



Giora Feidman and students

## Background

The preservation and renewal of Jewish music is a major concern of communities throughout the world. Klezmer Music, originating in the Shtetls of Eastern Europe, is the tradition of music universally identified as belonging to the Jewish People. Though no one really knows when the tradition began, Klezmer has survived through the centuries. Wherever Jews moved the Klezmer tradition followed and continually experienced revivals to the present day. Jewish composers such as Leonard Bernstein and Aaron Copland, were influenced by the klezmeric idioms heard during their youth. The influence of Klezmer music can be found in the works of Mahler, Gershwin and Benny Goodman and many other composers and musicians.

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance (JAMD), Israel's premiere academic institution in the fields of creation, performance and the teaching of music and dance is the logical venue for a major effort in maintaining and modernizing the Klezmer musical legacy. The Academy strives for excellence in artistic expression and has become a world-renowned academic institution with a faculty of international repute. Its graduates and faculty members are among Israel's leading musicians and dancers, contributing to the local cultural scene and representing the country internationally.

## Need

Over the years JAMD has offered courses to its students in Jewish music in the music Faculty of Performing Arts. In the future the Academy is planning to create an Institute for Jewish Music Performance and as a first step will establish a Chair of Klezmer music. The dynamic changes in the cultural scene today demand greater effort in preserving our heritage and reducing the threat of marginalizing Jewish music.

## Designated First Incumbent of the Chair of Klezmer Music

Giora Feidman is the world renowned "King of Klezmer", the champion of Jewish music for more than 40 years. Leonard Bernstein once wrote "Long live Giora, his clarinet and his music! He builds bridges between generations, cultures and classes, and he does it with perfect artistry!" This endorsement can now find expression through the Chair of Klezmer Music at the Academy as **Giora Feidman, an Honorary Fellow at JAMD, has agreed to become the Chair's first incumbent.**

Giora Feidman's career spans an amazing array of achievements. At the age of 20, he left Buenos Aires to become the youngest clarinetist in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. At the beginning of the seventies, Feidman commenced his independent musical message - the worldwide renaissance of the old Klezmer tradition, which he enriched with multifaceted styles of classical and modern music. He formed ensembles and teamed up with existing orchestras and ensembles for performances and recordings.

## Patron of the Chair of Klezmer Music

For a gift of \$150,000 per year over three years the donor will become the patron of the Chair. The patron shares responsibility for the incumbent's academic pursuits and accomplishments. The name of the Chair's patron will appear on all publications and works of music that emanate from the incumbent's association with JAMD. The establishment of the Chair will bestow prestige on the patron in perpetuity and will establish a foundation of permanence for the field of Klezmer Music at JAMD.



For more information please contact:

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