



The Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra Fills Halls



Maestro Avner Biron with the Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra

The Academy's Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra has secured an esteemed place in Jerusalem's musical scene, performing for full houses. In December 2014, the orchestra opened its concert season under the baton of its musical director Prof. Eitan Globerson, who also serves as Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts. The Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra played the Overture to Verdi's opera "La Traviata", Elgar's 'Cello Concerto with 'cellist Michal Korman, a faculty member of the Academy, and Brahms' Symphony no.1. For an encore, the orchestra played Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" March.

In March, the orchestra appeared under the baton of Maestro Avner Biron, a faculty member of the Academy and founder and conductor of the Israel Camerata Jerusalem. This event was the annual memorial concert for Sharon Tavor Pintz, playing in it were winners of the Sharon Tavor Pintz Competition for Solo Performance with Orchestra. Winners appearing in the concert were violinist Gal Eckstein and singer Efrat Vulfsons. The event took place in the concert hall of the Jerusalem International YMCA. The program included Mozart's "Exultate Jubilate", Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, Brahms' "Variations on a Theme by Haydn" and De Falla's "El amor brujo" (Love the Magician). Members of Sharon's family were present in the hall; Sharon, who was the Academy's public relations person, died in a road accident. Her family was very moved by the fact that Prof. Avner Biron, who had been head of the Academy at the time, conducted the concert. Opening the event, Mrs. Dalia Alexander, sister of the late Sharon Tavor Pintz, together with Academy president Prof. Yinam Leef, presented the winners with their prizes.



Left to right:
Mrs. Dalia Alexander, Gal Eckstein, Efrat Vulfsons and Prof. Yinam Leef

The Mendi Rodan Symphony Orchestra's next concert will take place on June 3rd in the Henry Crown Symphony Hall of the Jerusalem Theatre; the concert will be one of the events of the 2015 Israel Festival. This particular concert will celebrate 150 years of the birth of Finnish composer Jan Sibelius and will be under the auspices of the Finnish Embassy in Israel. Maestros Stanley Sperber and Eitan Globerson will conduct the orchestra.

The New Dance Hall is Named the "AFIK" Hall



Left to right: Micha Tal, Avraham Afik, Yair Green, Neta Pulvermacher, Meir Nitzan, Yinam Leef and Yaacov Eisner

In a festive and significant ceremony, that took place at the Academy at the beginning of January, the newly renovated dance hall was officially named the "Afike Hall". Thanks to businessman Avraham Afik's contribution of one million shekels, the dance hall has undergone renovation and massive improvement, including the construction of a rigging system for lighting, scenery and media. In addition, a video projector suitable to stage production, a special electric video screen tailored to the space and a black screen surrounding the hall, turning it into an intimate, attractive and unique theatre space, have been purchased and installed. Since the upgrading of the hall, the final stage of the Gertrud Kraus Choreography Competition and a production of the opera "Giulio Sabino" (see page 5) have taken place in the Afik Hall. Also, due to Avraham Afik's donation, the "Afikei Machol" (Dance Channels) program was established, a five-year program enabling the Dance Faculty to invite leading Israeli artists to hold workshops and to produce projects professionally in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. The donation also includes the establishment of two scholarships

presented annually to students of the Dance Faculty (one to a bachelor's student, one to a master's).

Mr. Avraham Afik immigrated to Israel from Iraq in 1936, at age seven; he and his brother established the first motorcycle garage in Jerusalem. Later on they established connections with Volkswagen Germany, receiving the franchise as the sole Volkswagen importers in Jerusalem. Mr. Afik, who has been a member of the Academy's board of governors for many years, himself is a painter and artist. The Afik Hall naming ceremony took place in the presence of Academy President Prof. **Yinam Leef**, Adv. **Yair Green**, Deputy Presidents **Micha Tal** and **Meir Nitzan**, Dean of the Dance Faculty Prof. **Neta Pulvermacher**, family members of Avraham Afik, faculty members, students and many guests. In the course of the evening, students performed repertoire works of the Dance Faculty.

The Academy is deeply grateful to Mr. Avraham Afik for his generous donation.



