



“A Little Help From our Friends” was given enthusiastically and generously at the album launch and fundraising event for the Academy’s Chamber Choir

The Chamber Choir of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance is one of Israel's leading and most prestigious performing bodies, which presents a wide and rich repertoire that includes the best of all periods and styles, with an emphasis on contemporary Jewish and Israeli music, and outstanding professional performance.

Over the course of the past year, the Choir worked intensively on recording a new album, "To Thee We Sing", which features a variety of works from the choral classics to folk and Israeli music, by Brahms, George Gershwin, Yoni Rechter, Shalom Chanoch and others.

In recent years, the Choir has been coping with inadequate budgeting ill-suited to its needs and impressive artistic achievements. Municipal support is minimal, and as an outstanding artistic body, the choir cannot exist only with the support of the Ministry of Culture, self-generated income and random donations. Therefore, the music director and conductor of the choir, Prof. Stanley Sperber, initiated a special concert for the launching of the album and the recruitment of "a little help from the friends" of the choir, "to enable it to continue to nurture wonderful

singers and conductors who are the future generation of classical music in Israel, and to present to the audience an amazing performance of an international level!"

The concert took place at the beginning of March this year at the Einav Center in Tel Aviv, with the participation of leading Israeli soloists, graduates of the choir, who volunteered to perform at the concert: Guy Peltz, Daniella Skorka and Avital Dery. In the concert program, the choir sang a cappella "A Little Help from My Friends" by the Beatles, "Song of the Valley" by Natan Alterman and Daniel Sambursky, arranged by Menachem Wiesenberg and an arrangement of choir member Leila Krakauer, for the song "Always Waiting for You" by Leah Shabat, alongside works by Rossini and Saint-Saëns. At the center of the program, the Choir sang Johannes Brahms' immortal work "German Requiem."

In an enthusiastic and generous response, the listeners of the concert proved that Prof. Sperber's belief that "the faithful audience would come to the aid of the choir during this difficulty" was justified.



Jerusalem - Budapest Joint Project: "The Art of Chamber Music"

A special concert tour was held this February, marking the fifth anniversary of cooperation between the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and the Liszt Academy in Budapest. In the concerts, students from both academies participated in performing works from the best repertoire of chamber music.

Professor Yinan Leef, President of the Jerusalem Academy, said: "The connection between the Jerusalem Academy and that of Budapest is part of our fruitful relationship with parallel institutions in Europe. This project was born as an educational and musical collaboration, and today it is much more than that. Chamber music is the most intimate form of music, it symbolizes the most beautiful aspect of society, and connects people by listening and contributing to one another. Language and other barriers disappear, and new friendships are formed."

For the current meeting - the fifth meeting in the project - 10 students from Budapest came with two guest speakers: Prof. Peter Barshonay, head of the viola department, and pianist Prof. Bolz Foley, head of the chamber music department, both renowned artists and teachers. Alongside them were 10 Israeli students and the Jerusalem Academy teachers Gilad Harel and Roi Shiloah.

During the week, the students held intensive rehearsals with the teachers from both countries and gave a concert before students of the Jerusalem Academy High School. The culmination of the project was a

unique collaboration with the Alma Arts Center in Zichron Yaacov, in two concerts held in Alma's excellent halls for the enthusiastic audience of the Arts Center.

The concert program included major chamber works - Mozart's Clarinet Quintet and Dvorak's Quintet - along with lesser-known works such as Jean Franca's Quintet, adaptation of pieces from Bach's Musical Offering, and two short works by Omer Barash and András Gelléri, students of composition from both academies. As a special event, the program featured a piece by the composer André Heidou, who passed away last year and used his life and work as a bridge between the two cultures of Israel and Hungary.

The initiator of the cooperation was Mr. Ilan Mor, a former ambassador of Israel to Hungary, who said that "music in general and collective concerts in particular provide an exceptional opportunity for people from different backgrounds and cultures to meet and connect and build bridges for understanding and friendship. Prejudice and xenophobia - goals we have set for ourselves in this unique project."

The Franz Liszt Music Academy in Budapest is one of the most prestigious academies in the world, and among its graduates are the founders of the Israeli Academy of Music and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, which was sponsored by the Hungarian Embassy in Israel and Hungarian Ambassador Andor Nagj.



The Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra

Winners of the Sharon Tavor-Pintz Competition for Soloists

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance's Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra held a concert dedicated to the performance with orchestra of the winners of the annual solo music competition with the orchestra, in honor of the late Sharon Tavor-Pintz.

A major annual project in the work of the symphony orchestra, the concert of the winning soloists and the preparation process for it give the soloists a very professional personal experience of the complex encounter with the orchestra playing a canonical piece of the challenging repertoire of

concert and vocal pieces accompanied by an orchestra.

The concert took place in the YMCA Hall in Jerusalem, under the baton of Evgeny Zirlin, and the winners were cellist William Will, who performed Dvorak's cello concerto, and soprano Naama Shulman, who performed arias from the operas "Roméo et Juliette" by Gounod, "Rigoletto" by Verdi, "Don Pasquale" by Donizetti, and Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi." The orchestra opened the concert with the prelude to the opera "Oberon" by Weber, and ended with Liszt's symphonic poem "Les Préludes."

Sonatenabends Concert Series at JAMD



Concert #6 - The Sonatas of Haydn and Beethoven

Towards the end of March this year, the sixth concert in the Sonatenabends concert series, edited by Dr. Ron Regev, took place, as part of the 18th season of the academic concert series, founded by Prof. Asaf Zohar. Participating in the concert were pianists Pedja Muzijevic (Bosnia-USA) and Alan Sternfeld, who performed sonatas by Carl Philip Emanuel Bach, Haydn and Beethoven. Dr. Amit Wiener lectured on the development process that changed the music world completely within sixty years as the sonata's form was crystalized as the basic template for works for piano, chamber ensembles and symphony orchestra. He also revealed the thematic secret behind one of the all-time favorite sonatas, Beethoven's Appassionata.

In his visit to the Academy, Muzijevic also held master classes and lectures, made possible by the generous support of JAMD Board of Governors member David Lyons.

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Concert #9 - Mass & Requiem

The ninth concert of the series was held in early May and was devoted to liturgical and peristaltic works, under the direction of Prof. Michael Wolpe, performed by the Academy Chamber Choir under the direction of Stanley Sperber and the Kfar Saba Chamber Choir under the artistic direction of Aharon Harlap. Prof. Wolpe spoke on the subject, and the program included pieces by Salomone Rossi, William Byrd, Zvi Avni and Mozart, alongside works by past and present academics - Uri Agnon, Shahaf Odeh and Neta Shachar, and arrangements by Prof. Menachem Wiesenberg and Academy student Lilach Krakauer for songs by Daniel Sambursky and Leah Shabat. At the center of the concert was a world premiere of Aharon Harlap's Requiem, which was dedicated to Stanley Sperber and the Academy Chamber Choir, featuring Academy graduates as soloists - soprano Yuval Oren and baritone Guy Peltz.



A Psychic, A Cougar and A Thief

The Academy's Opera Workshop annual production shifts between normal and insane

The operas of "The Old Maid and the Thief" and "The Medium" by Jean Carlo Menotti were performed at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance under the musical direction and baton of Yuval Zoran, with the accompaniment of the pianist Yuri Brenner.

The "Medium" is nothing more than a poor, charismatic Gypsy crook who presents herself to unhappy people as a "communicator" who can bring them together with their dead loved ones. There is no consolation in this story. It begins with grief and ends with tragedy.

The plot of "The Old Maid (Cougar in Hebrew) and the Thief" takes place in the home of a lonely old woman and her young maid in a conservative town from the 1930s, who happen along a young and beautiful beggar, in whom they both fall in love and accidentally identify as a dangerous thief.

On choosing the operas, director of the operas, Shirit Lee Weiss, said: "We chose to present two very different operas of one composer in one evening; in contrast to the humor and grotesque of 'The Old Maid and

the Thief", we presented "The Medium" which is all pain, loss and fear. However, the similarities between them are present since both deal with human situations ranging from normality to devouring. In our production," Weiss elaborated," I chose to emphasize the chasm between the two works. In "The Medium," we take the viewers on a breathless journey of suffocating pain in a closed space, while in "The Old Maid and the Thief" we celebrate life and femininity alongside harsh social criticism and examination of the individual's fears within a conservative community."

