



NEW STUDIO FOR DANCE OPENED

Hassia Studio is the newest physical addition to the Academy. It came into existence through the initiative of Yair Vardi, Dean of the Dance Faculty, and the generosity of the Beracha Foundation, Dr. Gila Kaplan and friends (New York) and

the Gabriel Sherover Foundation. The studio was formally dedicated on November 22 when the JAMD executive decided to name it in honor of Prof. Hassia Levi Agron the founder of the school of dance and an Israel Prize laureate.

A WONDERFUL WEEK OF WORKSHOPS

On January 25th, for a full week, students abandoned their regular schedules of classes and attended workshops and performances. Initiated by Michael Wolpe, of the Department of Music Theory, Composition and Conducting, the week opened new opportunities for students to gain different perspectives on subjects they would encounter only in passing in their regular studies.

The programs were lead by many experts from both the Academy's faculty and guests who presented a large variety of subjects, with a special emphasis on music

for dramatic performances including musicals, films and operas. The presence of a delegation of Romanian artists was also utilized in the program with some of them presenting workshops while others performed at recitals.

The week also opened the doors of the Academy and the high school to all high school students in Jerusalem who study music. Hundreds responded. The week was a great success and is expected to turn into an annual event with even greater participation of members of the music and dance community in Israel and abroad.

Young Conductors Concert: Final Event at Week of Workshops



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JAMD FUNDRAISING EVENT HELD ON DECEMBER 26

It was the 2nd candle lighting for Chanukah this year, and the Jerusalem Academy held its annual reception and fundraising event for a hometown Jerusalem audience. The venue was the Navon Auditorium at the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Building. Among those present was Israel's fifth President, Mr. Yitzhak Navon, members of JAMD's executive committee and Board of Directors, as well as parents of students and friends and supporters of the Academy.



Dance Performance at Fundraiser

The dance program opened with performances by graduates of the JAMD's High School and Conservatory and by members of the junior and senior dance workshops.

The musical program started with a performance by Nili Seidel, a graduate of the high school and a student at the Academy, who played a variety of piano pieces. Jesse, her seeing-eye dog, accompanied Nili, one of JAMD's extraordinary students, to the stage. Other musical performances featured a piano and cello duet, respectively performed by Michael Cohen-Weissert and his sister, Illya as well as Ya Yung Chung, aged eleven, who played the violin. The audience was extremely enthusiastic and appreciative.

Uri Gilboa, a lawyer by profession and the chairman of the High School Parents Association, served as the evening's master of ceremonies for the second year. Generous contributions from members of the audience were designated for the JAMD Scholarship Fund.



THE JERUSALEM ACADEMY OF MUSIC AND DANCE NEWSLETTER / WINTER 2006

NEW DEPARTMENT OF CROSS-DISCIPLINARY MUSIC APPROVAL REACHES FINAL STAGE

"The dynamism of our programs and faculty was amply demonstrated this year when we reached the final academic approval stage of the new department that will combine the disciplines of Classical, Afro-American and Ethnic music", said Professor Ilan Schul, President of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (JAMD). Professor Schul was referring to the fact that Israel's Council for Higher Education will grant the Academy the right to confer a B.Mus. degree in Cross-Disciplinary music, following the last stage of the detailed curriculum review. The program presently in its active stage

of development is assured a bright future as a new and growing department at the Academy.

Initially begun as a subject taught in the Jazz department of the Faculty of the Performing Arts, Cross-Disciplinary music study will open the door to student involvement in composition and performance of musical scores for dance, movies, television, theater performances and other forms of artistic visual presentation.

The curriculum of this new department will be enriched by a relationship initiated by Younes Nazarian, chairman of the JAMD Board of Governors, with the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music. Situated in the heart of the vital musical life of Los Angeles, the Thornton School of Music brings together a distinguished faculty and gifted students from around the world and a fine department devoted to the composition of musical scores for the cinema and TV industries. Among Thornton's many prominent graduates is Prof. Ilan Schul, President of JAMD.

The relationship will already find practical expression in the current academic year. In March of this year The Blue Rose Trio from USC, a student ensemble, will be coming to the Academy to collaborate with students and faculty. They will also be exposed to Israeli music audiences in a series of public performances. On their return, the JAMD String Quartet will travel to Los Angeles as part of the exchange program.



USC's Blue Rose Trio

From the Desk of the Chairman of the Board of Governors



Dear Friends of the
Academy,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to write to you as we embark upon our renewed efforts to

expose the public both in Israel and internationally to the tremendous contribution the Academy is making to the world of music and dance. We sometimes tend to forget that we are more than just an Academy of higher education. In reality the Academy is composed of three institutions that offer gifted young people the opportunity to express and develop their talents.

Starting with our Conservatory, open to children from the age of 4, we are discovering together with the child and his/her parents the artistic potential that is searching for expression. Our success at this level will lay the foundation for each of our budding students to reach the promise of his/her latent talent.

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Our High School has a proven track record of expanding the gifts discovered in the Conservatory at a very critical time in any young person's development. The gifts discovered at a very early age are further crafted and shaped, thus reinforcing personal commitment to music and dance. Without that commitment entrance into academic studies, after high school matriculation or military service, can become next to impossible.

In the interest of our students we must always strive to keep our different frameworks fully integrated. Without that effort major talent could be lost. Whether we know it or not we are creating at all levels a community of people that will be leaders in artistic endeavors for the coming generations.

We must always remember that our greatest assets are our students and nurturing them artistically is our task. They will be our legacy for the future.

