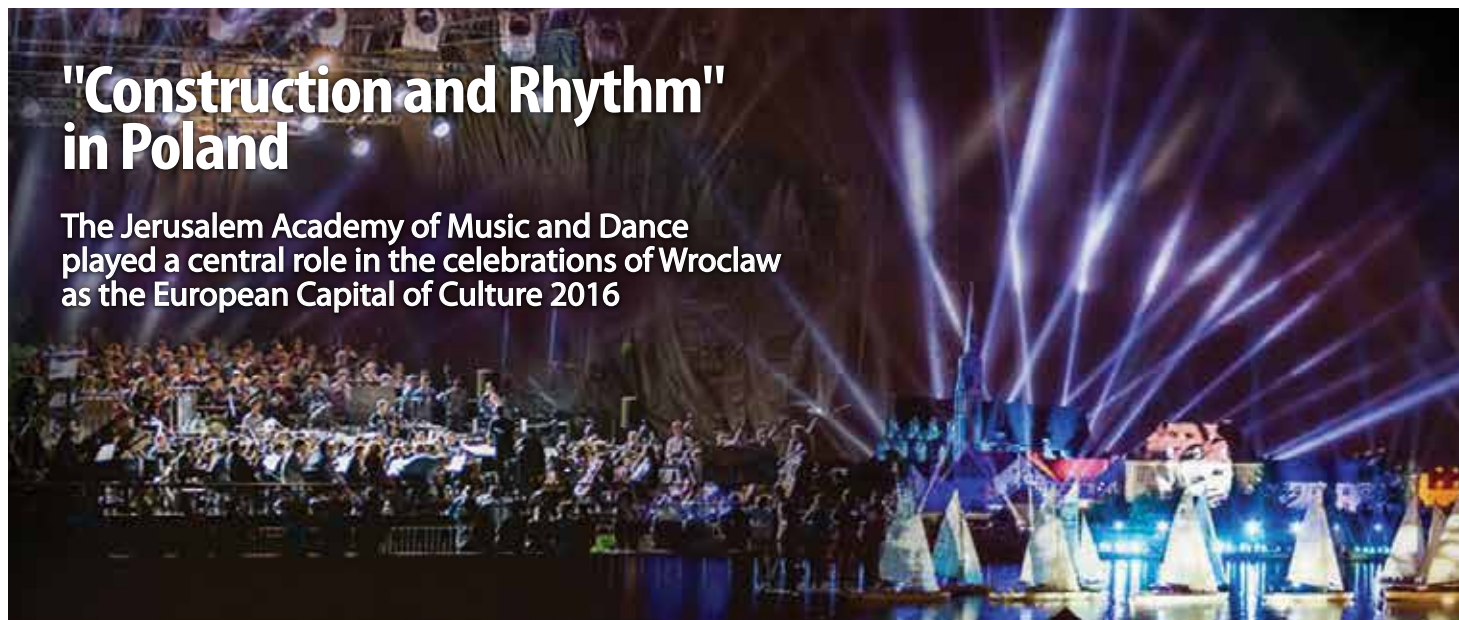




"Construction and Rhythm" in Poland

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance played a central role in the celebrations of Wrocław as the European Capital of Culture 2016



Udi Perlman, a graduate student of composition at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, musicians of the Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra and the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Choir took part in the main event celebrating Wrocław in Poland as the European Capital of Culture 2016 in June 2016. A huge concert was held on the banks of the river Oder, featuring a compilation of works for choir and orchestra, the Flow Quartet, whose four sections were each composed by a young composer from a different country associated with the history of the city of Wrocław. Each part is also a work in and of itself and is linked to the complex story of Wrocław, with each chapter focusing on a separate historical period of the city, during the 20th century.

Udi Perlman composed the opening movement, "Construction and Rhythm", which focused on the period between the World Wars, the days of the Weimar Republic - when the city was still part of Germany. "The text I chose," says Perlman, "is a poem by Heinrich Heine, translated into Hebrew by Lea Goldberg: "You flow in my soul/Melody of purity/Fly, free spring song, to the expanse/flooded with light. Fly, please, to the garden/There the flowering has begun/If you should meet a rose/Give her my blessing." There is a wonderful rendition of the song by Ester Ofarim and I decided to quote a section of that performance in my work. I wanted to address the topic in an abstract and general way, and not in a directly descriptive way. So I chose the text of Heine, which is horribly naive. I thought of it as a kind of symbol of the era of the past, a lost era, a kind of collective memory. The other parts of the piece are in Yiddish, Czech and German. "

The other three movements were composed by composers from Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany, students from the academies of Wrocław, Prague and Dresden. The Orchestra, comprised of 90 musicians from these academies, included 15 players of the Academy's Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra, and 30 vocalists of the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Choir sang in a choir of 160 singers from eight choirs.

