never been the same. The music of Safam has prompted people to make aliyah, join Jewish youth groups or simply dance for joy. This American Jewish Supergroup is at the top of its game.

**"Safam brings the house down creating a local Jewish Happening."**

**The Jewish Star**

The raves are still coming in. As always, you put on a great show...To my mind, Safam is and always has been the embodiment of "exciting, dynamic, contemporary Jewish music." The concert was both a cultural and a financial success.

Edward Edelstein  
Educational Director  
Temple Beth El Religious School  
Cedarhurst, NY

## RUTGERS HILLEL

THE FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CAMPUS LIFE

Safam has succeeded in what many contemporary musicians have sought to do by creating an indigenous American Jewish Sound in popular music. Their repertoire encompasses the liturgical, the topical, the poignant and the playful, while their artistic performance is an utterly joyful celebration of Jewish heart and soul. Their message transcends all denominational affiliation.

Our concert was a success as a fundraiser, as a community cultural event and also, I know, in developing a whole new set of Safam fans. For me, it was fantastic to hear you in person after coming to love your music through CDs and tapes.

Sandy Alpern  
Jewish Community Center of Paramus



## Combined Jewish Philanthropies

Safam is truly one of the great natural resources here in Boston. Your ability to inspire us and to bring us together as a community is incomparable.

Barry Shrage  
Executive Director

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of the Berkshires, your concert last Sunday evening was spectacular. I saw it on the smiles on every face in the audience and comments after the performance. Our sold out house of 500 seats made a statement about the Jewish community of Berkshire County.

Norman M. Michaels  
Jewish Federation of Berkshires

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# The Jewish-American Sound



# Booking Information



**Safam** - The original Jewish-American concert band – original songs, innovative arrangements and energetic presentation; creators of the Jewish-American Sound; Here's why a Safam concert is the perfect program for your organization:

**Music** - Original, groundbreaking songs in a broad spectrum of musical styles, including pop, rock, folk, Chassidic, Israeli, Chazzanut and more. A meaningful and effective blend of the Traditional and the Contemporary in both Hebrew and English.

**Themes** - Timeless Jewish and universal themes reflecting the American-Jewish experience; from birth, to marriage, to the loss of a loved one. Songs of Jewish history, Torah, Jewish Holidays, prayer, world events and our love of Israel.

**Appeal** - A Safam concert has something for everyone – young and old, Conservative, Reform and Orthodox. Humor, warmth, pathos, and an overall heimische atmosphere leave Safam audiences with a new sense of pride in being Jewish.

**Our Professionalism and Experience** - We are seasoned performers who excel at reaching our audience by means of our stage presence, our compelling vocals (three of us are cantors) and our overall musicianship. We are easy to work with and we do everything we can to make your experience as a concert promoter a successful and fulfilling one. We provide our own sound system, instruments and sound crew. We can provide you with photos, posters, music, interviews and promotional ideas.

**Fundraisers and Cultural Events** - Safam concerts are tried and true success stories as either fundraisers or cultural events. Why not make a Safam concert the highlight of your programming year?

## Contact information

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617-527-3875

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