Younes Nazarian



Pictured above, at the piano, is Michael Cohen-Weissert a 7th grade student at the JAMD High School and Conservatory. The Israel Broadcast Authority has named Michael "young artist of the year" for his talent as a pianist. With him (standing) is Jeremiah Klarman from Boston who studies piano at the New England Conservatory of Music. The two young pianists met when Jeremiah came to Israel with his family to celebrate his Bar Mitzvah.



WALTER HAUTZIG CELEBRATED PIANIST COMING HOME TO JERUSALEM IN NOVEMBER

Whether as a recording artist or appearing in a recital on one of the four continents where his genius as a pianist has been cherished by audiences, Walter Hautzig continues to be an "absolute master". His accomplishments are known throughout the world, but few are aware of his connection to JAMD.

He was a 16 years old student at the State Academy of Music in Vienna when the Nazi's took over Austria. Walter and many other Jewish artists knew that they had two possibilities: emigrate or risk their lives by remaining. It was Emil Hauser, the founder of the famed Budapest Quartet, who found them and arranged for their immigration

to Palestine where they continued their studies at the Jerusalem Conservatory the forerunner of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Among the other young musicians saved by Hauser and the Conservatory were pianists Peter Wallfisch and Alexis Weissenberg, violinists Erich Gruenberg and Eli Goren and composer Robert Starer.

As an expression of his appreciation to the Academy and to celebrate his 85th birthday, Walter Hautzig, has agreed to come to Jerusalem to perform. His concert scheduled for November 20, will be a prelude to JAMD's 60th anniversary celebrations in 2007.

NEW MUSICAL HORIZONS FOR OFAKIM-MERCHAVIM

This coming March when the second semester begins, Michael Klinghoffer, Dean of Students, will set into motion a pilot program he has been preparing for several months. Sixteen students from the Academy will begin traveling from Jerusalem to the city of Ofakim and the surrounding region of Merchavim to teach music and dance to the youngsters of the area. The program is being funded

and operated in cooperation with "Perach" (a Hebrew acronym for a national project recruiting students for communal work with children from distressed areas) and the Jewish Agency program Partnership 2000 that has linked the Jewish community of Metro-West New Jersey with the Ofakim-Merchavim region. The Academy students will be bringing new energy of music and dance to a population that has been experiencing chronic unemployment and social distress for many years. In return the participating students will receive scholarships to help pay for their studies.



Girls in Ofakim awaiting JAMD activity

PROFESSOR MENACHEM ZUR CREATING A NEW GENERATION OF INTERNATIONAL COMPOSERS AT JAMD

Prof. M. Zur, a member of the faculty of composition, conducting and music education, at the Academy is renowned internationally as a composer of numerous works, including chamber, vocal, symphonic and electronic music, and one



Prof. Menachem Zur

full-scale opera. His personal schedule for the current year reads like a flight list of a busy commercial airline. It includes the Yellow Barn music festival in Amherst Mass.; serving with Penderecky and Heinz Holeger on an international jury judging symphonic works in Lodz Poland, and working with French violinist David Grimal as part of a TV documentary for the French TV station MEZZO in Paris.

Through all this, Menachem felt great pride when his student, Gilad Rabinowitz, won first prize in a competition sponsored by the Austrian embassy marking the 250th anniversary of Mozart. Gilad's original composition was for a string quartet.



Gilad Rabinowitz

AND THE WINNERS ARE:

During the current academic year students of the Academy have won prizes and awards in national and in-house competitions. The following is a list of some of the competitions and some of the prizewinners.

The pianist Yenina Kudlik established a National Competition for Young Performers of Classical Music. With the help of the national lottery and the Municipality of Ashdod, the host city, the event was expanded this year to include more categories of competition.

JAMD students who were among the winners were:

- Daniel Schats – studying guitar with Irit Even Tov
- Alon Sarel – studying mandolin with Moti Schmit
- Avigail Malachi – studying clarinet with Prof. Ilan Schul
- Kim Tannhauser-Kedar and Maayan Smith – both studying saxophone with Gersh Geller
- Yuval Herz – studying violin with Michael Gaazler

In a competition sponsored by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the Jerusalem Foundation seeking to promote original creativity and performing excellence JAMD winners included: Taiseer Elias's Trio including Sami Chashivoon and Zohar Fresco who won first prize in performance. Chaya Samir who won second prize. The Itzik Yedid Trio with Ora Boazson Horev and



Esther Kalmi Congratulating Ivan Bogod

Michail Maron who won second prize for original composition.

JAMD Scholarships and Awards

In a JAMD piano competition for students made possible by a gift by Esther Kalmi in memory of her father Haim Kalmi the winners were Ivan Bogod, Shachar Borek and Fadi Deeb.

This year's President of the Academy's Prize went to Amit Gilutz a student of composition.

JAMD Dean's Prizes

- Faculty of Performing Arts – to Yevgenya Kimiagar a student in singing.
- Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education – to Zohar Sharon.
- Faculty of Dance and Movement – to Elinor Chertock.

Scholarships from the Albert and Naomi Towfik Fund were awarded this year to Chani Sabato a fourth year student in singing and to Anna Shtyrov a piano and composition student in her 3rd year of studies.

JULIUS IS HAVING A BIRTHDAY PARTY. SEND GIFTS TO JAMD!!

It's happening in Boca Raton on March 11. Harriet Finn is throwing a 90th birthday party for Julius Weissman, a new friend and supporter of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Invitees are urged not to bring gifts, but rather to send checks through PEF Israel Endowment Fund to provide scholarships that support students of dance at JAMD. Julius, who built a successful business by manufacturing dance costumes, recently made the connection with the Academy through the Jewish Federation of St. Louis.

The students and faculty express their appreciation to Harriet and Julius for their generous initiative, and wish them many more years of good health.



Julius and Harriet