Presentation of IMA Foundation Scholarships for Excellence to Students in the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Chamber Music Program



Scholarship recipients (left to right) with Mr. Micha Tal, Sara (granddaughter of Younes and Soraya Nazarian), Soraya and Younes Nazarian, Prof. Yinam Leef, Zvi Plesser, Dr. Bella Brover-Lubovsky and Adv. Yair Green



The festive awarding of Scholarships for Excellence to students of the Chamber Music Project took place at the beginning of January in the presence of the donors, Younes and Soraya Nazarian. Also present were Adv. Yehezkel Beinisch, chairman of the Academy's board of governors, Mr. Danny Naveh, chairman of Clal Insurance, businessman Mr. Avraham Afik and family members, guests of the Nazarian family, guests of scholarship recipients, deputy presidents Mr. Micha Tal and Mr. Meir Nitzan, Academy faculty and administrative personnel.

Speakers at the event were Academy president Prof. Yinam Leef, Adv. Yair Green, chairman of the governing council, Mr. Zvi Plesser, head of the Chamber Music Program for Outstanding Students, and, finally, Mr. Younes Nazarian himself, honorary chairman of the international board of governors. The artistic program consisted of works by Ravel, Rachmaninoff and Janáček, performed by chamber music ensembles under the guidance of Zvi Plesser and Mauricio Paez. At the end of the concert, scholarships were presented to the forty seven students who were accepted into the program this year. In the Chamber Music Program, students receive intensive tutoring from Academy teachers, also meeting in

their groups with the head of the program for group lessons. The Academy views the Chamber Music Program as a superior project, emphasizing the Academy's obligation for the training of students in the main field of the life of a performer and for the building of the future generation of outstanding performers in the field of chamber music.

The Academy thanks Mr. Younes Nazarian and Mrs. Soraya Nazarian for their great loyalty over many years and for their active work in expediting programs.



Scholarships Awarded by the Sherover Foundation

Over recent years, the Gabriel Sherover Foundation has been donating scholarships to Academy students and assisting the Ankor Choir in offering scholarships to pupils with vocal ability who, for reasons of financial difficulties, would be limited in developing their artistic talents. Deputy president and director general of the Academy Mr. Micha Tal has pointed out that the Gabriel Sherover Foundation's contribution has enabled the Academy to increase the number of its scholarships, constituting an important element in the Academy's assistance offered to gifted students of limited financial means.

International Connections

Jerusalem-Budapest “The Art of Chamber Music”

At the end of February and beginning of March, a concert tour of three performances in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem took place with students of the Ferenc Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest, joining students from the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. This was the conclusion of a joint chamber music project involving both academies.

“The connection between the Jerusalem Academy and that of Budapest constitutes one part of a network of productive associations between the Academy and parallel institutions in Europe”, Prof. Yinam Leef, president of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance points out. “This project was begun as an educational and musical collaboration, but today it is much more than that. This is the most intimate setting of music-making, symbolizing the finest aspect of society, bringing together people through the act of listening and contributing to one another. Language and other barriers disappear and new friendships form.”

Ten students from Budapest came on this visit, the third meeting of the project. They were accompanied by two visiting teachers - Professor Marta Abraham (violin) and Professor Zsolt Szatmari (clarinet), both renowned musicians with rich experience in performance and teaching. Also tutoring the students were two Jerusalem Academy teachers - Prof. Menachem Wiesenberg and Prof. Eitan Globerson. Intensive rehearsals with teachers of both countries took place for the duration of a week, the highlight being the concerts taking place in Tel Aviv and Jerusalem at the end of it.

Initiator of the collaboration was Mr. Ilan Mor, Israeli ambassador

to Hungary. “Music, in general, and joint concerts, in particular, offer outstanding opportunities for people of different cultures to meet, connect and build bridges of understanding and friendship”, in Mor’s words. “The issue does not only touch on the personal level but also on the national and universal level, eradicating prejudice and hatred of foreigners. These are the aims we set ourselves in this unique project.”

The first concert, taking place at the Eden-Tamir Music Center, Ein Kerem (Jerusalem), was dedicated to the memory of ‘cellist Prof. Dudu Sela, who was among the initiators of the project. The hall was filled to capacity and, among those attending were the Hungarian ambassador to Israel Mr. Andor Nagy, cultural attaché Dr. Attila Novák other members of the embassy, faculty members of the Academy and students.

The second concert, taking place in the Navon Hall of the Jerusalem Academy High School and the Younes and Soraya Nazarian Conservatory, was performed to students of the Academy High School. The third concert took place at the Felicja Blumental Music Center, Tel Aviv. At the end of the Tel Aviv concert, a reception was held by the Hungarian Embassy in Israel.

