Kelli Robertson’s story comes from a Yiddish folk song that probably originated with the Ashkenazi Jews in Eastern and Central Europe.

Some interesting Yiddish phrases:

- A gezunt ahf dein kop! - Good health to you (lit., Good health on your head)
- A glick ahf dir! - Good luck to you (Sometimes used sarcastically about minor good fortunes) Big thing!
- A glick hot dich getrofen! - Big deal! Sarcastic; lit., A piece of luck happened to you.
- A groyser tzuleyger - A big shot (sarcastically.)
- A grubber yung - A coarse young man
- A kappore - A catastrophe.
- A khasuren die kalleh is tsu shayn - A fault that the bride is too beautiful
- A klog iz mir! - Woe is me!
- A klog tzu meineh sonim! - A curse on my enemies!
- A langer lucksh - A tall person (a long noodle)
- A leben ahf dein kepele - A life on your head (A grandparent might say to a grandchild meaning "you are SO smart!")

Taken from: http://www.pass.to/glossary/Default.htm

Yiddish Music

Like Yiddish theater, Yiddish music ultimately has its roots in Jewish religion. The Jewish love of music is seen in the earliest stories in the Bible: in Exodus 15, both Moses and Miriam lead the Children of Israel in song after G-d drowns the pursuing Egyptians in the sea; King David is often portrayed playing musical instruments. Music is an integral part of Jewish worship: most of the prayers are sung or chanted. Even the Torah is read to a traditional chant. It has been customary for hundreds of years for synagogues to have a professional chazzan, a person with musical skills to lead the song-filled prayer services.

Yiddish culture has produced a wealth of music, from lullabies to love songs, from mournful songs of loss and exile to the wild dance music of klezmer.

Yiddish music traditionally was played on string instruments (fiddle, viola, etc.), the tsimbl (a Jewish instrument similar to a dulcimer) and flute, perhaps because these instruments were relatively quiet and would not attract the attention of hostile
gentiles. In later days, however, the clarinet became a staple of Yiddish music because of its ability to emulate the wailing or laughing sound of the human voice.

The style of music most commonly associated with Yiddish culture is klezmer. The word "klezmer" comes from the Hebrew words "klei zemer" which means "instruments of song," and probably indicates the important role that instruments played in this kind of music. You've probably heard klezmer music in the background of television shows or movies featuring Jews: it is normally characterized by the wailing, squealing sounds of clarinets. It has also influenced some modern bands: I was in a bookstore a while ago and heard what I thought was klezmer music, only to be told it was Squirrel Nut Zipper! The klezmer style is based on cantoral singing in synagogue: simple melodies in a minor key with extensive ornamentation, such as fast trills and sliding notes. It's hard to explain unless you've heard it.

You can hear some traditional Yiddish music in the samples of Best of Yiddish Songs and Klezmer Music on Amazon.com. The track Doyne/Kiever Freylekhs is a particularly good example of klezmer dance music.

Taken from: http://www.jewfaq.org/yiddish.htm