



ANKOR CHOIR HOLDS BENEFIT

They have sung for presidents and heads of state, at national and international events, for the Israel Philharmonic under Zubin Mehta and for Yad Vashem as well as at many other performances, both in Israel and abroad. Established in 1983 the Ankor Choir is a major part of the JAMD Conservatory of Music and Dance training more than 50 children aged 11-18. The children attend classes in voice, singing and music and rehearse in both junior and senior choirs.

On May 25th they were singing for an audience who came not only to hear them but also to show their support. All the proceeds for ticket sales were applied to the operation costs of the Ankor Choir. The Jerusalem YMCA donated the use of the performance

hall and an attraction was added to the concert by Steve Barnett, who came from South Africa to volunteer his performance as part of the overall effort. Steve is an internationally renowned "non-speaker" who by use of pantomime, percussion and sounds activates the audience in producing his own special brand of music. The 600-seat hall was filled to capacity and the evening ended with a major ovation for Steve Barnett and the girls of the Ankor Choir.

The concert was publicized in the media and brought to the attention of Israeli audiences the financial needs of the Conservatory and of the choir. The hope is that this exposure will stimulate new funding assistance.

In the last edition of this newsletter we announced plans for establishing a program where students from the Academy teach music and dance to children in the town of Ofakim and the region, Merchavim. The program is now underway operating with 50 children. The Academy students travel to Ofakim/Merchavim every 2 weeks and the results of their activity can already be felt. Several performing groups have been formed, including a dance troupe and a Classical Chamber ensemble. The students are also giving classes in piano, flute, saxophone, guitar and tuba.

On June 22nd all of the Ofakim/Merchavim musicians and dancers will be welcomed at the Academy in Jerusalem to attend workshops. At the end of the sessions they will put on a performance with their student instructors. The program was initiated and is headed by Michael Klinghoffer, Dean of Students and is made possible through the national student volunteer program "Perach" with additional assistance from the Jewish community of Metro-West New Jersey, linked with the Ofakim/Merchavim region through the Jewish Agency program Partnership 2000.

In the USA tax deductible donations can be made through:
P.E.F. Israel Endowment Fund, Inc.
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Please designate JAMD as the beneficiary organization


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JAMD MOURNS THE LOSS OF BRACHA EDEN

On May 23rd the faculty and staff of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance were saddened to hear of the death of Bracha Eden, one of the pillars of excellence in the world of music both in Israel and abroad.

She will be remembered by the general public for teaming up with Alexander Tamir to form the Eden Tamir piano duo, which enthralled audiences throughout the world. They met and formed the duo as students of Arthur Schnabel at the Jerusalem Conservatory. Starting in 1955, for 50 years the duo was recognized as being among the world's foremost concert pianists and their performances were heard in almost every corner of the globe – from Europe and the United States to Nepal and Japan. They recorded original music for Stravinsky, and when the BBC discovered new symphonic music written by Brahms for a piano duo, they called on the Eden Tamir duo to record it.



Bracha Eden with Alexander Tamir (left) and Prime Minister Ehud Olmert

Throughout their illustrious performance careers both Bracha and Alexander continued to play major roles as music educators at JAMD. Bracha served as director of the Conservatory and head of the keyboard department in the Academy. The two of them are responsible for raising a whole new generation of piano duo performers and many of their students can be found today continuing the traditions of quality inculcated by the Eden Tamir duo.

For her contributions to the world of music, to the cultural life of Israel and to the students of JAMD, Bracha was made an honorary fellow of the academy in 2004. All at JAMD will sadly miss her talent and commitment to musical excellence.



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MENDI RODAN THIRD JAMD PRESIDENT ISRAEL PRIZE LAUREATE FOR 2006



Photo: Dan Porges

Professor Emeritus Mendi Rodan, world-renowned conductor, architect and builder of orchestras, music educator to generations of conductors and composers and patron to original compositions, was honored on Independence Day when he received the Israel Prize, the country's highest and most prestigious honor.