Concert programs included Ravel’s “Introduction and Allegro”, Mozart’s Quintet in E-flat major, “Prayer” for string quartet and clarinet by Hungarian composer Lázsló Sáy, Sextet opus 37 by Dohnányi, Ohad ben Ari’s arrangement for chamber ensemble of Debussy’s “Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun” and Aharon Copland “Spring in the Appalachian Mountains”. The latter two works were conducted by Maestro Eitan Globerson.



The Budapest Project concert at the Eden-Tamir Music Center, Jerusalem

International Connections



Singers of the Vocal Department in the performance of "Giulio Sabino"

The Academy Stages Giuseppe Sarti's Opera "Giulio Sabino" at an International Conference Dedicated to this 18th Century Composer Hosted by the Academy

At the beginning of March, the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance presented "Giulio Sabino" in a fully staged production. Musical director was Aharon Harlap, stage direction - Shirit Lee-Weiss, choreography - Eran Abukassis, stage design - Adi Kaplan-Wildman, with participation of students of the Vocal Department, students from the Faculty of Performing Arts, students from the Department of Conducting and from the Dance Faculty.

The opera was first performed in Venice in 1781, subsequently having twenty productions in different towns in Europe since then and up to the beginning of the 19th century. The story takes place in Gaul in the 1st century and focuses on Roman Emperor Titus Vespasian who behaves mercifully towards his political rivals. The work presents neo-Classical ideas: the denunciation of tyranny and a call for government based on enlightenment, nobility of spirit, mercy and wisdom. The opera celebrates the triumph of the love of two people and represents the family setting and the value of civilized society, contrary to the different values of "typical" Italian opera, which present extra-marital love, inter-generation confrontation, and rarely introducing the mother figure.

Sarti was known as one of the most important musicians of his time, whereas, at the present time, he is almost ignored. He is mentioned in footnotes as a musician who supplied Salieri and

Mozart with catchy melodies which the two quoted in their famous operas.

"Giulio Sabino" was performed at "Giuseppe Sarti and Italian Opera at the Latter Part of the 18th Century: from Text to Performance", a conference hosted by the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. The conference aimed at "correcting" the historic injustice with regard to Sarti and at examining his contribution to the field of Italian opera. Attending the conference were highly prominent researchers of Italian opera from Italy, the USA, Germany and Israel.

Dr. Bella Brover-Lubovsky organized the conference, the subject matter being linked to joint research of the Berlin University of the Arts and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in a project titled "Giuseppe Sarti: a Cosmopolitan Composer in pre-Revolution Europe".

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance hosted the conference together with the Berlin University of the Arts and the Einstein Foundation (Berlin), the latter financing the international research; also involved were the Musicology Department of the Hebrew University, the Israel Musicological Society and the Italian Cultural Institute.

Special Events

36 Years of the Gertrud Kraus Competition

At the end of January, the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance held the Gertrud Kraus Choreography Competition for the 36th year. In her day, Gertrud Kraus was the grand lady of modern dance in Israel. As to the years the competition has been taking place, it has become the centre of attraction of young Israeli dance creativity and an integral part of choreographic, compositional studies of the Academy's Dance Faculty. The competition is the high point of the creative and research process of dance and choreographic studies, its aim being to encourage students to each find their own individual voice and to enable them to fulfill their artistic visions. The Academy sees great value in collaboration between the various faculties and between artists in general. For this reason, also this year as in former years, composers and musicians from the Academy's Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music were invited to take part in the competition, composing and performing music for the choreographic works. In the first collaboration of its kind, this year the Academy has cooperated with the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design to incorporate displays constituting the outcome of joint work of the Academy and costume designers from Bezalel, in addition to video works chosen from a course of dance and media. Of the 40 original works presented in this year's competition, eight were chosen for the final evening. All works in the competition were creative pieces of bachelor degree students. Around half of the works were created in collaboration with composers and musicians of the Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music. Among the judges were Einav Levy (director of the Ga'aton Training Workshop for Dancers), Einat Rose Globerman (director of the Jerusalem Municipality's Dance Division) and Moshe Schechter (dancer, teacher, dance expert and producer of the "Diver" Festival). Prizes were awarded by the foundation's chairman Mr. Shai Lachman and by choreographer Oshra Elkayam Ronen, director of the Gertrude Kraus and Gretel Muller (née Kraus) Foundation.

