In the term "Jewish Music" the adjective 'Jewish' relates to several meanings.

A: Traditional Jewish liturgical music. Over the many hundreds of years in the global diaspora, the style of this music was ever greatly influenced by the music of the respective host-country which gave living space to the immigrated Jews. Therefore we are in possession of a widespread variety of prayer cantilations still alive in our days.

B: The state of Israel took over from the diaspora the national anthem 'Hatikvah'. Such proceeding shows prominently the stylistic problem of expressing in music national Jewish sentiment. The Hatikvah is in words and music at home in Middle-Europe. Now the young Israel starts his melting activity of Jewish music from all Jewish immigrant waves.
Jewish folk- and art music is intensely mutating.

C. Living towards the end of the 20th century, our present generation of musicians is demanded to prepare the ground for fundamental changes in musical language in general and especially in Israel. Cultivation and education must be performed by creative forces with a progressive message in mind. Our music heritage still contains much un-conceived wisdom to make our search for new grounds fruitful.

Josef Tal