The initiator of the event, renowned British stage director Chris Baldwin, sought to transfer the story of the Polish Wrocław, formerly German Breslau, to future generations by referring to the four populations who have a key part in the history of the city - German, Jewish, Polish and Ukrainian, and thus represent the story of all of Europe. Baldwin integrated a lighting system that matched and accompanied the execution of the musical scores, and performance art video was screened on the walls of the four churches that surround the compound where the concert took place. Screens were scattered throughout the city in order to present the concert to the tens of thousands of visitors.

The Jerusalem Academy Chamber Choir was also selected to open the entire festival at an a-cappella concert held in the University of Wrocław's Auditorium Marianum, conducted by the choir's musical director, Prof. Stanley Sperber. The choir performed 16 compositions, including "Sacrifice of Isaac" by Aharon Harlap, "God of my Word" by Paul Ben-Haim, "Depths" by Ben Yefet, and "Atur Mitzkhekh" by Yoni Rechter and Abraham Halfi.

Jerusalem Academy President Prof. Yinam Leef concluded: "We are extremely proud that the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance was selected to represent Israel at the event in Wrocław. We thank the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who also views our participation as very important, for its support."



MENDI RODAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

East to West – at the Israel Festival - June 2016

Concert of the Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, IBA

together with the representative ensemble of the Department of Oriental Music at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance

A festive joint concert of the Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra was held at the Israel Festival. The concert was dedicated to multicultural dialogue in the world of music - from Russia to Yemen and from Vienna to Cairo. It was conducted by Eitan



Globerson and Michael Wolpe, and the representative ensemble of the Academy's Department of Oriental Music participated with soloists Yonit Golan Shaked, Samia Ashqar and Dunia Darawshe.

The concert program included Mark Kopytman's "Sound of Memories" which blends Yemenite folk and contemporary classical concert music; a medley of songs of Fairuz and Shoshana Damari, arranged specially for the concert by Ehud Perlman, Yoav Shemesh and Israel Glicksburg under the tutelage of Prof. Michael Wolpe; the overture to "Die Entführung aus dem Serail" by Mozart, with a specially-arranged introductory piece by Prof. Taiseer Elias, performed by the representative ensemble of the Department of Oriental Music; and the symphonic suite Scheherazade by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov.

The concert was praised enthusiastically for the breadth and diversity of the program, and for the colorful and musical performance which was both polished and exciting.

Winter Symphony

In early January 2017 The Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra opened the season with a fascinating concert dedicated to the memory of the fifth president of the State of Israel, Yitzhak Navon, Chairman of the Executive Committee (2004-1994) and honorary president of the Academy.

"SymphonyCantata" by Jonathan Keren, commissioned by the orchestra with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture, made its world premiere, alongside Mozart's Violin Concerto and a symphony by Brahms. The orchestra was conducted by its musical director, Prof. Eitan Globerson, who pointed out the fascinating parts of the artistic program, "Two of the works in the program look back on one of the greatest composers of all time, Johann Sebastian Bach. The piece that opens the concert –

"SymphoniCantata" by Israeli composer Jonathan Keren, and the final chapter of Brahms's Fourth Symphony whose inspiration came from the chorales of

Bach cantatas."

Jonathan Keren is one of the most prominent composers of the younger generation of musicians in the country. Speaking about his work "SymphonyCantata", commissioned by the Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra, with the support of the Ministry of Culture, Keren said: "A few years ago I played the Bach's fourth cantata "Christ lag in Todes Banden". Its opening, based on the choral melody, shocked me both by its beauty and by the pain it expresses. Bach's cantata was based entirely on the same choral melody, and Bach uses it in many different ways. Gradually the idea came to me to write a work that is based on the same Lutheran choral melody, and actually write a tribute to Bach's cantata as a colorful collage, or a clash of worlds."