The Dostrovsky Forum for Music and Dance Education Now in its Fifth Year

The Dostrovsky Forum for Music and Dance Education was established in 2009 by the Board of Directors of the Academy. The forum offers a platform for the exchange of opinions and for the consolidation of guiding principles to be used for setting goals on all levels of study and within all formal- and non-formal frameworks. The forum is named after Yocheved Dostrovsky-Kopernik, who was head of the Academy for many years and for whom education was the number one priority. The forum includes tens of permanent members, among them people from academia, educationalists, teachers, principals and policy-makers, representing most of the institutions of higher education as well as professional institutions engaging in music- and dance education.

The late Michal Smoira-Cohn has served as chairwoman of the forum since its establishment. As of this year, Prof. Yinam Leef has been chairing the forum. This is the third year that forum meetings have been taking place at the Van Leer Institute, Jerusalem. The forum coordinator on behalf of the Van Leer Institute is Dr. Adam Klin-Oron.

This year, the Dostrovsky Forum is devoting its meetings to the issue of quality in music- and dance education. Below is a list of dates of meetings and topics:

7.11.2014 - Expertise versus values in the teaching of music and dance

2.1.2015 - The question of choice of repertoire

20.3.2015 - The image of the fine teacher (This meeting was dedicated to the memory of Michal Smoira-Cohn.)

15.5.2015 - Teaching in a reality abounding with conflict

A Musical Protest against Racism

Following the racist attack on Tommy Hasson, a piano student of the Academy, the Academy's student council decided to hold a protest demonstration outside the Jerusalem Central Bus Station, in which its students and lecturers remonstrated against violence and racism.

Chairwoman of the student council Yael Silver pointed out that "the student council denounces acts of this kind and is troubled by the physical and mental injury incurred by Tommy. In light of the event and out of concern on the part of students of the Academy, the student council is protesting against violence and racism in the name of the arts we all share - music, dance and art". President of the Academy Prof. Yinam Leef added: "The Academy is a warm and friendly environment in which everybody speaks one language - the language of art and tolerance. We are proud of Tommy and of the many students from all sections of rational and cultured Israeli society attending the Academy. I hope this violent and traumatic occurrence will not affect Tommy's future and that he will draw strength from this support and encouragement around him to continue speaking in the reaffirming language of music."



Special Events



Daniel Barenboim conducts Eyal Adler's "Resonating Sounds"

The most recent work of faculty member, composer Dr. Eyal Adler, was performed in August by the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, conducted by Maestro Daniel Barenboim, on a concert tour of prestigious festivals.

The orchestra was hosted at the Colón Theatre, Buenos Aires for a month, performing many concerts there. Marta Argerich performed in some of the concerts. Following the time spent there, the orchestra flew to Europe to take part in concerts at the Lucerne Festival, in Salzburg and in the BBC Proms at the London Albert Hall. Dr. Eyal Adler's work "Resonating Sounds" was played at all the concerts. The work was commissioned by Maestro Daniel Barenboim for the Divan Orchestra, together with another new work by Syrian-born composer Kareem Roustom, today living in the USA.

The Dance Faculty of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance Presents its WINTER SHOW at the Jaffa Port

At the beginning of February, an exceptional performance by dancers of the Academy's Dance Faculty took place in Warehouse 2 at the Jaffa Port. It featured original works of choreographers Noa Zuk, Idan Cohen, Roy Assaf, Talia Beck, Amir Kolben, Neta Pulvermacher and others. The program also included selected works from the Gertrud Kraus Choreography Competition and of M.Dance students.

Before the main show, a Pre Show took place in the entrance area, displaying video dance works. This was the result of a unique collaboration between musicians and dancers in the choreography course, video works from the dance and technology course and selected works from the joint dance-design course that brings students of fashion and costume design from the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design together with choreography students from the Academy. All proceeds from this project went towards support of the Dance Faculty's special projects.