Beginning his career in Israel in 1961, when he conducted the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Maestro Rodan joined the faculty of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance as professor of conducting a year later. From 1985 to 1994 he served as President of the Academy. His students, graduates of JAMD, can be found conducting orchestras in Israel, Europe, South America, the U.S.A., and Japan.

The classical music scene in Israel has been greatly enriched by Mendi Rodan's inspiring leadership. He was the musical director and principal conductor of the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra – Kol Israel. He founded the Jerusalem Chamber Orchestra and the Israel Sinfonietta in Beersheva where

he served as musical director and principal conductor. He held the position of associate conductor of the Israel Philharmonic where he worked with Zubin Mehta. He was music director and principal conductor of the IDF Educational Corps orchestra, and has just completed an 8-year term as musical director and principal conductor of the Israel Symphony Orchestra Rishon Letzion.

Mendi Rodan is internationally recognized as a brilliant and inspired conductor. He is frequently invited to conduct leading orchestras in Europe, the Far East, Australia, Republic of China, Mexico and the United States. As a lecturer and Professor of Conducting, he has taught at a number of universities in the U.S.A and in Russia.

On May 3rd of this year Mendi Rodan became the 5th Israel Prize Laureate from the ranks of JAMD faculty. He joined Hassia Levy-Agron, founder of the Faculty of Dance, the composer Tzvi Avni from the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education and two veteran teachers of the Academy in its early years Gertrud Kraus and Josef Tal.

From the Desk of the Chairman of the Board of Governors



Dear Friends of the
 Academy,

The content of this newsletter should fill us all with a great deal of pride.

Younes Nazarian

We take special note of the fact that the government of Israel awarded our very own Maestro Mendi Rodan the Israel Prize at the concluding ceremony celebrating the country's 58th year of independence. The prize is Israel's ultimate sign of recognition and appreciation. Most importantly, in my view, it is presented as a result of intense deliberations by a panel of expert judges – the Maestro's peers.

Maestro Rodan is the fifth member of the Academy's illustrious academic staff to receive the Israel Prize. Tzvi Avni, Hassia Levy-Agron, Josef Tal and Gertrud Kraus were also Israel Prize laureates. This is significant for one very vital reason: It is a sign that the Academy's three sister-institutions have always been – and continue to be – focused on excellence.

As you will note from other articles in the newsletter, this drive toward

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excellence is “contagious” in the best sense of the word. This is evident by the various awards and prizes our students have earned these past months. Our High School and Conservatory students as well as our degree-earning students at the Academy continue to show their dedication to doing and being the best. On behalf of the International Board of Governors, I congratulate them.

Given the fact that the Academy’s International Board of Governors is holding its annual meeting at this time, I wish to relate to the theme of our collective pride from another perspective. With this sense of pride, the governing board and the Academy’s friends must ask a simple question: Are we doing our very best to fulfill our collective responsibility toward the Academy’s students? This question takes on special meaning as we begin planning for another landmark event – the Academy’s 60th anniversary.

Our deliberations must always focus on the ways and means by which we can do our utmost to ensure that our students are given the opportunity to meet their potential. This will be at the heart of our discussions and decisions. This will be the yardstick by which we will measure how well we meet our responsibility - as individuals and as a governing body.

I wish us all success.

Younes Nazarian



VAYACHESLAV GANELIN OF THE JAMD JAZZ DEPARTMENT WINS NATIONAL LOTTERY LANDAU PRIZE

To people who know him and his work, it was no surprise when the National Lottery announced in May of this year that “Slava” Ganelin was named as the winner of the Landau prize for jazz music. Since the 1960’s he has been known internationally as one the boldest innovators in the field.