The performance of the operas at the Academy was greeted with excitement and enthusiasm by the audience. The vice president of the Liszt Academy in Budapest, Professor Gyula Pakta, who was a guest at the Academy for master classes in composition and was present in the auditorium, was very impressed by this production of "The Medium" and invited the production to participate in an opera festival in Budapest in January 2018.

Guests at the Academy

Visiting artists at the Faculty of Performing Arts:

Prof. Burkhard Kehring - Hochschule für Musik und Theater Hamburg (HfMT), Germany

Lider Workshop and Master Class - January 2017

Prof. Marta Abraham - The Franz Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, Hungary

Master Classes for Violin - January 2017

Prof. Aviram Reichert - Seoul University, South Korea

Master Class for Keyboard Instruments - January 2017

Prof. Jens Lindemann, UCLA, USA

Master Class for Trumpet and Brass Instruments - February 2017

Prof. Christopher Harding - School of Music, Theater and Dance, University of Michigan, USA

Master Class for Piano and a recital of Schumann and Debussy - March 2017

Pedja Muzijevic - Bosnia and USA

Piano recitals and a lecture in the Department of Keyboard Instruments and the Theorists Forum - March 2017

Danuta Augustin-Nowacka - Academy of Music in Krakow, Poland

Master Classes for Violin and Chamber Music - April 2017

Harvey Price - University of Delaware, USA

Master Class for Percussion Instruments - May 2017

Noreen and Philip Silver - University of Maine, USA

Cello and Piano Recital - May 2017

Sondra Tammam - University of Montclair, New Jersey, USA

Master Class on piano, on solving technical difficulties at the keyboard - May 2017

Soyeon Kate Lee and Ran Dank - Israel and USA

Master Class in Classical Piano - May 2017

Cellist **Mircea Marian**, pianist **Madalina Claudia Danila** and musicologist **Dr. Irina Hasnas** - Delegation of the National University of Music of Bucharest, Romania

Concert of cello and piano compositions by Israeli and Romanian contemporary composers - May 2017

Visiting artists at the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education:

Omer Wellber - composer, conductor and pianist graduate of the Academy

Master Class for Conductors - February 2017

Prof. Gyula Fekete - Franz Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, Hungary

Master Class on Composition and Guest of the Projects Week - March 2017

Prof. Sharon Choa - Dean of the Music School of the Academy of the Performing Arts of Hong Kong

Master Class on Orchestra Conducting and Guest of the Projects Week - March 2017

Prof. Norbert Palej - University of Toronto, Canada

Master Class on Composition and Lecture in the Forum of Theorists - May 2017

Visiting artists at the Faculty of Dance:

Dr. Thomas Kampe - Bath Spa University, UK

Master Class on Movement - January 2017

Tamás Bakó - Budapest Contemporary Dance Academy, Hungary

Master Class on Repertoire and Contact Improvisation - January 2017

Visiting artists at the Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music:

Prof. Gilad Cohen - Princeton University, USA

Multidisciplinary Forum - January 2017

Sound Artist Boaz Modman - Australia

Master Class on Subharmonic Singing - May 2017



Singing with Love

AMD's Community and Youth Unit performed at a fund-raising event for the "Open House"

The Community and Youth Unit, which runs volunteer student programs that utilize music and improvisation in working with unique groups, produced a Valentine's Day fundraiser on February 14th for the Jerusalem Open House for Pride and Tolerance. The idea of organizing the event came up in during the routine work of JAMD students with members of the LGBT community in cooperation with the Perach Mentoring Project in Jerusalem. The Community and Youth Unit issued a call to all JAMD students, and the mobilization exceeded all expectations: past and present students of the academy - composers, conductors, singers and musicians approached and asked to participate in the special evening. The Jerusalem Cinematheque Board of Directors contributed its large hall to the event at a symbolic price, and Cinematheque members also volunteered to provide all the assistance required for the production.

The show was called "Love is Love" and included a varied repertoire of love songs from all times: from operatic arias to modern poetry, from familiar classics to spoken word compositions of queer artists. Under the baton and direction of Tom Karni, the multi-disciplinary choir participated voluntarily and with much gusto, as did a chamber orchestra of 25 musicians, conducted by Yael Plotniarz, a JAMD alumni, and over 20 singers in various ensembles, each performing original adaptations, all composed by Academy students and graduates of both the classical and the multidisciplinary composition departments.



