

**Sofias Reisen – new CD by the Ensemble WAKS
with Inge Mandos (vocals), Hans-Christian Jaenicke (violin), and Klemens Kaatz (piano,
accordion)**

A young woman from Leningrad travels through numerous shtetls in what is now Ukraine and Belarus between 1928 and 1949, enthusiastically collecting traditional Yiddish songs with a wax-cylinder phonograph. This woman is **Sofia Magid (1892–1954)**, a determined and courageous music ethnologist from Leningrad who understood that very little time remained to preserve the Jewish cultural heritage of Eastern Europe before it disappeared.

With the new CD *Sofias Reisen*, the Ensemble WAKS retraces these journeys and creates a deeply moving encounter with the people of that time. These songs speak of love, loss, and friendship — but also of pogroms, war, and increasing oppression, and not least of the looming decline of East-European Jewish culture.