Sonatenabends at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance

The 18th season of the concert series at the Academy is devoted to Sonatas - the most important musical genre in the history of music, from the Baroque period to the present. The meetings feature selections of sonatas by familiar and favorite composers alongside fresh discoveries, performed by artists from the Academy and guests from Israel and abroad. Each session will be accompanied with explanations by elite Academic staff members. Series editor, Dr. Ron Regev, said: "The sonata is not only a title which finds its way to almost every concert's program; the sonata is more than just a form. It is an entire musical philosophy, which began to evolve during the Baroque period, and is with us to this day." In late November the first concert in the series took place, with the theme of "Hungarian Sonata". In this concert piano improvisations were performed based on Hungarian peasant songs of Opus 20 and Sonata No. 2 for violin and piano by Bartok, Liszt's Hungarian Rhapsody and Hungarian Dances for four hands by Brahms. The performers were Eyal Klass on violin, alongside both Gergely Kovacs, a guest from Hungary, and Dr. Ron Regev on piano, with a lecture by Dr. Ron Regev and Prof. Paul Richter, also a visitor from Hungary.

The second concert in the series, "Songs of the Land", was held in early December 2016 as a tribute to the international alto singer Mira Zakai. The concert featured artistic arrangements by Menachem Wiesenberg,

taken from the nascent state's song repertoire. Most arrangements were written at the invitation of Mira Zakai especially for the opening show of the Israel Festival in 1988, dedicated to the celebration of 40 years of Israel's independence. Since then, the arrangements were performed many times by leading Israeli artists on concert stages across the country and around the world, and have become the inalienable property of the Jewish song repertoire. Menachem Wiesenberg accompanied on piano two young Academy graduate vocalists, who stand out among the future generation of the country's vocalists, soprano Anna Spitz and baritone Guy Peltz.



Finish Line Festival for completion of the Master's degree in Dance at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance

Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance is the only Israeli institution to offer a Master's Degree in Dance. In December the Finish Line Festival featured the works of the third cycle of graduates of the Academy's M.Dance program.

The festival was held for the second time, and its format includes presentation of public works in conjunction with dialogue over coffee between the creator and Dance Faculty teachers, with audience participation.

The works of the master's degree graduates were presented to the public who came to watch a fascinating encounter between different and diverse perspectives that occur in the field of contemporary dance and the various artistic and philosophical worlds. They showed how poetry speaks with dance, how dance connects the personal to the international and to the intergenerational space, how gender thought is expressed through dance and how dance can be a personal research laboratory.



Guests at the Academy

Delegation from the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest

In November 2016 the Academy hosted musicologist Prof. Pal Richter and pianist Gergely Kovacs from the Franz Liszt Academy in Budapest. The visit, sponsored by the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, added a new layer to the fruitful cooperation between the two academies. The visitors also gave guest lectures and concerts, which focused on the music of Bela Bartok. Events included a lecture by Prof. Richter on Bartok's contribution, Gergely Kovacs' master class for Academy students featuring selected piano works by Bartok, and Kovacs' performance in a concert part one of the Academy's chamber music series.



Delegation from the National University of Music in Bucharest

In December 2016 the Academy hosted a delegation of musicians from the National University of Music in Bucharest, Romania. The delegation, headed by the Master Prof. Diana Moss, included the composer Prof. Dan Dediu, musicologist Prof. Valentina Sando- Dediu and six members of the Profile Ensemble, which specializes in contemporary music. The delegation held two concerts of the ensemble, dedicated to contemporary Romanian music at the Academy, and presented lectures on musicology issues, and master classes on a variety of instruments as well as on composition. This visit was made possible thanks to the cooperation between the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and the Music Academy in Bucharest, under the auspices of and support of the Romanian Cultural Institute in Tel Aviv.



Emmet Cohen Trio

In December 2016 we hosted Emmet Cohen's internationally acclaimed trio of Emmet Cohen from the USA, within the framework of cooperation with the Jazz Festival at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The Trio's players gave a master class for Academy students, who also performed. All the musicians who participated and the entire audience were excited by the intensity of the experience. The trio's bassist and drummer, Russell Hall and Evan Sherman respectively, also opened and held a Jam Session with Academy students, at the opening of the Festival at the Post Hostel in Jerusalem.



Honorary Awards granted at the International

At a ceremony at the International Board of Governors Meeting in 2016 the Academy awarded honorary degrees. The title of Honorary Trustee was bestowed upon Mr. Ran Tuttnauer and Mrs. Hava Tuttnauer. Titles of Honorary Fellow were conferred on to conductor Avner Itai and choreographer Rami Be'er. The Academy inscribed Mr. Motti Shmitt, Professor Vyacheslav (Slava) Ganelin and Ms. Smadar Kolben into its Golden Book.