Song of Israel - a Tribute to Composer Menachem Wiesenberg

A festive concert dedicated to composer Prof. Menachem Wiesenberg took place at the Academy at the end of January. The Academy's Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music joined the Meitar Ensemble to produce this concert, marking 25 years of one of the most meaningful musical events in the history of Israeli music, that being the first performance of "Song of Israel" - a program of artistically-arranged Israeli songs performed by Mira Zakai and Menachem Wiesenberg. The first concert "From Songs of the Land I Love", taking place in honor of 40 years of the establishment of the State of Israel, opened the 1988 Israel Festival and was broadcast live on the Voice of Music, Israeli radio. Shortly after the event, the "Song of Israel" record was launched. Most of the songs on it were artistic arrangements of Israeli canonical songs, the arrangements being Prof. Menachem Wiesenberg's own creative work. Twelve of those arrangements were published by the Israel Music Institute in a booklet called "Twelve Israeli Songs" and have since become "crown jewels" of Israeli art music repertoire. These arrangements continue to be played on the concert stage in Israel and further afield. For the concert, new orchestral settings of the songs were written and performed in a more contemporary manner. The settings were written by outstanding students from the Composition Division of the Cross-Disciplinary Music Faculty and were performed by students and prominent graduates of the Cross-Disciplinary Vocal Division. The project enjoyed the close guidance of Mr. Rafi Kadishson, head of the Composition Division of the Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music, of Ms. Vered Dekel, head of the faculty's Vocal Division and of conductor Ziv Cojocar. The players performing the arrangements consisted of members of the Meitar Ensemble, one of Israel's leading chamber ensembles. Menachem Wiesenberg's work "Primus Inter Pares" (First among Equals) for eight players, a piece based on three Ladino songs, was also performed at the concert. Officiating at the evening, Prof. Boaz Ben-Moshe, Dean of the Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music, heartily praised Prof. Wiesenberg and all those who had worked to produce the event.



Guests at the Academy

As guests of the Academy this year, artists and faculty members from universities worldwide are holding master classes.

Guest Artists of the Faculty of Performing Arts

Prof. **Elmar Fulda**, Vocal Department, the Franz Liszt High School of Music

Prof. **Colin Hansen**, vocal accompanist-coach, the Sibelius Academy, Helsinki, Finland; his presence was due to the assistance of the Finnish Embassy and the generosity of Mrs. Esther Narkis

Prof. **Guy Yehuda**, clarinet, Michigan State University College of Music, USA

Kenneth Radnofsky, classical saxophone, the New England Conservatory of Music, USA

Prof. **Eli Eban**, clarinet, Indiana University Jacobs School of Music, Bloomington, USA

Susana Poretsky, voice, San Diego Opera, USA

Prof. **Nachum Erlich**, violin, the State Academy of Music, Karlsruhe, Germany

Prof. **Andrzej Pikul**, chairman of the Piano Department, the Academy of Music, Kraków, Poland

Prof. **Kevin Lawrence**, violin, chairman of the String Department, University of North Carolina, USA

Dr. **Marian Sobula**, piano, the Academy of Music, Kraków, Poland

Dr. **Igal Kesselman**, piano, the Lucy Moses School, New York, USA

Izhar Elias, classical guitar, Amsterdam, Holland

Prof. **Gil Garburg**, piano four hands, one, two pianos, Graz University for the Arts, Austria

Prof. **Michael Wladkowski**, piano, l'École Normale de Musique, Paris, France

Prof. **Solomia Soroka**, violin, Goshen College, Indiana, USA

Prof. **Arthur Greene**, piano, University of Michigan, School of Music, Theater & Dance, Ann Arbor, USA

Prof. **Emeritus Oxana Jablonskaya**, piano, Juilliard School of Music, New York, USA

Guest Artists of the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education

Prof. **Wojciech Widlak**, Dean of Composition, Academy of Music, Kraków, Poland

Erkki-Sven Tüür, composer, Tallinn, Estonia

Prof. **Gyula Fekete**, Head of the Composition Faculty, Liszt Academy of Music, Hungary

Mr. **Mattia Rondelli**, musicologist and conductor, Italy

Mr. **Omer Meir Wellber**, conductor and composer, Israel

Guest Artists of the Dance Faculty

Anna Halprin, choreographer, USA

Hillel Kogan and **Adi Boutros**, dancers

Noa Zuk, choreographer

Talia Beck, choreographer

Michelle Fletcher, choreographer, San Francisco, USA, Fulbright scholar

Casey Thorne, choreographer, San Francisco, USA, Fulbright scholar

Katie Swords Thurman and **Jesse Zaritt**, dancers, University of the Arts, Philadelphia, USA

New Appointments



Prof. Lihay Bendayan has been appointed Head of the Strings Division, taking over from **Mr. Motti Schmit**, who has completed his term of office and has retired.



Dr. Karel Volniansky has been appointed Head of the Department of Theory, Composition, and Conducting, taking over from Prof. **Michael Wolpe**, who has completed his term of office following many years of intensive and fruitful activity.