A Moment before Sunrise

JAMD at the Jerusalem Arts Festival

At the end of March, the dance and multidisciplinary music faculties created a joint event - "A Moment before Sunrise" - which took place in various spaces in the Gerard Behar compound in the framework of the Jerusalem Arts Festival. A celebration of music and dance in different ensembles exposed young artists by allowing the audience to view their works, both on stage and in laboratory conditions.

In the Kolben Dance Company studio, jazz concerts of the Big Band Orchestra and the representative Jazz Ensemble of the Academy played, alternating with a performance of the Dance Ensemble featuring the dancers of the new excellence program in dance, as well as an improvisation performance by the M.Dance students who danced to music played by musicians of the multi-disciplinary faculty.

In the plaza in front of Beit Ha'am, a piece entitled "Place-Dependent Dance" was performed, and in the foyer, a duet dance performance. In the grand hall there was an interdisciplinary competition in multidisciplinary singing, and the day ended with the final performances of the Gertrude Kraus' 38th Choreography Competition, the culmination of a process of creation and research in dance and choreography at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, whose purpose is to encourage students to find their unique voice and to allow them to create and dream.

Special Events

'Double Doors'

A symposium in memory of the Israel Prize laureate, composer André Hajdu

Last summer, the composer, thinker and educator, Israel Prize laureate André Hajdu, one of the pillars of musical creation, thought and education in academia and higher and higher education institutions and informal educational frameworks throughout the country passed away. Prof. Michael Wolpe initiated and held a symposium in memory of Hajdu, which was held on his birthday, March 5 (1932), expressing Hajdu's pioneering vision, which was boundless and open to a wide range of values, styles and ways of thinking.

The seminar was attended by lecturers and researchers of Hajdu's work, among them Prof. Oded Zehavi, Prof. Mira Zakai, Prof. Gideon Levinson, Dr. Assaf Sheleg and conductor Maya Shavit. Films made about Hajdu over the years were screened. Prof. Wolpe testifies to Hajdu and his legacy: "I still cannot find the words that will describe faithfully and expansively the immense work of life of André Hajdu, as both a creator and a researcher, as both an educator and a spiritual man. Hajdu was a creator who was always inspired by his work and he knew how to share his knowledge with anyone who wanted to learn."

André Hajdu taught at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance for 20 years, and later went on to teach the younger generation at the School of Science and the Arts. Together with his students, he established an ensemble - Ha'oman Chai (The Living Artist) - and participated in the establishment of the Jerusalem Opera. He taught courses and research workshops at the Music School of Tel Aviv University and colleges around the country, and taught as a professor at Bar-Ilan University.

The boldness and breadth of André Hajdu's intellectual and artistic work were well represented in the various topics of lectures that were heard and discussed during the seminar, including: "Constructive Anarchism in the Heritage of André Hajdu," and "Searching for Roots - What is its Essence and Purpose?"



A Specialized Masters' Degree Track for Contemporary Music Performance

Towards the 2017/18 academic year, the Academy has announced the opening of a specialized Masters' Degree track focusing on performance practice of 20th and 21st centuries solo, chamber and ensemble works. The instructors of the program will be the members of the Meitar Ensemble - the excellent, award-winning chamber ensemble which represents Israel by performing contemporary music and making it accessible to young musicians and audiences around the world.

In this course, students will prepare, under the guidance of the ensemble members, a repertoire that includes works for solo instruments, chamber music and music for large ensembles. Topics will include modern repertoire, notation, performance techniques, aesthetic concepts and

interpretation. In addition, the students participating in the program will perform regularly at the JAMD and will be invited to join the Meitar Ensemble in its Tel Aviv concert series. Outstanding students will be awarded scholarships.

The "TEDARIM" (frequencies) study track is open to performers, conductors and composers with a BA in Music (B.Mus, B.A.Mus or equivalent BA), who possess high technical skills and are experienced in current musical contents and styles. In the 2017/18 year, the program will be open year for performers of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, bassoon, violin, viola, cello and piano.