The title of Honorary Trustee was bestowed upon **Mrs. Hava Tuttnauer**, and upon her son **Mr. Ran Tuttnauer**, Director and CEO of Tuttnauer Ltd. respectively, for their support of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, their belief in the importance of music education and long-standing contributions to culture and leisure in Jerusalem; and for their commemoration of the name of their late husband and father, Joshua Tuttnauer, who had a great love for music, by a significant contribution to the Joshua Tuttnauer Ankor Choir. We thank Mr. Ran Tuttnauer for declaring their continued support for the Ankor Choir for an additional for five years.

The title of Honorary Fellow was bestowed upon the conductor Prof. Avner Itai for his contribution to the development of professional and artistic choral singing in Israel, for the establishment of the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Choir, and his many years with the Ihud Choir and Cameran Choir; for the dedicated pedagogical work and the establishment of generations of students, based on high artistic standards in relation to culture, language and Hebrew poetry, and for promoting original choral pieces in Israel.



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The title Honorary Fellow was awarded to choreographer **Rami Be'er** for his work of many years with the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company and for his contribution to the development of creativity in choreography in Israel; for great achievements in his original works which combines unique theatrical thinking and universal artistic expression resulting from the Israeli experience; and for making contemporary dance accessible to new audiences, young and old alike.

New appointments

Amir Kolben - Dean of the Faculty of Dance

Dana Bar - Head of the Movement Department, Faculty of Dance

Yuval Cohen - Head of the Cross-Disciplinary Instrumental Division, Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music

Ms Mai Israeli Leshman – Head of the Cross-Disciplinary Vocal Division, Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music

Dr. Amit Weiner – Head of the Cross-Disciplinary Composition Division, Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music

Sherover Scholarship Fund

In recent years, the Gabriel Sherover Foundation has donated scholarships of excellence for students at the Academy and the Yehoshua Totenauer Ankor Choir who experience financial difficulties on their way to realizing their artistic talent. Mr. Micha Tal, Vice-President and Director-General of the Academy,

noted that the Gabriel Sherover Foundation contribution enables the Academy to increase the number of scholarships, and constitutes an important part of the Academy's aid to disadvantaged gifted students.

Board of Governors of the Academy in 2016

The Academy recorded in the Golden Book **Mr. Motti Schmitt**, violinist, teacher and world-renowned educator, who served for many years as lead musician in the Symphony Orchestra, IBA, and who is focused on performing and recording works by Israeli composers of past and present generations. At the Academy, as head of the String Department, he educated generations of young violinists, many of whom are prominent musicians in leading orchestras and ensembles in Israel and abroad; he initiated numerous musical activities, he founded the "Soloists of Jerusalem" orchestra and served as its conductor, and established the first Jerusalem String Quartet with his colleagues at the Academy. Following a connection with youth mandolin players, he revealed the artistic abilities of the popular tool, and began to train teachers and students on artistic playing of this instrument, outstanding mandolin players came to study with him at the academy, and many of them have won national competitions and gained an international reputation. He conducted and directed the Academy Orchestra, and currently is in his third term of conducting and directing the Israeli Plucked String Orchestra. His contribution as an artist and teacher promoted and significantly enriched the educational and artistic activity at the Academy.



Ms Smadar Kolben, musician, choral conductor and educator was recorded in the Golden Book for her dedicated operations and significance in establishing the young Ankor Choir which she conducted at the Conservatory at the Academy, and for working as a music teacher and supervisor of Music Education in Jerusalem. As Director of the Academy High School of Music and Dance for ten years, she led the development of its importance in high school artistic education, by giving significant impetus to artistic action by creating workshops, by improving the level of performance and by creating a tradition of opening the school year with festivals. She developed a vision of teamwork with school staff, sharing the responsibility for education of students with personal support for each student, above and beyond the call of duty. Under her leadership, a study track was created which combined professional art with social action, which led to the granting of special status to the school by the Ministry of Education and to the awarding of the Education Award of the Jerusalem Education Authority.