His musical career began in Lithuania where he studied at the Vilinius Conservatory. When he was growing up in the Soviet Union, jazz was officially denounced as an anti-Soviet art form. Only during the “thaw” of the Khrushchev era was it allowed to surface and find expression in public appearances. The emergence of jazz in that part of the world is measured from a concert held in 1961 when 17-year-old Ganelin debuted as a concert jazz pianist. He went on to create the legendary Ganelin Trio, which performed in Europe and toured the United States and became a symbol of the virtuosity of jazz composition and

performance developing behind the Iron Curtain. The distinguished publication Ear Magazine of New Music once wrote, “Freud is to psychology as Ganelin is to Soviet Jazz”.

In 1987 Vayacheslav Ganelin and his family moved to Israel and in 1988 he began teaching at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Today, besides teaching jazz theory and composition, Ganelin keeps up an active schedule of performances and recording. He has written music for more than 30 different films produced in Israel and in Russia.

Ganelin is gratified by the fact that he finds in his students a very high level of musical talent in jazz. He is also pleased by the increasing number of jazz festivals in Israel, which are stimulating the growth of an audience of jazz lovers throughout the country.

ARIEL STRING QUARTET WINS FISCHOFF NATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC COMPETITION AT NOTRE DAME UNIVERSITY



It all started at JAMD, eight years ago, when members of the quartet were studying at the Conservatory. Professor Avi Abramovitz, who headed the department for string instruments, put four 13-year-old talented students together to form the Ariel Quartet. The members of the quartet, Amit Even Tov on cello, Sergey Tarashchansky on viola, Gershon Gerchikov and Alexandra Kazovsky, both on violin, have a long list of musical achievements as individual performers. Their most recent performance as a quartet was so outstanding that they won both

the grand prize and first prize in the senior strings category at the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition on May 7th of this year. The competition is the largest chamber music competition in the United States, with 58 participating ensembles.

Now in Boston, the members of the quartet, all aged 21, are studying at the New England Conservatory of Music. However, there is no doubt that they proudly represent their Israeli origins and their association with the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance whenever they perform.

FIRST PRIORITY IN JAMD FUNDRAISING: STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

“Natural talent and dedication are the two criteria we seek when we accept new students to any of our three educational frameworks. The fact that a candidate has these qualities but lacks the financial means to pay for our programs should not interfere with the development of his/her potential. That is why we constantly need to pursue financial resources that will allow us to say, “yes” to talented youngsters regardless of their financial means.” Prof. Ilan Schul, President of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance made this statement while reviewing the financial situation of public support available in Israel for educational activity in the fields of music and dance. JAMD is well aware of the fact that the government has been constantly cutting back on resources while costs of quality education have been rising.

In light of this situation the JAMD policy-making bodies have recently established a new department of resource development headed by Yigal Barkan. Barkan, though new to the Academy, came to his position with a wealth of experience working in the field of Jewish philanthropy. Besides taking steps to expose the achievements of JAMD to a much greater audience of potential donors, Barkan has focused his first efforts on increasing resources available for student scholarships. “Though over the years JAMD donors, both individuals and foundations, have come forward and established funds to help students, there is a growing need to increase the financial base for this assistance. Each year we will need approximately \$500,000 to assure that no deserving youngster is turned away because of lack of financial support,” is how Barkan sums up the challenge.



Prof. Ilan Schul with student

FIVE JAMD HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WIN PRIZES AT TEL AVIV BALLET COMPETITION

At the 11th annual Mia Arbatova Ballet Competition held in April at the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv, 5 of the 9 prizes awarded went to JAMD High School Students. Dana Zachariah, a ninth grade student, took first prize and fulfilled the JAMD winning traditions for first place for the third year in succession. The other JAMD winners were Idan Yoav second prize; a graduate of the high school, fourth place went to Zohar Ben Israel who is completing 10th grade, and to Hagar Enosh in 12th grade. Doron Perek of the 10th grade was also awarded a prestigious prize: a scholarship of a full year of study at the Conservatoire de Paris. Recently the high school was notified that Zohar Ben Israel, the fourth place winner, was accepted as a student to the summer program of the British Royal Ballet, confirming internationally the high level of excellence exhibited by JAMD students.



Dana Zachariah (top); Zohar Ben Israel (right)

Photo: Studio Dvash