The Academy congratulates the winners of:

The Dina Tourgeman Chamber Music Competition:

First prize **Noa Sarid** violin, **Chava Fraenkel** violin, **Yaacov Geller** – viola, **William Weil** cello (tutor: Mr. Sergei Bresler)

Second prize **Mai Homa** violin, **Katrin Shpigel** viola, **Gali Cnaani** cello, **Anna Kavalerova** piano (tutor: Prof. Zvi Plesser)

Third prize **Enosh Koffler** violin, **Talia Herzlich** violin, **Ohad Rodded** viola, **Sara Tarablus** viola, **Eyal Heyman** cello, **Azure Klein** cello (tutor: Mr. Roi Shiloah)

The Strings Competition in memory of David Gritz

First prize **Rinat Erlichman** (student of Mr. Michael Gaisler)

Second prize **Talia Ardel** – cello (student of Ms Michal Korman)

The Ada Brodsky Art Song Competition:

First prize **Ayelet Kagan** (student of Ms Efrat Ben-Nun and Mr. Zvi Semel)

Second prize **Miriam Gadjiyev** (student of Ms Agnes Messini and Mr. David Sebba)

Third prize **Efrat HaCohen** (student of Ms Efrat Ben-Nun and Mr. Zvi Semel)

Prize for excellent performance of an Israeli composition

Miriam Gadjiyev (student of Ms Agnes Messini and Mr. David Sebba)

The Interpretation Competition of the Cross-Disciplinary Vocal Department:

First prize **Amit Tsafir** (student of Mr. Ofer Callaf) Shared

Maayan Blevis (student of Mr. Ofer Callaf)

Sharon Elazar (student of Ms Vered Dekel)

Honorable mention for arrangement written for the competition:

Gur Shafri

The 38th Gertrud Kraus Choreography Competition

First prize **Noa Shilo** – "Yellow on Black"

Second prize **David Parker** – "Tender Tension"

Third prize **Ahinoam Sperling** – "Where is the Lion"

Special mention – **Tamar Binyamini** – "Atlas"

The countrywide Ariane Yerushalmi-Eldor Classical Guitar Competitions:

Ages 16-20:

First prize **Guy Hirshberger**

Second prize **Bar'el Mizrahi**

Third prize **Itai Keinan**

Fourth prize **Yahli Bari**

Fifth prize **Aviv Bar Natan**

Encouragement prize: **Amit Gur Arye**, **Ohad Neisberg**

Ages 14-16:

First prize **Eshel Chaim**

Second prize **Roy Zaig**

Third prize **Udi Schneider**

Fourth prize **Alma Lerner**

Encouragement prize: **Amit Yishayahu**

News from the JAMD Conservatory

In a lengthy and complex examination process conducted by the Ministry of Education in all musical institutions in Israel this year, the JAMD Conservatory Academy underwent detailed examination of all the professional parameters in its management and educational activities under the auspices of the Conservatories Supervisor, at the end of which it received the highest marks, and was awarded the status of **a conservatory recognized by the Ministry of Education at the highest professional, artistic and educational level.**

At the end of February, **the conservatory concert was broadcast live on the radio from the Eden-Tamir Center.** The concert was attended by outstanding students of the Conservatory, who received much acclaim for playing at the highest level, and included a guitar quartet, a clarinet quartet, a saxophone quintet, a clarinet and string quintet, a recorders ensemble and many soloists.

The Combined Conservatory and High School Symphony Orchestra held a special concert in February in cooperation with the **"Young Children's Program"** (from birth to age 6) under the direction of Dr. Michal Hefer. The orchestra, conducted by Ziv Kozukro, played segments from the Carmen suites by Bizet, and Dr. Michal Hefer explained the concert. The concert hall was full of children and families and the event was very successful.

In March this year, the orchestra, conducted by Ziv Kozukro, performed at **a convention of symphony orchestras of the Ministry of Education.** Alongside the Carmen suites by Bizet, the orchestra played the Weber's clarinet concerto with the soloist **Roi Karni**, and received many compliments and praise for the extraordinary performance amongst all orchestras, already in its second appearance, only six months after the combined orchestra's inception.

