

December 4, 2012

North of the Danube is the tune I am working on for Pomegranates and Figs. It's the Jewish tune for our set, then we have another tune for the end collaboration. It's a combination of stealing, arranging, and composing. It's inspired by Romanian brass, Yiddish folk and theater, and some Carpathian sounds. Why "North of the Danube?" What's north of the Danube? Romania!

The introduction and hai digigis are from Romania Romania, which for fans of Yiddish music will be immediately recognizable as one of the great Yiddish vocal tunes of showman Aaron Lebedeff, who composed a tongue and cheek homage to Romania, and it's greatness, especially culinary (pastrami, pickles, grits, etc.) Here's a translation of the lyrics:

<http://yiddishlyrics.wordpress.com/2010/12/26/rumania-rumania-%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%99%D7%A2-%D7%A8%D7%95%D7%9E%D7%99%D7%99%D7%A0%D7%99%D7%A2/>

I wrote the B and C sections and the low brass intro up front and put together the rhythms for the low brass. Thanks to Jeff Giaquinto and Paul Marini for helping with the chords.

The solo vamps are inspired by Podolian rhythms. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Podolia>. Podolia is located in the west-central and south-western portions of present-day [Ukraine](#) and in northeastern [Moldova](#).

I stole the D section from Veretski Pass, who got it from some Ukrainian villiage folk music.

A shaynem dank!

Mike Perlmutter