rijo research 2.0
Don't let the
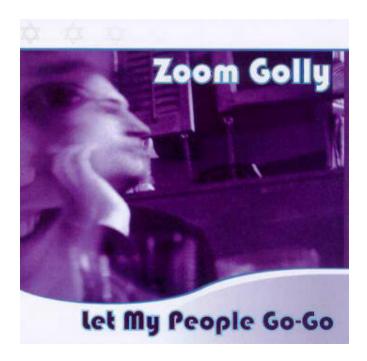bastards
grind you down

Zoom Golly's "Let My People Go-Go": Funky "Jew-boy with a mission"

Did you ever wonder what it sounded like if "Bootsy" Collins played "Hava Nagila" or "Hevenu Shalom Alechem" became a Reggae song? Nope? Okay, even if you are not inclined to ask yourself funny questions, Zoom Golly's (aka David P. Adler) *Let My People Go-Go* is a treat for your ears - and yet another example for the brilliant musical talent obviously inherited by the offspring of Nuremberg's prewar Jewish community (Dave's mother is from Nuremberg), e.g. singer-songwriter Billy Joel, pianist Claude Frank and his daughter Pamela, British organist David Bamber, the late classical musician and conductor Heinz Freudenthal, son of Rabbi Dr. Max Freudenthal, and many more.

Let My People Go-Go is the result of a musical experiment which turned out more than well. The precondition for this success was a sophisticated American multi-instrumentalist, co-producer and exceptional singer having the idea of taking Israeli folk songs such as "Kol Dodi" or "Shalom Chawerim" and translating them into the 21st century. During this transformation the traditional melodies keep their spirit and dignity represented by Zoom Golly's almost classical vocal interpretation, and are added a new quality within an amazingly wide range of musical styles. There are elements of Funk, Jazz, Drum & Bass Music and Club Sound making every track a surprise to the listener.

What increases the effect of the music is the identification of the artist with his subject. Zoom Golly not only explores his and Israeli folk music's potential, but also connects to his own biography. In the autobiographical song "Bar Mitzvah" both the lyrics (see the quotation in the headline) and the music, a recording of David's first lecture from Torah in a lucid soprano voice sending shivers down your spine, give the listener the key to the idea behind the project: It is the same old question about one's roots effecting his or her present and future. The privilege of the musician is that asking this question publicly does not evoke boredom and yawning but snapping fingers and tapping feed instead.

My recommendation approved by self-test is to apply Zoom's *Let My People Go-Go* at least twice a day: In the morning kick off with "Zum Gali", the song from which David took his artist name. Lines like "Work is meant for the pioneer. The pioneer is meant for work." embedded into a driving rhythm give you the extra energy (and portion of humor) to stand nice colleagues and competent superiors. On your way home listen to "Artza Alinu" and your mind will flush all the experiences otherwise bound to become your first stomach ulcer.

For owning these qualities which are adherent to any kind of good music, *Let My People Go-Go* is a CD for Jews, Gentiles, Americans, Germans, simply all the black, white, brown or yellow people who want to go-go.

Gerhard Jochem

Zoom Golly: *Let My People Go-Go*. Produced by Zoom Golly and Jeff Moleski. Vocals, keyboards and percussion by Zoom Golly, additional instruments by Biff Blumfumgagne, Steve Burke and Jeff Moleski.
© 2000 Roundlight Music, 2658 Griffith Park Blvd. #215, Los Angeles, CA 90039-2520

Email: zoom[at]Roundlight.com

By the courtesy of Roundlight Music and the artist we offer our visitors a clip (1 min 45 sec) from our favorite song "Hava Nagila" in a free **download** version (zoom_golly.wav, 1.64 MB). The sound quality had to be reduced in order to decrease the size of the file.