

# Sofia Falkovitch

Sœurs d'Âme / Soul Sisters

Françoise Atlan, *Guest singer* (2, 5, 8)

Nidhal Jaoua, *Qanun*

Raphaël Bougy, *Cello*



**SOFIA  
FALKOVITCH**

Sœurs d'Âme / *Soul Sisters*



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## INDÉSENS CALLIOPE RECORDS

Reference : IC008 • Barcode : 0650414125549

RELEASE

12 May 2023



Her album presents a new concept and original arrangements of traditional Jewish songs, as well as two of Sofia Falkovitch's own compositions, including a lullaby from her maternal grandmother that opens the album.

### *Sofia Falkovitch explains:*

« This long-awaited recording Soul Sisters is very close to my heart, especially today. Dreamed up, conceived and created with great joy and much love, it is indeed an organic continuation of what I have been doing for decades... As a hazzan (Jewish cantor) and singer, I have always lived at the cross-roads of worlds and as a conduit of stories between cultures.

This is a doubly-innovative creation. Firstly, by female interpretations of both Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditional melodies. And secondly, by creating bridges of dialogue between oriental and occidental music in the qanun and cello accompaniment. All this has never been attempted before. Each song is conceived in a singular style that tells a nuanced story with different colours. My wish for this expanding project is that sisterhood becomes a real gateway for the various established female voices that are emerging from the new generation. I regularly invite these women to my concerts in major cultural venues around Europe ».

# Sofia Falkovitch



Paris-based mezzo-soprano, extemporizer, composer, artistic director and producer, Sofia Falkovitch is the first female cantor (hazzan) ever trained and ordained in Europe and remains the only one in the history of France. Today she leads an active international career. Sofia's primary aim is to pass on and share her love for these musical treasures inherited from previous generations.

Sofia is an ambassador of her faith and a leading voice of her generation.

“Mezzo-soprano, cantor and Concordia alumna Sofia Falkovitch enjoys her international reach.

Falkovitch's remarkable singing talents extend beyond her voice and onstage presence to her fluency in Russian, French, German, Hebrew, Yiddish, Spanish and English. Her singing range is wide, coloured and layered, while her technique both textured and complex. In her life as a singer, Falkovitch sees a treasure trove of opportunity to work together and communicate with people of other religions and cultures, through storytelling and creativity. Her optimistic and pragmatic outlook envisions a way to come together, to bridge the mosaical divide by tearing down walls and prejudices – through the gift of music.”

Concordia University

“Today's leading  
voice of the Jewish  
Cantorial Art”

“Cantor Sofia Falkovitch's new CD masterfully conveys her artistry of Jewish liturgy and well-known folk melodies. Her unique interpretations are musically expressive in seemingly simple yet profound arrangements. She includes solemn traditional Ashkenazi synagogue melodies, opens a window of dialogue with Sephardic traditions and new stylizations with musically creative arrangements. This recording is very compelling and includes Yiddish, Ladino and instrumental interpretations. Cantor Falkovitch and her musical partners have created an exquisite blend of Jewish musical styles for the listener to behold.”

*Allegro*

*Mark Kligman*

*Mickey Katz Endowed Chair in Jewish Music  
Professor of Ethnomusicology and Musicology  
Director of Lowell Milken Center for Music of American Jewish  
Experience  
Los Angeles, États-Unis*

“Sofia's artistry and personality shine through the album with its heavenly accompaniment.”

*Alex Klein*

*President of the European Cantors Association  
Londres, UK*

## HIGHLIGHTS CONCERTS 2023

14 May - CD-Release-Concert in Paris - ECUJE Concert Hall

### GERMANY TOUR

12 March - Bonn

30 April - Limburg

25 June - Felsberg (Kassel)

3 September - Kiel

12 November - Bernau - Opening of Land Brandenburg's Week against Anti-Semitism

10 December - Dresden

7 September - JW3 London

19-22 October - Festival Sacrées Journées in Strasbourg

# program



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## 1. Niggun 3'02

trad. Ashkenazi chant passed on to Sofia by her grandmother

## 2. Sheva Brachot (the Seven Blessings of the Jewish Wedding) 4'56

trad. both Ashkenazi and Sephardic vocal traditions

## 3. Sim Shalom 7'00

Sofia Falkovitch

## 4. Avinu Malkenu 3'40

Max Janowski

## 5. Lechu Neranena (ps. 95) 3'02

trad. both Moroccan and Portuguese rel. customs

## 6. El Dio Alto 1'18

trad. Sephardic, arr. based on Leon Algazi (in Ladino)

## 7. Hamavdil Bein Kodesh Lechol 3'22

Ashkenazi folksong

## 8. Shema Israel 2'36

cantillation in both Ashkenazi and Sephardic traditions (*a cappella*)

## 9. El Male Rachamim 3'54

trad. prayer for the soul of the departed (*a cappella*)

## 10. A Yiddishe Mame 4'16

Jack Yellen & Lew Pollack (in Yiddish)

## 11. Eloheinu Velohei Avoteinu 1'45

Salomon Sulzer (*a cappella*)

## 12. Üsküdar 3'49

trad. Turkish chant (*instrumental*)

## 13. Lecha Dodi 4'41

trad. Israeli melodies

### Total Time : 47'26

Recorded on October 9, 10, 11 and 12, 2022 at the Temple de Passy-Annonciation, Paris.

Artistic direction: Sofia Falkovitch

Transcriptions and arrangements: Sofia Falkovitch, Françoise Atlan,

Raphaël Bougy and Nidhal Jaoua

Sound engineer: Thomas Pégurier

Label Manager: Maël Perrigault

Producer: Benoit d'Hau

Photos: David Gloriant

With the support of the Espace culturel et universitaire juif d'Europe (ECUJE) and its director Gad Ibgui. ECUJE is dedicated to the dialogue between Jewish cultures, artistic expressions and knowledge in permanent dialogue with Paris, France, Europe and the world.

[www.indesensdigital.fr](http://www.indesensdigital.fr)

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

I remain at your disposal for any further information.

Yours sincerely,

*Bettina Sadoux*

### Also available



CAL1742  
Sofia Falkovitch  
Chants Hébraïques



CAL1968  
Sofia Falkovitch  
La voix de l'héritage sacré

### Press Contact

**Bettina Sadoux**

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