

"A Mother's Cry" by Academy Graduate Tommer Hesseg Performed at the Concert for Gilad Shalit

The Jerusalem Academy Chamber Choir joined the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in a concert to free **Gilad Shalit**, the Israeli soldier captured by Hamas. The concert took place on July 5th on the border of the Gaza Strip.

The choir performed "**A Mother's Cry**" at this important concert, written by **Tommer Hesseg** for Gilad's mother **Aviva Shalit**. Hesseg, a graduate

of the Academy, is the deputy conductor and administrative director of the choir. He wrote this piece out of a feeling of deep identification with the Shalit family, and the words of the piece are based on "Tefilat Haderech", the Traveler's Prayer.

"We are proud and moved to take part in this special concert to free Gilad Shalit," said Academy President **Prof. Ilan Schul**. "We hope that the music, as an international language, will open hearts and will bring about the release of Gilad."

The concert entitled "A Cry to the World" took place in an open field adjacent to the northern fence of Kibbutz Kfar Aza. The concert was conducted by the musical director of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra **Maestro Zubin Mehta**.

The Academy in "Kol Hamusica" Festival in Upper Galilee

Kol Hamusica Festival in the Upper Galilee underwent a transformation this year, through cooperation with the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, which held its international summer institute for strings and vocal music at the Festival.

Teachers from around the world (U.S., France, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Spain and others) and from the Academy in Jerusalem, together with dozens of outstanding students from countries such as Korea, Germany, Spain, the U.S. and Israel thronged the Festival. They participated in master classes, lessons, a concerto performance competition, chamber and orchestra rehearsals, concertos and surprises open to festival attendees. These activities took place alongside the official concerts of the Festival in its original format.

The unique combination of forces came about thanks to two Academy faculty members **Prof. Michael Melzer**, Vice President of the Academy for academic affairs, who is the artistic director of the festival, and cellist **Zvi Plesser**, the artistic director of the international summer course.

Prof. Michael Melzer: "This year we created a ground-breaking synergy that can only happen when two leading and innovative bodies – like the Kol Hamusica Festival and the Jerusalem Academy – come together. This year, both our loyal patrons and new audiences enjoyed a very special experience based on close connection with the performers and the idyllic surroundings of the Upper Galilee and Kibbutz Kfar Blum.



Teachers, graduates and students appear together in Kfar Blum: (right to left) Alon Sarel on lute, Yael Shimshoni on recorder, singers Anat Edri, Hemi Levison, Yaela Avital and Prof. Melzer on recorder.

Music for the Heart and Soul on October 9 at the Tel Aviv Museum

On Saturday night, October 9, at 9:00 p.m., the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance will hold a special concert in support of the establishment of a Klezmer Music Chair, dedicated to the revival and teaching of klezmer music.

The concert will feature one of the leading klezmer players in the world **Giora Feidman**, who will perform together with musicians from the Academy faculty, students and guests. Among them are: **Hila Ofek** on harp, **Emil Elbinder** on accordion, **Abate Berihun**

on saxophone, **Daniel Hoffman** on violin, **Gilad Harel** on clarinet, **Amiram Zmani** and **Ofer Calaf** in song, **Yael and Michael Melzer** on recorder, **Shmuel Sabitz** on piano, **Michael Klinghoffer** on contrabass, **Ilan Schul** on clarinet, **Klez Trio**, and students from the Department of Middle Eastern Music.

With a donation of NIS 500 one can become a founder of the Klezmer Music Chair, which provides a Founders' Certificate, an autographed CD by Giora Feidman and VIP seats at the concert.

A donation of NIS 300 provides an autographed CD by Giora Feidman and good seats at the concert.

Contributions at tel: 052-3836514
Tickets can be purchased for NIS 150 at Kastel: 03-6045000, *8965 from all telephones and on the internet: www.TKTS.co.il



Giora Feidman



Soloist: Daniela Skorka, Academy student.



September 2010

HIGHLIGHTS



Issue 4

High Points of the International Board of Governors Meeting 2010

Events Launched with the Perlman Program

A special concert under the auspices of the Perlman Music Program opened the events of the 2010 International Board of Governors meeting. The program, which is headed by **Toby and Itzhak Perlman** and features a faculty of top international musicians, held an intensive music course in Jerusalem for outstanding students and teachers from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music in Tel Aviv.