At the beginning of April, the **"Spring Harp" Day** was held at the Conservatory, with 30 students from all over the country. Our harp teachers, Sheri Shemesh Shabtai and Gitit Boasson, worked on this project. And during the month of May this year, the Conservatory benefited from **exceptional involvement in the Arthur Rubinstein International Piano Competition.** In the course of the competition, the



Caldwell Center, founded by JAMD, organized a masterclass program for piano, which was given daily to conservatory students by some of the world's most important teachers, including Victor Rosenbaum, Sonia Rubinsky, Arie Vardi, Peter Donohue, Aliso Visserladze and Alexander Tamir.

At the end of the competition, the Aldwell Center and JAMD organized **a gala concert with the three winners of the YMCA competition**, with the support of the Eudociu Hurmuzachi Institute of the Romanian Ministry of Romanians Abroad and its representatives, headed by Prof. Nicolae Brinzea, attended the Gala Concert. The conservatory, which performed music by and with Romanian musicians. As a prelude to the Gala concert, the members of the delegation received a special concert by conservatory students, who performed music written by Romanian musicians, and performed by students of Romanian heritage.

Many concerts took place this year in the Conservatory's prestigious concert series at the Israel Museum, **"Sounds from the Neighbors"**, in which dozens of students from all departments participated. A large audience was present in the halls, and the museum also invited Conservatory students to play at the annual Board of Governors meeting this June.

Outstanding students of the Conservatory who received special scholarships and placed at competitions in Israel and abroad this year:

Daniel Ronen (instructed by Dima Malkin), **Yoav Hamani** (instructed by Richard Paley), and **Shuli Rosenzky** (instructed by Richard Paley) were awarded the "Sound Tune" scholarships in a key program of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

Tom Zalmanov (instructed by Leah Agmon), **Danny Dworkin** (instructed by Svetlana Grinstein) and **Annabal Gold** (instructed by Ella Kalvasky) won prizes in the "Piano for Forever" competition in Ashdod in December 2016.

Roni Netanel, **Guy Hirschberger** and **Barel Mizrahi** (all instructed by Irit Even Tov) won prizes at the International Guitar Competition in Bratislava, Slovakia in November 2016.

Dani Dvorkin (instructed by Irina Svetova) won first prize at the International Young Composers Competition (ages 15-17) in St. Petersburg, Russia in March 2017. She also won (as student of Svetlana Grinstein) first prize in the competition for young pianists (ages 13-15) of the Academy in St. Petersburg, Russia in March 2017.

A New Chairman of the Student Union

Ron Veprik, a second year student in double bass and Viola de Gamba, was elected chair of the JAMD Student Union. Born in Kiryat Motzkin and a graduate of the Haifa Arts High School, Ron Veprik began social activities as a youth movement counselor, then in social positions in the IDF, and recently serves as representative of the Performing Arts Faculty on the Student Union.

His goals as Union Chair include "providing social and professional guidance to students who need it and strengthening ties with both the Student Union of the Hebrew University and the Forum of National Chairmen of Academic Institutions in Israel, which promotes subjects material to the conditions of study for all students."

Sherover Foundation Scholarships

In recent years, the Sherover Foundation has provided scholarships to students at JAMD and is helping the Yehoshua Tuttnauer Ankor Choir to grant scholarships to students with high vocal abilities who are facing financial difficulties on the way to realizing their artistic talents. Mr. Micha Tal, Vice President and Director General of the Academy, notes that the support of the Gabriel Sherover Foundation enables the Academy to increase the number of scholarships, and constitutes an important component of the Academy's assistance to talented low-income students.

The IMA Foundation

continues to award close to 40 scholarships annually to JAMD students who were accepted to the Younes and Soraya Nazarian program of excellent performers of Chamber Music. Prof. Yinan Leef, JAMD President, thanks the Nazarians for their generous contribution which enables students to take part in what the Academy considers its flagship program.

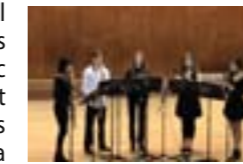
Lily Ethel Stein (Australia)

has established a trust fund at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in order to provide the "Lily Stein Piano Scholarships" for outstanding piano students at JAMD who are eligible for tuition assistance.

