

‘Except Saturday’ Victorious In Battle Of The Bands

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Members of the Except Saturday band (L–R): Shloime Tanenbaum, Azriel Septimus (Michael Ribalt, Elan Kugel, Erez Cohen, Jeremy Linder not shown)

The Brooklyn-based band known as Except Saturday emerged victorious over seven other bands in the Fourth Annual Battle of the Bands contest held the evening of March 7 at Touro College’s Lander College for Men in Kew Gardens Hills. Approximately 350 people attended the three-hour competition of all-male Jewish music bands, which was sponsored by Lander College for Men.

Winning band members are Azi Septimus, lead guitar; Elan Kugel, drums; Erez Cohen, vocals, rhythm guitar; Jeremy Linder, keyboard, backup vocals; Michael Ribalt, guitar, backup vocals; and Shloime Tanenbaum, bass guitar. The band currently is in the process of self-producing its first album. Two Far Rockaway-based bands, Min Shemaya and Guns ‘N’ Moses, took second and third places, respectively.

“In addition to being a fun and entertaining event, the Battle of the Bands competition helps to showcase the musical talents of young people in the Jewish community,” said Dr. Moshe Sokol, dean of Lander College for Men. “Music plays such a central role in the lives of so many. This competition provides a forum for young Jewish men to cultivate their talents and interests in a wholesome environment.”

The grand-prize-winning band won 10 hours of free recording time at Touro College's DMX Studios plus free recording time in Sweeter Studios with brass instrument accompaniment by NewYorkBrass.com. The second-place prize was \$500, and the third-place winners received a \$300 gift certificate for the Safra Judaica store in Flushing.

The bands, which came from throughout the New York metro area, were judged based on the originality of their lyrics and music. The judges were Ophie Nat, an accomplished musician, teacher, and camp director; Eliezer Fold, owner of the Mr. Music store in the Five Towns; Yossi Sonnenblick, musician and adjunct professor of Jewish history at Lander College for Men; and Elie Berdey, co-owner of NewYorkBrass.com.

Other bands in the competition included Hisorirus, Tractate 64, Garage 9, US, and 18 Minutes.