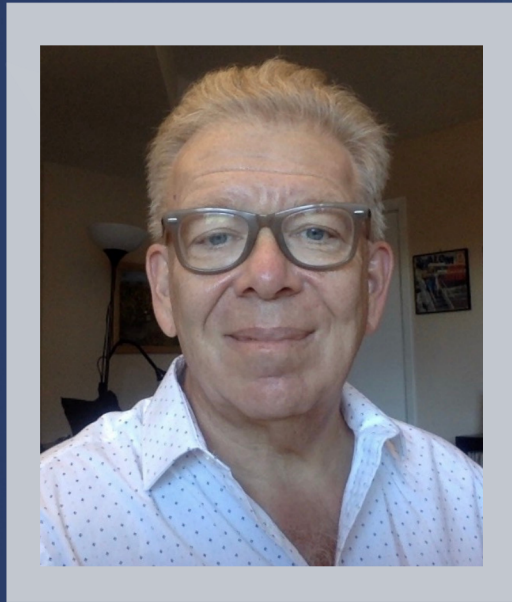




University
of Victoria

Centre for Studies in
Religion and Society

SCHOLARS IN THE SQUARE



Andy Muchin



General Artists Corporation (management). James Kriegsman, New York, photographer., Public domain. via Wikimedia Commons

The Barry Sisters: America's Yiddish Swingsters

The Barry Sisters – Claire and Merna – were popular singers who performed on radio, television, records, and in concert halls and nightclubs from 1937 to 1973. In their elegant, form-fitting gowns and coiffed hair, they sang highly polished, swinging arrangements of Yiddish songs and English-language pop hits. As celebrated first-generation Americans, the Barry Sisters exemplified the complicated task of many mid-century North American Jews to blend into the general culture while retaining and expressing aspects of their Jewish heritage.

Andy Muchin is a graduate student in Public History at the UVic. He hosts the “Sounds Jewish” radio show on Mississippi Public Broadcasting. He has written about Jewish music for national and regional Jewish publications and contributes to the “Spiritually Speaking” column in the Victoria Times Colonist.

30 November
5:00–6:00pm

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