News from the Academy High School

At the end of January 2017, the traditional **Winter Festival** of the high school was held, in which all the students of the music program performed at the Jazz Department concert at the Yellow Submarine, in concerts in the school's Navon Auditorium, and in a festive concert at the Wise Hall. The students performed a rich and varied repertoire in chamber ensembles, choirs and orchestras.

To commemorate the Holocaust Memorial Day, the **"Musical Memory" project** was held for the second year, in cooperation with Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. The project was initiated by a young student, Chen Peri, in response to a social challenge that she defined at the Institute for Young Leadership (LEAD) - bringing Holocaust survivors together with youth for a process of mutual acquaintance and creativity beyond one-time testimony about their hardships in the Holocaust. Eleventh graders met in groups with survivors who told them about their childhood home and their world before the Second World War and about the restoration of their lives upon their arrival in Israel, and presented them with pairs of songs that represented these two stages of their life: a childhood song from their parents' home and a song of rebirth from the Land of Israel. The 11th graders, who were very excited about the meetings, worked for two months in groups on arrangements that connect each pair of songs to a musical piece that reflects both the nature of the survivor and the survivor, and the special style and spirit of the group. They prepared concerts for schools from Jerusalem and from Maccabim-Reut-Modi'in, as well as a gala concert in front of the survivors and their families and guests. A film documenting



the process of the project was screened, starting with the first encounters, through the rehearsals, the moving songs for the survivors and the Yad Vashem International School staff. The performance, held at the auditorium at Yad Vashem, was received by the students, teachers, survivors and guests, with admiration and excitement from the rare professional and musical level the students presented.

On **Yom Yerushalayim**, the high school's workshop for excellence in modern dance for 10th through 12th grades staged a special production commissioned by the Arts Department of the Ministry of Education in the Wise Auditorium of the Givat Ram Campus. The production presents the work "WeSlice" of the choreographer Orian Yohanan, a graduate of the High School, "which represents," according to the creator, "the abundance of textures that life has in Jerusalem. 'Jerusalem has many faces', and they are reflected in the multiplicity of communities, religions, colors, cultures." The original music was composed especially for the work by Gal Hochberg, and the students of the workshop enlisted for intensive work during only a month and a half, providing them with an experience of the process of creating an original choreography with the creator, and the construction of a reference inspiration behind it.

On the eve of Shavuot, the **Bible Quiz** took place at the High School, part of an already very successful tradition at the school, coordinated by Bible teachers David Cohen Tzemach, Zvia Weisberger, Dafna Reichman and Tal Davara. The contest was held in the "Navon Auditorium" before all of the school's students, and the 12 students participating in the contest were selected as representatives of each class. It was conducted in the format of the national and international quizzes, and aroused interest and enthusiasm among the students who supported their representatives throughout.

The Joshua Tuttnauer Choir – Ankor



During Memorial Week this year, the Ankor Choir participated in a series of major ceremonies. Two days before Memorial Day, the choir sang at a memorial service for fallen soldiers at the Foreign Ministry in the presence of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; on the eve of Memorial Day they appeared at the national memorial ceremony at Yad Labanim and at the ceremony of the Jerusalem Municipality in Safra Square. In March, the choir held a live studio recording in the Navon Auditorium at the Academy High School with the Academy's sound engineer, Avi Elbaz, to record a new album for the choir. For an hour and a half without a break the choir performed a wide range of famous cabaret, jazz and theater music pieces, all unconventional in their repertoire. The high school students thanked the choir with admiration for the acting skills their friends had demonstrated combined with their excellent singing.

Interview with Stanley Sperber



Prof. Sperber, the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance congratulates you on your 75th birthday. For 45 years you have been a partner, teacher and conductor of major choirs, educating and raising generations of young musicians in Israel, mainly choral singers. How do you characterize the choral singing that you met when you came to Israel, compared to today?

Choral singing in Israel is very developed. Voice development created a more cultured and stylish sound, such as that of choirs in the US and Europe. Singing in Israel began in the popular choirs. Folk choirs. In the choirs they developed singing with a variety of different opportunities and styles. There is a difference between baroque and romantic or modern music, for instance in relation to vibrato – in Bach it is more moderate, along with the small ensemble, compared to the works of Brahms or Verdi, where it is naturally in full force, with the huge orchestrations.

