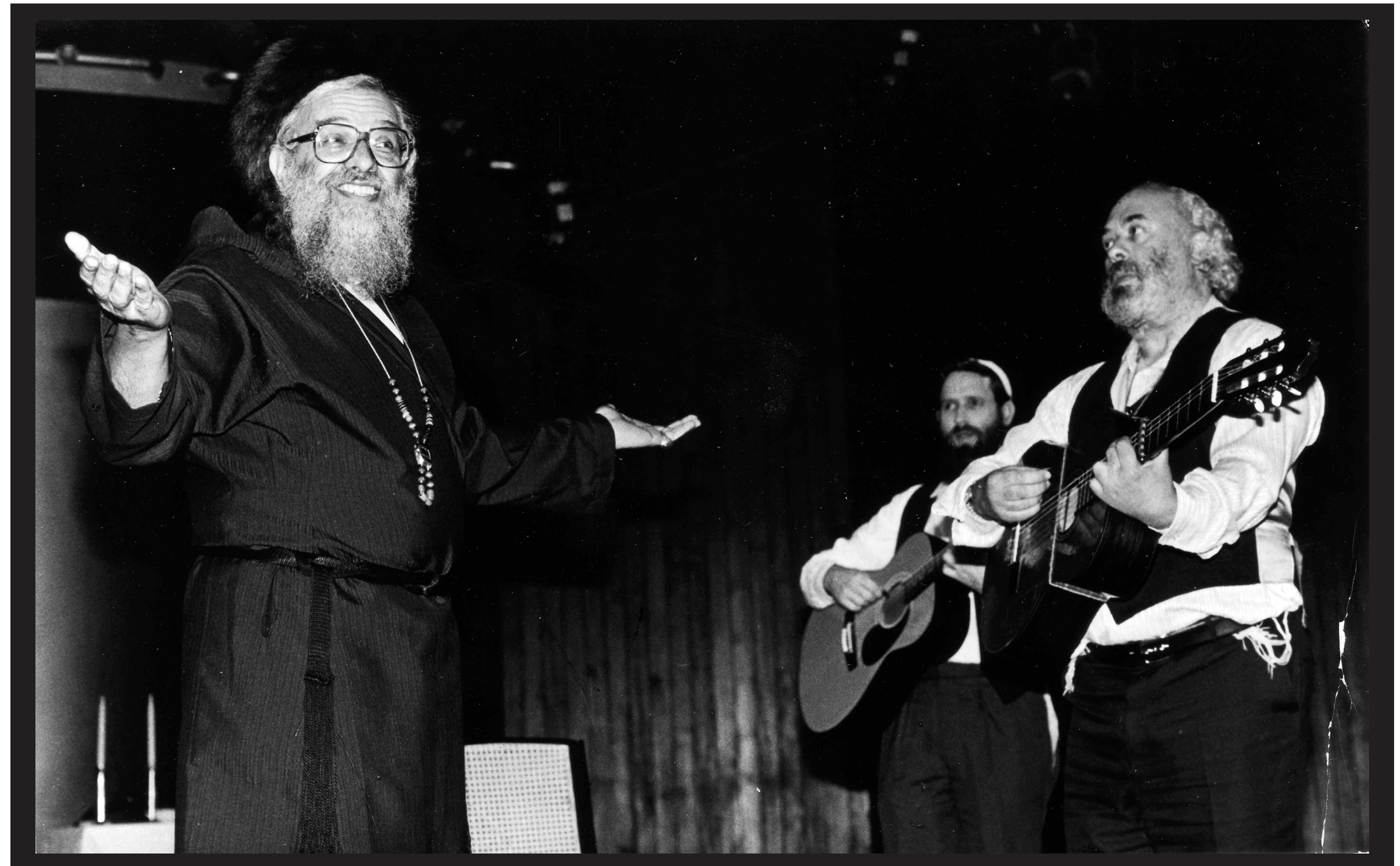


The Sound of Ecstasy

Although untrained as a musician, Zalman Schachter-Shalomi has sung and composed Hasidic melodies, called *niggunim*, for most of his life. He has worked to preserve and teach his students many of the pre-Holocaust Hasidic melodies he learned in Europe, and yet, he has also made the composition of new music for Jewish services a priority of the Jewish Renewal movement.



"Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, Rabbi David Zeller, and Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach performing in Bombay, India in 1982." Photographer, Surya Green

"The *niggun* is a melody for tuning the soul, creating a unique atmosphere, and keeping it primed. If you want to drink-in the Ba'al Shem Tov and be 'under the influence' of his Torah, you sing the Ba'al Shem Tov's Niggun. It is like installing a BeShT [Ba'al Shem Tov] Operating System in your heart-space. Why? Because there is a certain *kavanah* (intentionality) that goes into the composition of a *niggun*, and that quality can be invoked under the right circumstances."

Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, "The Fourth Turning"