Twenty-four students aged 18 – 23 were chosen for

the course, half of them from Israel and half of them graduates of the Perlman program from around the world. The concert included a choral piece from Brahms Requiem, sung by students together with Itzhak Perlman, and works for various chamber music ensembles. The concert was attended by Jerusalem Mayor **Nir Barkat**, who greeted the guests, the 5th President of Israel **Yitzhak Navon** and his wife, Chairman of the Board of Governors **Younes Nazarian** and his wife **Soraya**, Chairman of the Board of the Directors **Adv. Yair Green**, President of the Academy **Prof. Ilan Schul**, Vice Presidents **Micha Tal** and **Prof. Michael Melzer**, members of the Board of Governors, teachers and many guests.



Renowned violinist Itzhak Perlman and Adv. Yair Green, Chairman of the Board of Directors



Choral performance by program participants, conducted by Patrick Romano

Honorary Scrolls from the Academy's Golden Book Presented

Awards presented at a festive ceremony to Adv. Hillel Ashkenazi, Prof. Doron Mendeles, and to musicians Danny Gottfried and Dr. Yitzhak Kosov.

Adv. Hillel Ashkenazi has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem for many years. As a member of the Finance, Building and Standing Committees, he has served the Academy with devotion and has

used his broad public experience to make an important contribution to the Academy.

Prof. Doron Mendeles served for seven years as the Chairman of the Promotion Committee at the Academy, and has been a senior member of the institutional Appointments Committee and the Supreme Academic Council. His intellectual prowess, sharpness of thought, clarity of judgment and inherent honesty have contributed greatly to the character of the Academy.

Musician and attorney **Danny Gottfried** established the Jazz Department at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance in 1981 and headed it for six years. During that time he developed the department and promoted its standing in the

Academy. **Danny Gottfried** was responsible for producing generations of musicians, including many locally and internationally acclaimed artists. During his many years of activity he has made a significant contribution to the Academy's quality and prestige.

Dr. Yitzhak Kosov joined the faculty of the piano teachers at the Academy's Conservatory in 1979. A short time later he was appointed Deputy Director. He worked tirelessly at crafting the professional character of the institution and organizing its educational procedures. His dedicated efforts were an important factor in the development and advancement of the Conservatory.



Adv. Yair Green (right) with Adv. Hillel Ashkenazi



Prof. Ilan Schul (right) with Prof. Mendeles



Rashi Levaot, former Director of the Conservatory (right) with Dr. Yitzhak Kosov



Adv. Yair Green (right) with lawyer and musician Danny Gottfried

Honorary Fellow Award Presented to Prof. Dalia Cohen

Upon the recommendation of Academy President Prof. Ilan Schul, the Board of Directors unanimously decided to present the Honorary Fellow Award to **Prof. Dalia Cohen**. The award was made to Prof. Cohen

for her achievements in combining research with teaching and musical education, for her outstanding accomplishments in the international arena, for establishing the Middle Eastern Music Department, as well as for her faithful dedication to the development of the Academy and its position in Israel and abroad. The award was presented to Prof. Dalia Cohen at the beginning of a special concert of operatic excerpts from Mozart's Magic Flute, performed by students of the Academy's Vocal Department.



Prof. Ilan Schul (right) with Prof. Dalia Cohen and Adv. Yair Green

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Event to Honor Former Academy Head and Famed Conductor Mendi Rodan



Minister Avishay Braverman

The Mendi Rodan Center for Orchestral Studies and Excellence in Conducting to be established

An event to pay tribute to the late **Maestro Mendi Rodan**, one of Israel's greatest musicians, took place on June 1st and concluded the events of the Board of Governors 2010 meeting. During the event **Prof. Ilan Schul**, President of the Academy, announced the establishment of the Mendi Rodan Center for Excellence in Conducting.

Mendi Rodan joined the faculty of the Academy in 1962 and served as Head of the Academy from 1985 – 1994. The Academy chose to hold the event in his honor and to establish the center in his name in appreciation of his enormous contribution to musical education over fifty years, in Israel in general and

at the Academy in particular. During the event **Prof. Avishay Braverman**, Minister for Minorities, spoke about Rodan whom he knew when each held positions in the Negev – Braverman as President of Ben-Gurion University and Rodan as Musical Director of the Israel Sinfonietta in Beer Sheva. **Prof. Tzvi Avni** spoke about the character of the Maestro and educator, who conducted his works and those of many other Israeli composers. Prof. Ilan Schul told about the Maestro from his point of view, as the chief clarinetist of the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva and the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon-Lezion, and as his successor at the Academy Chamber Orchestra. **Aviad Rodan**, Mendi's son, spoke on behalf of the family.