Composer, pianist, educator and creator Jazz Professor **Slava Ganelin** was recorded in the Golden Book for the artistic and educational work, which gave him an international reputation as a composer of chamber and symphonic works, opera, ballet music, and music for theater, cinema and television, as well as works in various jazz ensembles; a virtuoso, considered one of the greatest jazz musicians of the free world, who brought the art of improvisation to the highest level of expression coupled with perfection of form; and as a teacher whose lessons and master classes he gives in Israel, in the United States and Europe are considered an unforgettable musical experience by the students, during which he prompts his students to personal and original creative thought. At the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance he is a lecturer in jazz, who taught improvisation, piano, solfege-jazz and composition, and served as head of the jazz department. When the Cross-Disciplinary Instrumental Division was established, Prof. Ganelin developed important courses in composition for cinema and theater. His artistic and educational contribution to the Academy and to the world of music is a unique and immensely significant.



The Academy Congratulates President and Dean Award Winners

AT THE OPENING OF THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR A FESTIVE CEREMONY WAS HELD DURING WHICH ACADEMY PRESIDENT PROF. YINAM LEEF AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, ATTY. YAIR GREEN ADDRESSED THE STUDENTS AND DURING WHICH THE PRESIDENT AND FACULTY DEAN AWARDS WERE PRESENTED FOR ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE 2015-16 SCHOOL YEAR.

Students received awards for outstanding achievements in the field of art and education, as well as for special contribution to the social and creative environment in which they operate and succeed. These are the names of the award winners:

Dean's Award, Faculty for the Performing Arts:

Yuval Teeni, Classical Guitar, fourth year

Rationale: The prize was awarded to a student who demonstrated high achievements and excellence in playing the classical guitar, combined with special merit in theoretical studies.

Dean's Award, Faculty of Multidisciplinary Music Award:

Gur Shafir, Composition, third year

Rationale: The prize was awarded for academic excellence in composition, for deep thinking based on knowledge of tradition, alongside original and personal reflection, which is fundamental to a future of high artistic and creative levels.

Dean of Student's Award:

Sarah Neviim, trumpet, third year

Rationale: As part of the Perach project, Sarah has voluntarily taken on the task of teaching a student who was rejected from regular study tracks due to adjustment problems. She guided and led him to an impressive performance at the end of year concert.

Academy President's Award:

Ido Romano, composition – First year M.Mus.

Rationale: The prize was awarded for impressive achievements in all fields of study, especially in composition; for creating a well-formulated individual style, with outstanding rich imagination, for composition technique at the highest level, for deep musical insights and for exquisite musical taste.

Dean's Award, Faculty for Composition, Conducting and Music Education:

Tom Karni, Orchestra Conducting, third year

Rationale: The prize was awarded for academic excellence and dedication to the profession of conducting where special musical and technical talents are discovered. In addition, it was awarded for Tom's organizational skills and willingness to volunteer for any purpose, and to offer help and support of his friends and colleagues.

Dean's Award, Faculty of Dance:

Talia Elbaz, Dept. of Dance, fourth year

Rationale: The prize was awarded for excellence in all fields of study and work, to a great dancer at the core, a thorough and inquisitive student in academic studies, and as a teacher with full control of the material and of exceptional ability in presenting it to her students.

Yael Eden, Dept. of Movement, fourth year

Rationale: The prize was awarded for excellence in the Movement Department and in the Choreography Program, which takes form in notable achievements in performance, in creative and theoretical lessons alike, and in significant contribution, in both work and ideas, in the classroom and for the Department.

News from the Jerusalem Academy High School of Music and Dance

The first semester of the year was full of events in the music and dance study tracks, along with community volunteer activities, preparation for IDF recruitment and community involvement.

The Music Department

The weekly concert season of students and guests appearing before the music department opened. The first concert was given by percussionist and conductor Chen Zimbalista, and featured a quartet of string players of the high school: Itamar Ben-Dahan, Alex Pirsky, Noa Dekel and Isaac Nuri. The special ensemble played pieces by Piazzolla, Eugene Levitas and JS Bach. After the concert

a lively discussion was held with students on the subject of performance-related skills.

In late November there was a master class in the music department's jazz program, hosted by Dana Stevens, one of the greatest saxophonists of our time, who lives and works in New York and plays all over the world with leading musicians. The event was opened by the jazz department coordinator, Tal Gamliel's trio, featuring two of the high school's graduates, pianist Hai-Bar-David and drummer Amir Bar-Akiva. In the master class, students Alinoam Varshavsky, Yiftach Katz, Itamar Dahan, Bar Filippovich and Jonathan Tajer performed. The event was a fascinating and exciting musical and learning experience for the track's students.

