

# THE VOICE



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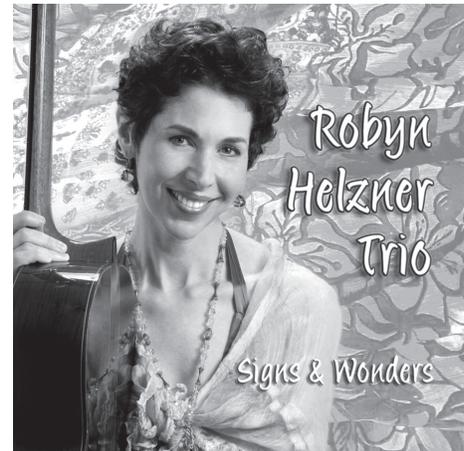
## VOICE MUSIC

### Jewish World Music

The Robyn Helzner Trio—*Signs and Wonders*

by Gail Wartell

*Signs and Wonders* is the newest CD from the Robyn Helzner Trio, and certainly their best recording. All very versatile musicians, Robyn is accompanied by Dov Weitman on mandolin and guitar, and Matt Holsen on bass and keyboard. They have a richly distinctive sound.



This is a world music CD. Songs are in English, Yiddish, Hebrew and Ladino.

The music is a bit too sophisticated to label simply folk music. In addition to traditional melodies, they have new songs with a lot of flair. New interpretations of classics include jazz influences (Hillel Haya Omer) and bluegrass (Oseh Shalom). There are upbeat pieces, and tender ballads, all done superbly with Robyn's amazing voice and the trio's distinctive harmonies. They are polished professionals.

Interestingly, their English language selections are "Turn, Turn, Turn," and "Summer's End," which are not traditional for Jewish artists.

Their rendering of "B'reishit" is captivating. This a sweet piece of music; the piano is quietly inspired and the vocals more subtle, and the result is delicious.

For more information and to order: [www.helzner.com](http://www.helzner.com).

*Gail Wartell has been DJ/host of the Sunday Simcha at WMPG for 10 years. She played saxophone with Judy and the Gefilte Fish klezmer band. She lives in Portland with her family, she works at USM, and holds the rank of Black Belt in Shotokan karate. She is a member of Congregation Bet Ha'am.*