



YOUR JEWISH AND HEBREW GUIDE... SO YOU DON'T GO MESHUGANA!

- 1 MESHUGANA** The album kicks off with an off-the-wall party tune that builds into a level of insanity. **Meshugana is the Yiddish word for "crazy".*
- 2 AHAVA** The kick drum driven, clap along folksy love tune all about family, friends and love. **Ahava "Love", Ani ohevet otah "I love you", Mishpacha "Family", Chavurah "Friends", Kehilah "Community".*
- 3 HELLO, GOODBYE, SHALOM** A harmony filled Beatles tribute... with a twist. **The Hebrew word Shalom has 3 meanings: "Hello", "Goodbye" and "Peace".*
- 4 HONEY AND APPLES** An old-timey mandolin ditty centered around the Rosh Hashana holiday. **Rosh Hashana is the Jewish New Year and restarts the Hebrew calendar. Apples are dipped in honey for a "sweet new year".*
- 5 AL CHEIT** A sweet country-rock tune about saying "I'm Sorry" and trying to be "The best I can be". **Al Cheit is a prayer said on the holiest of holidays, Yom Kippur. Jews ask for forgiveness and children focus on being the best they can be. Al cheit she-cha-ta-nu l'-fa-ne-cha "For the sin we have committed against you"- Kaper Lanu "Atoner for us".*
- 6 SUKKAH SHAKIN'** A spunky organ driven B-52-like rocker explaining how to build a sukkah. **A sukkah is a wooden shack built in backyards of many on the holiday, Sukkot- Many eat outside and become one with nature, shake the Lulav which is made up of Hadas (myrtle branch), Aravah (Willow Branch) and the Etrog (citron which looks like a big lemon)*
- 7 SPINNING** An indie-pop-rock infused Chanukah tune telling a hilarious story about getting into trouble spinning inside the house. **Many kids play Dreidel (a spinning top with four Hebrew letters on it: nun, gimmel, hey and shin) which sum up the Chanukah story in four words: Nes Gadol Hayah Sham: A great miracle happened there!*
- 8 TU TU TU B'SHEVAT** An alt-country call and response rock tune that screams CSNY about the holiday Tu B'shevat- The birthday of the trees. **On Tu B'shevat, Jewish people all over the world celebrate trees and mark the day by eating fruit, particularly grapes, figs, pomegranates, olives and dates.*
- 9 HAMAN** Hilarious story telling ensues about dressing up for the Purim play on the Johnny Cash-like song. **The holiday of Purim has the reputation of being "Jewish Halloween" because everyone dresses up in costume and gets completely intoxicated. For kids, we tell the Purim story in the annual Purim Spiel (play). The story takes place in the ancient Persian Empire and features Queen Vashti, her successor: Queen Esther, Esther's Uncle Mordechai, King Achashverosh and of course the awful advisor Haman who we "booooo" to block out his name. Haman wore a triangle hat and tried to make everyone bow down to him*
- 10 MI CHAMOCHA (WADE IN THE WATER)** This soulful, bluesy throwback fuses elements of the Passover story and the famous gospel tune "Wade in the Water". **Mi Chamocha, ba'elim, Adonai? Mi kamocho, nedar bakodesh, nora tehilot, osei feleh? Translates to: "Who is like you? no one like you". Like the underground railroad gospel tune 'Wade in the Water' The story of Exodus is also about slavery- Moses led the Jewish people out of Egypt to be free, crossing the Red Sea and walking to Israel.*
- 11 PJ PARTY** It's all about promoting book reading together as a family before bed in our PJs. **Hebrew words: Echad, shtayim, shalosh translates to: "One, two, three".*
- 12 LILA TOV** Guitar and cello intertwine with a gorgeous lullaby about saying good night, dreaming and hugs & kisses **Lila Tov "good night" Meleat Ahava- "So full of love".*
- 13 MAYIM** Bringing all of earth's elements together on the folk/rock closing anthem with 6 part harmony on the bridge. **Mayim Chayim "Living Waters", Geshem min hashamayim "Rain from the sky", Yadayim- "Hands", Oznayim- "Ears", Adamah "Earth", Ruach "Wind", Aish "Fire", Mayim "Water".*

