

## Mp3 King Django - Roots And Culture



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King Django, known as one of the East Coast's premier ska and reggae artists, now introduces his most unique and vivid assemblage yet. Roots Culture pairs musical and blood families in a titillating twist of traditional Hebrew folk, klezmer, reggae, s 10 MP3 Songs WORLD: Reggae, WORLD: Judaica Details: King Django's Roots Culture Band Traditional Jamaican ska and reggae with a twist: mad Yiddish flavor in the mix!?

King Django, known for well over a decade as one of New York's premier reggae and ska artists, now introduces his most unique and vivid assemblage yet. Travelling the halls of both his beloved Jamaican vibration and Jewish heritage, King Django's Roots Culture Band pairs musical and blood families in a titillating twist of traditional Hebrew folk, klezmer, reggae and ska with a Brooklyn bend. Klezmer music evolved from Eastern European and Greek music, improvised largely by travelling Yiddish musicians. In the late 1800's, the sound accompanied Jewish immigrants to America, where it incorporatated jazz and Dixieland stylings into its form, ultimately becoming a festive music where ritual and revelry joined hands. Ska, the "grandfather of reggae" is also a well-traveled music. Birthed in 1960's Jamaica, it moved to England where it mated with punk and finally emigrated to America, where its blues and swing styles originated. Likewise, both ska and Klezmer are filled with tradition. As Django notes, "It always seemed apparent to me that there were a lot of similarities between the musics, particularly in terms of the offbeat feel." On his 1998 Roots and Culture album, Django continued the upbeat mishmash celebration with his talented true friends and family. Members from his class acts Skinnerbox and The Stubborn All-Stars, as well as community cronies from The Toasters, The Slackers, and The New York Ska Jazz Ensemble lay down the traditional ska through which luminaries like Klezmer mandolin/clarinet player Andy Statman and The Klezmatics own violinist Alicia Svigals resonate the sound of ancient and modern-day Jewish music. One track even finds the Baker family - mom, dad, aunt, uncle, brother and a

friend - singing the chorus. "One of the first things I can remember, of my whole life, is my grandmother singing Yiddish lullabies to me," Django recalls. "I really wrote this record for my family." Yiddish scholar, songwriter and performer Michael Wex was brought in to help pass kosher poetry to the Yiddish lyrics, textually underscoring Django's symphonic efforts to take the rhythm of Jamaican music and join it with tonalities and harmonics of Klezmer. The result is a lilting and seductive combination of ancestral ditties mixed with a straight-up reggae, traditional and two-tone ska. Covers of "Madness", "Nightboat to Cairo" and the special "Do Nothing" (both sung in Yiddish) carry the shared passion and panache of two rich heritages into an utterly righteous and completely catchy realm that must be heard to be understood. After the release of *Roots Culture*, the idea of taking this material to the stage started to brew. Ben Herson and Jon Natchez, both formerly of Boston ska-jazz sensation "Skavoovie The Epitones" had expressed their interest as had Django's long-time musical cohort Noah Shachtman, but things didn't really come together until Django began to frequent Klezkamp, the annual Yiddish Folk Arts program. There, he was bedazzled by the talents of Alex Kontorovich, Benjamin Holmes and Adrian Banner, all members of Princeton, New Jersey's Klez Dispensers. It was also at Klezkamp that Django first met Klezomatics trumpeter and leading Jewish musician Frank London, who really provided the igniting spark; after hearing the 1998 studio album, Frank suggested that Django needed to get a band together to play this material live. The *Roots Culture* band played its first show at the Workmen's Circle Purim Party in New York City in February of 2002, opening for the Klezomatics.

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