Outstanding students of the Academy performed during the evening, and a video about Rodan's artistic and educational activities was screened. The event was moderated by radio personality **Danny Orstav**.

"The Maestro Mendi Rodan worked all his life to cultivate the young generation of conductors and orchestra players," said Prof. Ilan Schul. "As the senior teacher of conducting at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance for decades, he produced generations of conductors, most of who succeeded in international careers. The new center will carry on the legacy of Prof. Rodan while emphasizing excellence in orchestral studies and conducting, and preparing young conductors for international professional careers."

The Nazarian Family and Friends at the Academy

Chairman of the Board of Governors **Mr. Younes Nazarian** and his wife **Soraya** invited their friends from Israel and overseas to experience the accomplishments of the Conservatory and Academy students, and to enjoy a charming evening of music and song in the Navon Hall.

Among the participants in the gala event were the Honorary President of

the Academy **Mr. Yitzhak Navon**, Chairman of the Friends Association of the Academy in Israel and former minister **Danny Naveh** and his wife, Former Minister of Defense **Shaul Mofaz**, President of Shamrock Holdings and former Chairman of the Jewish Federation of Los Angeles **Stanley Gold**, EL AL CEO **Elyezer Shkedy**, Adv. **Miri and Ophir Katz**, **Louise and Yitzhak Khakshouri**, Academy President **Prof. Ilan Schul**, Vice President **Micha Tal** and others.

The event, emceed by **Dr. Ron Regev**, included selected pieces from the works of Brahms, Donizetti, Mozart, Puccini and others.



1. Stanley Gold (right) with Prof. Ilan Schul and Minister Shaul Mofaz (left). 2. Stanley Gold (right) with Younes Nazarian 3. Former Minister Danny Naveh and his wife. 4. EL AL CEO Elyezer Shkedy and his wife 5. Yitzhak and Louise Khakshouri

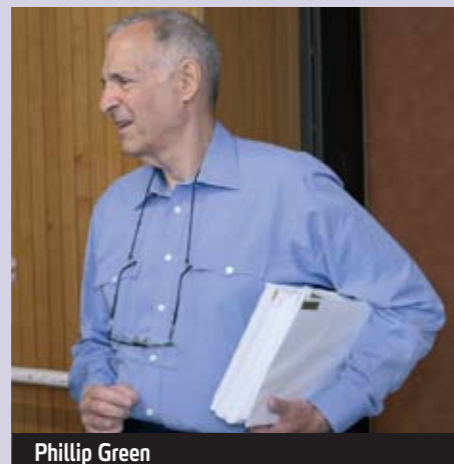
The Ethical Will of Phillip Green

Green Has Been One of the Academy's Most Loyal and Important Donors for 25 Years

In 1985 Green was invited by **Prof. Mendi Rodan** to join the Board of Governors, and since then he has regularly attended the Board of Governors meetings in Jerusalem. This year was especially exciting for him and for the Academy, since Green marked his 75th birthday and his son joined him on this visit to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah. During the Board of Governors, **Phillip Green** gave a copy of the Ethical Will he had prepared for his son to all members of the Board and faculty, which all found very moving. In the will Green included his family history, sayings and quotations that he had adopted, his personal beliefs regarding education, politics, vegetarianism and charity, as well as the story of his exciting meeting with Mendi Rodan, the beginning of his support for the Academy in the form of scholarships and his joining of the Board of Governors.

Here is an excerpt from the Ethical Will to his

son: "Needless to say, I have received much more than I have given! As we have no family in Israel, the Academy, which is now on the Hebrew University campus, is like my second home in Israel, like family. Since it is a small school, 800 in the University part, 400 in the High School, and 400 in the Conservatory, it allows me to be a big fish in a little sea!



Phillip Green

I can speak at every meeting; I don't need an appointment to talk to the President or the Director-General, and I have met many wonderful people. If I were on the Board of a huge university I would probably be told to sit in the last row and be very quiet!"

And about the fund he established at the Academy he writes to his son: "Normally such a fund should be named after your parents, to honor them and to perpetuate their names, but I made the decision to place your name on the fund, mainly to help teach you Tzedakah... My supreme wish and desire is that some day you will take my seat on the Board of Governors, go to the annual meetings, manage the fund, interview the scholarship students with the Dean of Students, and get the same unimaginable nachos as your father!"