In early September the high school hosted a Jewish-Arab ensemble from the Alpert Music

Center in Jerusalem, ahead of its trip to perform before the UN General Assembly in New York. The ensemble is comprised of six young musicians, including high school student clarinetist Matan Sasson with a flute, violin, piano, darbuka drum and string instruments - oud and mandolin. The program included songs in Hebrew and Arabic arranged under the guidance of teacher and pianist Zeev Toren.

The Dance Department

At the end of October eleventh grade dancers, accompanied by musicians from the high school, participated in the Parade of Love, Reconciliation and Tolerance, which was titled "Flower of Love".

The event was held as part of the dance and art festival "From Jaffa to Agrippa", held at the Mahane Yehuda market to mark the opening



of the school year. During the parade, the dancers handed out flowers of their own design and created a wordless dialogue with the audience through dance and music. Students of the modern dance merit workshop visited Kibbutz Ga'aton for a fascinating day of work and study with Rami Be'er, the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company choreographer.

Community volunteer activities

The seventh grade students volunteered for a day at nursing homes in Ramat Eshkol and Kiryat Yovel. The students interviewed the elderly and cheered them with Chanukah songs and a dance performance.



The Eighth graders completed a month end of familiarity with hearing impairment. During the month they heard lectures on the subject, contributed to a volunteers' organization, learned sign language, met with the deaf student's parents who recounted the ways they cope with their situation, and completed the process by volunteering in kindergartens in Rehavia and Abu Tor, where there were exciting encounters with children with hearing impairments, before whom they played and showed how to produce sounds with an instrument.

In December 2016, the high school students denoted the international Human Rights Day. The school hosted a panel on "Asylum Seekers", featuring Omar Issa, an asylum seeker from Darfur, and Ariella Zwikel, both members of the Executive Committee of the African Community Center Jerusalem. The meeting was organized by a team of high school teachers of citizenship.

On the Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Day, the tenth grade led the ceremony and held workshops on leadership and responsibility for the nature and management of public discourse. Following the activity, a three-year volunteering

program in the community was started for pupils.



In late October the eleventh grade students held a "Pink Day" at school, to raise awareness of breast cancer. During an active recess, the students raised money by selling pink pastries and a operated a number of activity stations, accompanied by jazz music. All funds collected were donated to the Oncology Department at Shaare Zedek Hospital, where students come to visit the sick, play for them and talk with them.

They also spent a week in GADNA (pre-IDF training) for one week, and spent one day meeting with IDF commanders to learn about significant service.

A delegation of twelfth grader students went to Poland in late August, where pupils took part in the ceremonies, which included pieces of music and songs which they had arranged, and which moved the students from other delegations.

Following the Azarya trial, twelfth grade students met with Ilana Dayan to study and discuss the meaning of the trial and its implications for society and for the students, who are about to be drafted into the IDF.



News from the Academy's Conservatory

A series of concerts "Teachers Play with Students" opened, where teachers and students from different departments of the conservatory perform pieces from the best repertoire of all periods in joint ensembles. The first concert took place in late November, featuring teachers and student ensembles from the Vocal, the Wind, the String and the Keyboard Instrument Departments and crowd showed its enthusiastic appreciation

The fifth season of the "Neighboring Sounds" concert series at the Israel Museum Springer hall began. This excellent series combines a variety of chamber music pieces and solo

concerts played by conservatory students. The first concert, a recital for clarinet and piano, was held in late December, with Roi Karni on clarinet and Tom Zalmanov on piano. The concert was a great success and received great reviews.

This year two new bands opened at the Conservatory in collaboration with the Academy High School:



The newly united conservatory and high school symphony orchestra began work, conducted by Ziv Cojocar, who referred to the new initiative: "We see great importance in the consolidation of the two large bodies of the conservatory and the high school into one orchestra that will appear in several concerts throughout the year. The center of the educational-artistic perception is about the players belonging to the community. This is a group of individuals who join together to form common artistic musical fulfillment. Being part of the orchestra-community means to understand the nature of individual responsibility in the face of the collective: to take full personal responsibility, but at the same time, act with mutual responsibility in order to achieve the artistic action. As well as being ambassadors of the community, ambassadors of choice deepening, knowledge and professionalism."

The young string orchestra - consisting of fifth to tenth grade students of the high school and conservatory, conducted by Uri Dror.