'Meshugana' is Joanie Leeds & The Nightlights 7th studio album. Miami born, multi-award winning singer-songwriter and national touring artist, Joanie Leeds was joined by her husband/drummer (Dan Barman) in self-producing this album in their current neighborhood, Williamsburg, Brooklyn. 'Meshugana' was inspired by a decade of teaching in Jewish nursery schools, summer camps, leading Tot Shabbat concerts, High Holiday programs and becoming a PJ Library Artist. Unlike any of her previous Nightlights albums, this 13 track recording is filled with stories set in the Jewish context, embracing each holiday throughout the calendar year along with themes such as: love, family and the world around us. For those that have attended Jewish summer camp, Hebrew or Religious school, many stories will seem familiar. The Hebrew words used throughout 'Meshugana' are all translated in the liner notes and focus mostly on values rather than religious texts creating accessibility for all who listen.



- ★ Parents' Choice® Gold Award ★
- ★ NAPPA Gold Award ★
- ★ Winner, Best Children's Song, ★ Independent Music Award
- ★ 3 TELLY Awards for City Kid Live DVD ★
- ★ John Lennon Songwriting Contest Finalist ★
- ★ Winner, Best Children's Song, ★ USA Songwriting Competition
- ★ International Songwriting ★ Competition Finalist

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People

"Animal-Crazed kids will dig these new tunes, including "Mosquitoes", "Tofurky Song" and "Froggie Went a Courtin'," a swingly spin on the classic children's ballad." -Michelle Tauber

Joanie Leeds and the Nightlights

Parents

"Kids – and parents – will definitely learn a thing or two about animals with this indie rock CD that's fun from start to finish."

The New York Times

"Her band may be called the Nightlights, but there's nothing soporific about the music."

The Washington Post

"Electric guitars and Leeds's belting vocals make this rock-and-roll. You won't be able to resist the urge to sing along pretending your hairbrush is a microphone. Most of the tunes provide you with a great way to free your inner rock star".



"Local chanteuse Joanie Leeds's latest will be a hit with young zoologists in the making—every song on the CD features a different animal friend. Listen up for a take on the traditional "Froggie Went a Courtin'" with an appearance from rapper Secret Agent 23 Skidoo, a cover of the Phish song "Possum" and the sweet original "My Butterfly."



"Joanie Leeds is that cool babysitter who would let you try on her lip gloss once your mom left the house. You idolized her, and your mom knew she could trust her. That's Joanie. Only she's also likely to completely ROCK THE ROOF OFF YOUR HOUSE! And a ticket to her show just might run you a few clams less than an hour of babysitting"- Mindy Thomas, Program Director Sirius/XM Kids Place Live



"Good Egg" the latest album from Leeds and her band, The Nightlights, is a high energy collection of tunes that'll keep kids and parents alike entertained. "She does all kinds of stuff" says Grise, "from Rock to Gospel to Country- She's kind of all over the place - so it can be fun that you aren't listening to the same thing over and over again."



"Joanie Leeds has proved herself as a major talent in the field of children's music. Good Egg is her sixth album for children, and her fine, fine band, the Nightlights, joins her. Leeds continues to be an stellar performer, as well as creator of brilliant recordings; this latest 15 song collection, housed in eco-friendly packaging and including full lyrics and liner notes, is a fine addition to her already impressive catalog."



"From funk and blues to country and pop, with even a little hip hop thrown in, this album has a style for everyone. The eclectic stylistic mix is sure to keep a child entertained for an entire listen and another and so on. It's original and catchy, and, most important, suitable for the age group. The band is high caliber, with kid-hop rapper 23 Skidoo featured on a song, and the raw energy of the songs jumps off the speakers. From the "Big Blue Whale" to "My Butterfly," the album takes you on a journey from a kid's perspective..."

School Library Journal

"Whether tackling rock, gospel, punk, pop, or rap, Leeds perfectly matches the musical style to the tone of the song. Smart lyrics elevate each so that they are not only relatable to children but also enjoyable to adults."

Aol Kids.

"If You Go...is one of the catchiest pieces of music I've heard in a long time. And Leeds, with her pure pop vocals, is just as adept at sweet ballads, as evidenced by the lovely "Hummingbird" and "My Butterfly." This is one of the best albums of the year so far.



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