Promotions

Rafi Kadishson has been appointed senior lecturer

Roi Shiloah has been appointed senior lecturer

Michal Shamir has been appointed senior lecturer

Dr. **Amit Weiner** has been appointed lecturer

Revital Hachamov has been appointed lecturer

Mate Moray has been appointed lecturer

The Academy Offers Congratulations to Teachers and Students:

To pianist **Murray Perahia**, president of the Academy's Edward Aldwell Center, on receiving the Wolf Prize for Music

To pianist Prof. **Alexander Tamir** on receiving the Ministry of Culture's Arik Einstein Prize for Classical Music

To conductor and flautist Prof. **Avner Biron** on receiving the Ministry of Culture's Arik Einstein Prize for Classical Music

To Prof. **Amnon Wolman** on receiving the Menachem Avidom ACUM Prize for Composition, for his new work "Dust Control Area"

To poet **Tzvia Litevsky** on receiving the Natan Yonatan ACUM Prize for a work in the field of poetry presented anonymously, for her book "A Honey-Sucker Paddles against the Wind"

To composer Prof. **Eitan Steinberg**, graduate of the Academy, on receiving the Paul Ben Haim ACUM Prize for Life Work

To Mate Moray, Head of the Dance Department, on his appointment to the position of artistic director of the Israel Ballet

Winners of the Academy President's Prize and Deans' Prizes

Congratulations to **Ido Akov** on receiving the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance President's Prize

To **Natalie Afriat** and **Annabelle Dvir** on receiving the Dean of the Dance Faculty's Prize

To **Anat Nazarathy** on receiving the Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts' Prize

To **Rotem Sherman** on receiving the Dean of the Faculty of Cross-Disciplinary Music's Prize

To **Salome Rebello** on receiving the Dean of the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education's Prize

To **Yoav Jasis** on receiving the Dean of Students' Prize

Winners of the 36th Gertrud Kraus and Gretel Muller (né Kraus) Choreography Competition

1st Prize: **Gadi Avidan**, for his work "The Possibilities of Placing a Rectangle by a Man and Music"

2nd Prize: **Michal Zur**, for her work "Piece of Ars"

3rd Prize: **Miri Petel**, for her work "A Glimpse of Body Sketches"

Honorary mention: **Guy Bernstein**, for his work "Iconoclast"

Winners of the Competition of Music Composed for Dance, in Connection with the Gertrud Kraus Choreography Competition

1st Prize: **Uri Kochavi**

2nd Prize: **Amit Biton**

3rd Prize: **Nir Yatzkan**

Honorable mention: **Naomi Attar**

Winners of the Ada Brodsky Art Song Competition

1st Prize: **Yuval Oren**

2nd Prize/Prize for performance of a Sibelius song: **Tamara Navot**

3rd Prize: **Tom Ben Ishai**

All competitors who reached the second stage of the competition gave a performance at the home of the Finnish Ambassador to Israel, Leena-Kaisa Mikkola



From left to right: Tamara Navot, Rivka Bartlet-Falk, Yuval Oren, Tal Malkinson and Tom Ben Ishai following the concert at the residence of the Finnish ambassador

Countrywide Competitions

Winners of the Voice of Music (Israeli radio) Young Artists Competition

Under the auspices of the Voice of Music, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra IBA and the Eden-Tamir Music Center



1st Place winner: **Tom Zalmanov**, pupil of Ms. Leah Agmon



2nd Place winner: **Alon Mamo**, pupil of Mr. Michael Merminsky

The winners performed with the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, conducted by **Uri Segal**

Winners of the "Piano Forever" Competition

Age category: **19-28 years**

1st Prize: **Daniel Neyman**, pupil of Prof. Michael Boguslavsky

2nd Prize: **Ofer Stolarov**, pupil of Ms. Daria Monastirsky

Encouragement prizes: **Alon Petrilin** (pupil of Ms. Daria Monastirsky), **Omer Yaari** (pupil of Prof. Vadim Monastirsky) and Academy graduate **Yael Enosh** (pupil of Dr. Irina Berkovich.)

Age category: **16-18 years**

3rd Prize: **Dana Vachutinsky**, pupil of Mr. Yaron Rosenthal

The Academy congratulates all the winners on their achievements!