"TenyTiny" program for young children under the direction of Dr. Michal Hefer continues to gain momentum: Children age 3 months and older participate in active listening sessions with their parents, are familiarized with classical music and jazz, Israeli and world music - through play, story, poetry, playing percussion and dance, and parents receive e-mail links to the pieces heard in class for continued play and song, at home, and to make music a key part of a vibrant family life until the stage of preparing concerts where they play with older children... This year opened a multi-cultural group opened with parents and children from both East and West Jerusalem.



JAM'd - Jazz from the Academy

On a Friday afternoon in mid-November 2016, the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance brought a jazz show of the best jazz classics and original compositions to the Beit Hayotzer hall in the Tel Aviv port. Leading Israeli jazz artists participated in the show: Eli Degibri, Yuval Cohen, Ilan Salem, Rony Holan, Albert Beger, Yorai Oron, Yaaki Levy and Katia Toobool, all the faculty of the Academy's Cross-Disciplinary Instrumental Division, along with students – the representative Jazz Ensemble led by Yaaki Levy, as well as graduates Avior Rokach and Michael Edwards. The show, initiated by Mr. Yaron Gazit of the Academy's Board of Governors and produced by the Cross-Disciplinary Instrumental Division head Yuval Cohen, was created entirely by the department's teachers, all of them international jazz musicians and composers, along with their students. It was a unique and exciting event, received with great enthusiasm by the crowd. All revenue from the show was dedicated to scholarships for



outstanding students in the Division, whose graduates are recognized and highly regarded around the world as ambassadors of the new sounds of Israeli jazz. Yuval Cohen summarized: "The Academy is very proud of the department and its students, and the scholarships for outstanding students is important to us. That is why the entire Division's staff and Academy staff got together to produce this special musical event". The show's program included standards incorporated into new arrangements, alongside special compositions written especially for this concert, some as free improvisation jazz compositions of the highest level, some as unique duets, others as quartets for whom it was their debut, and large ensembles; And the special musically creative marathon ended with a jam session of all participants, in the tradition of jazz."

Interview with Amir Kolben

Amir, the Academy congratulates your appointment to the position of Dean of the Faculty of Dance. As a creative artist and as a teacher in many varied dance frameworks, how do you see the role of artistic education of the Faculty?

The Faculty of Dance at the Academy is a place that offers students a wide range of opportunities and options, much more than anywhere else in the country. The undergraduate degree we offer is a unique B.Dance, while other institutions offer a B.Ed., which is in education. The undergraduate curriculum also incorporates a teaching certificate, but it focuses on the artistic field. And we also have a master's degree in dance, which is not granted by any other academic institution in the country. This is a formal aspect, which is very important, but it is only one of many aspects and areas where there is a history of the Academy being the pioneer.

Another area where our faculty made a breakthrough is the unique learning system, divided into two fields: movement and dance, which are very different in content, but we also created the possibility of combining these study tracks to allow students to expand their horizons and experience a greater variety of disciplines. Thanks to the approval of the Council for Higher Education, we opened a new unique track on choreography, which we think very important, special track for third and fourth year students interested in creativity. This year we are focusing on execution excellence program. And so the Academy offers the entire range of possible directions for the future development of the students, the plan stands on three legs: the highest level of performance, of education and of creativity-choreography.



What is your vision for the continued development of the faculty, to be realized in your tenure as Dean?

One aspect that has not yet sufficiently reflected in our educational work is the theoretical aspect. There is still no emphasis on this aspect, even though there is a basic teaching in the field. This is one challenge for the future. We would also, as part of our fantasies, like to continue and refine the existing tracks, and once again make the Academy a place where young dancers who want to get the training required come to become professional dancers. Continuing the performance work done at the Faculty, the program of excellence in dance is the beginning of a significant step forward in the field.

I hope to promote the Faculty as a leading institute in action and in training, a not-so-simple-challenge due to our location in Jerusalem, with competition for recruiting first-class teachers versus Tel Aviv is fierce, where there is a critical mass of the dance scene in the country. We have always overcome the disadvantage of location position in Jerusalem, which is perceived as not attractive, thanks to a good study program and excellent teachers. But I would also like to see us integrate more with our alumni in the dance activity across the country. For those who are already working in the field, we offer an additional layer via the Master's program. But in the undergraduate degree, 95% of students have no real prior professional experience. And on both levels our job

is to create leadership also in the practice and also in the minds of all who are seeking a framework for personal development in dance.

By: Galia Regev