Jacob Green, son of Phillip Green came to Israel with 50 of his friends and celebrated his Bar Mitzvah in the Navon Hall at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. In his honor a concert was held performed by students of the Conservatory.

Prizes and Competitions

Prof. Yinam Leef Wins ACUM Prize



Prof. Yinam Leef

The **ACUM Prize for Life's Work to a composer in the field of concert music** was awarded this year to **Prof. Yinam Leef**. **Yinam**, a second generation Academy instructor, is a graduate of the **Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance**, and serves today as **Dean of the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education**.

The judges wrote: "During more than 30 years Yinam Leef has made his mark on

the field of concert music in Israel. The scope of his instrumental creation is broad and impressive: from pieces for piano, solos for oboe, works for various chamber ensembles, string quartets and octets, to works for large musical groups, such as a concerto for violin and orchestra, and the first symphony for a large orchestra. In addition, the composer creates works of vocal music, from a cycle of songs for the poems of Zelda, to a composition for choir to the Esperanto texts of Zamenhof.

Within the breadth of his very imaginative creation Yinam Leef maintains his own communicative style and his works are received with enthusiasm by the public and lovers of music.

In view of his outstanding contribution to the world of music in Israel, the judges found Yinam Leef worthy of receiving the ACUM Prize for Life's Work in the field of concert music."

Academy Graduate, Mandolinist Alon Sariel, Wins Top Prizes in International Competitions



Alon Sariel

Alon Sariel won first prize in the Ernest Bloch Music Competition for his special arrangement of "Niggun", and second prize in the International Israeli Music Competition for his performance of three Jewish dances by **Mark Lavry**.

The competitions encompassed 140 musicians from Europe, the U.S., South America and the Far East. Twenty-two were chosen as semi-finalists, and only 6 individuals and ensembles competed in the final stage. The competitions were held in the Britten Theater at the Royal College of Music in London.

Violinist Yuval Herz Wins Clairmont Prize



Yuval Herz

Yuval Herz, who completed his studies at the **Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance** under **Roi Shiloah**, won the **Clairmont Prize** for 2010.

Yuval Herz, 21, was the only winner of this prize for 2010.

The Clairmont Prize is a very prestigious award made to outstanding musicians in Israel in the area of classical music. The candidates for the prize are chosen by a committee of representatives of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation in Israel, and the winners are chosen each year from among these candidates. The prize carries a monetary award, as well as the opportunity to record a CD. The prize was established by the Swiss composer and philanthropist Marcel Clairmont in the early 1980's.

Conservatory Students Win "Maestro" Prizes



Ariel Lenny and Adi Neuhaus

Students at the **Conservatory of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance** had great success at the **"Maestro" competition in classical and ethnic music for youth, sponsored by the Ministry of Education**.

First prize was won by a piano duo **Ariel Lenny and Adi Neuhaus (Nigauss)**,

under the direction of **Prof. Alexander Tamir**. Second prize was won by **Eylon Amir** on guitar, a student of **Irit Even Tov**. Third prize was won by a saxophone quartet of Conservatory students taught by **Prof. Gersh Geller**.

"**Maestro**" is a national competition for youth aged 10 – 18, whose aim is to identify and encourage young talent in the areas of classical and ethnic music in the periphery. Hundreds of students from around the country took part in the early stages of the competition and only 14 were chosen for the final stage. Participants played a variety of instruments including: cello, violin, piano, flute, horn, trumpet and recorder.

Tribute to Composer Michael Wolpe on his 50th Birthday



Dr. Michael Wolpe

A special concert of the works of **Dr. Michael Wolpe** was held in March in the Wise Auditorium in celebration of the composer's 50th birthday. Dr. Michael Wolpe serves as head of the Department of Music Theory, Composition and Conducting.

The concert took place within the framework of the series "Our Own: Tributes to Academy Composers" which Wolpe has organized since 2002. Leading musicians and ensembles of the Academy took part in the concert, including the Academy Chamber Choir, conducted by **Stanley Sperber**, the Meitar Ensemble, singer **Ofer Calaf**, oud player **Taiseer Elias**, violinists **Yuval Herz** and **Shachar Pooyae**, viola player **Daniel Tanchelson** and cellist **Daniela Shemer**.

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance is proud of its teachers, students and graduates. We are blessed by your achievements!