And in the academy, when we started in 1973, it was an excellent amateur choir, not a professional one. We developed work habits and control of a great variety of material, such as orchestra work. We recently performed Brahms' German Requiem, Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, and now we are working on Bach's Mass together with a choir from Weimar and the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra which will be performed during Jerusalem's celebrations.

The children choirs are also excellent, Ankor is a great example. Maya Shavit, the "mother" of choirs expanding in Israel, conveyed the message to the whole country, and young choirs are preparing voices for the future. But the children's choirs are ninety percent girls. There is a shortage of male voices, because there has been a regression in school education. In today's musical education, children may attend a "children's concert" once a year. The result is that the boys are educated on football, technology and rafting, and artistic singing is far from them. That is why all the older choirs are desperately looking for male singers.

You have had a long affair with the JAMD Chamber Choir. Share with us the experience of working with it.

It's the most special choir I've ever worked with. And I say that after working with choirs like the Philharmonic and Rinat, and I established the Upper Galilee Choir. The atmosphere in the choir is very familial, the togetherness is very important, and the comradeship is unbelievable. In the auditions for soloists, those auditioning propose to let others perform on the solo tracks. The people care about each other. Singers always help those who are unsure of the material. They are both talented and human. The Ambassador in Hungary at the time, Mr. Ilan Mor, said that he can retire when such ambassadors come to replace him. There is a rare professional and human level here, and the joy of doing things that are not present in a professional orchestras. The work is a pleasure and time flies by unnoticed. The warmth on the stage is expressed in all performances.

Today, the choir's graduates are the leading teachers, conductors and singers in all fields in Israel. This is a great contribution of the Academy to music in Israel.

Do you collaborate with other choirs?

With the Ankor choir there was a joint performance of Yehezkel Braun's oratorio "David's Violin". The encounter between the adult singers and the children was wonderful. And now we are going to perform with the Weimar choir, and surely there will be instant chemistry, as it was with the choirs in Poland. Music is a factor that unites and connects people. Like in sports, when I was judging an international tennis competition in Finland with an Egyptian player, and we accepted one another nicely.

Recently, you released a new album, a book about its special content.

The album includes 17 works, all of which were recorded in live concerts. Our sound engineer, Avi Elbaz, traveled with us and recorded performances in Poland, Hungary and Germany. This is the best of the tour. In the diverse repertoire: Prof. Yinan Leef's "Tsililim, Tzalilim..." in Esperanto, Mozart's Requiem, original arrangements by choral members of Israeli songs, and poems by Debussy and Barber. This is the best album we recorded.

Your most important contribution to music in Israel is promoting the performance of Jewish and Israeli music. And recently you performed Aharon Harlap's Requiem, who is also celebrating his 75th birthday this year.

In recent years, my friend and colleague, Aharon Harlap, has lost dear friends, and he was deeply hurt by the loss of Yehezkel Braun, Gil Aldema and other friends, and wished to commemorate them in a special work, and wrote a Requiem in Latin, which is not meant for Christian texts. Like, Brahms, he chose universal texts that he edited especially for his Requiem. He dedicated the work to me, after many years of friendship, during which I performed some 20 premieres of his works. In May we performed the premiere of the Requiem.

It is mandatory to perform new compositions of our composers. An Israeli composer should get performance, not write to a drawer. But, unfortunately, there is a conservative line of the Israeli audience, with our flagship Philharmonic Orchestra doing very little to perform the works of the Israeli composers and creating an anachronistic taste in the audience. In other places, local music is of paramount importance.

What would you like to wish for musical education and choir singing in the future?

I hope that the Ministries of Education and Culture will refocus and begin to initiate musical education from a young age. The audience grows older, and everything may disappear. Children and youth need to be exposed to cultural treasures, instead of spending time on the computer. I pity a child who does not read books. We will renew our days as before, from the days of richer cultural periods.

And what do you still dream of doing in the next few years?

The work is renewed all the time - the students go abroad, or move on to the opera, and new ones come in. And the work on new music renews me, and makes me younger. I am a colleague of 26 year olds, and together we solve musical problems. That is why I ask to continue being active as long as possible.

If so, in conclusion, we wish you and all of us the fulfillment of the wish for many more fertile years.

Galia Regev