Honorary Degree Conferred during the Annual

At an impressive and festive ceremony, honorary degrees of the Academy were conferred on a number of people in the framework of the 2014 International Board of Governors. The distinction of Honorary Trustee was bestowed on Mr. Aharon Yadlin and on Adv. Yair Green. The distinction of Honorary Fellow was bestowed on pianist Elena Bashkistrova, on singer Mira Zakai and on choreographer Donna Faye Burchfeld. This year, Dr. Tzipora Jochsberger, Ms. Dafna Jones-Jaglom, Prof. Menachem Zur and Mr. Haim Asulin were inscribed in the Academy's Golden Book.



The distinction of Honorary Trustee was bestowed on Mr. **Aharon Yadlin** for his widespread and extensive public activity, contributing to advancement in the fields of music and dance in Israel, to new musical creativity and contemporary choreography, for his belief in the importance of the contribution of art and culture and in the contribution of creative artists as essential to the building of Israeli society, for his assistance in founding many educational and cultural institutions and institutions of higher learning, for his longstanding activity in furthering higher education and his large contribution to society and Israel.



Adv. **Yair Green** was awarded the distinction of Honorary Trustee for his extensive and longstanding activity in advancing and strengthening the status of higher education in the State of Israel, for his large contribution as chairman of the Board of Directors in the development of the Academy and for his loyalty, devotion and steadfast commitment to the Academy and to the realizing of its goals.



Singer Prof. **Mira Zakai** was awarded the distinction of Honorary Fellow for the high quality of her artistic work, for setting high standards of vocal performance, for outstanding achievement on the international scene, for her pedagogical accomplishments and for her guidance of the new generation of students, and that, owing to her unique voice and personality, she has been a source of inspiration to composers who have written many works for her, and for her dedication to performance and to the development of Israeli music.



Pianist **Elena Bashkistrova** received the distinction of Honorary Fellow for her supreme example of setting high artistic standards and for impressive achievement on the international concert stage, for her generous contribution to the development of culture and music in Israel and worldwide, for establishing and the artistic direction of the Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival, and for bringing artists of the highest caliber to Israel to perform together, with an emphasis on values of friendship and excellence, and for her large contribution to education in Israel and cooperation with the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

The honor was presented to **Elena Bashkistrova** on the opening evening of Jerusalem International Chamber Music Festival in September 2014. It was broadcast live on the Voice of Music, IBA, Israeli radio.

Meeting of the International Board of Governors 2014



Choreographer Prof. **Donna Faye Burchfeld** received the distinction of Honorary Fellow for outstanding accomplishments in advancing the fields of dance and performance studies in higher education world-wide, for creating new, contemporary models of dance studies and empowering young artists to embrace multiplicity, diversity and contradiction and for her remarkably generous mentorship of today's most innovative dance artists, thinkers and scholars.



Composer, musician and educationalist Prof. **Menachem Zur** was inscribed in the Academy's Golden Book for his teaching of composition, electronic music and theoretical subjects at the Academy for 36 years, also serving as head of the Theory Department, as Dean of the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education and as head of the M.Mus. program. He has made a unique contribution to music theory studies in all faculties of the Academy, has developed unique study programs and teaching methods of advanced musical analysis, in particular in enriching the field of Schenker Analysis at the Academy. Prof. Zur has taught generations of students.

Educationalist and composer Dr. **Tzipora Jochsberger** was inscribed in the Academy's Golden Book for dedicating her life to the Israeli people and its music. Dr. Jochsberger, who was one of the founders of the Academy, is a member of the board of governors, giving of her time to the Academy and to advancing its aims.

Dr. Jochsberger was absent from the ceremony but sent a moving letter to the administration; Prof. Yinam Leef read it to those present. Dr. Jochsberger wrote: "I wish to thank the Academy for the honor of being inscribed in the Golden Book. But I owe the Academy much more than that. In 1938, the head of the Academy at that time, Emil Hauser, came to Germany in order to bring students across to his academy in Jerusalem. I was among the happy students to be accepted, thus enabling me to leave Germany in the

spring of 1939, by which time it was becoming almost impossible to leave. Tragically, my parents z"l remained there and their fate was as that of millions of Jews - Auschwitz and brutal murder. At the Jerusalem Academy we had excellent teachers, such as Yosef Tal, Alfred Schroder, Dr. Edith Gerson-Kiwi and Hanoch Jacoby. But for all of us students from Germany and Czechoslovakia, the main thing was that we had been saved from the big hater of Jews. So my thanks to you are not only for inscribing me in the Golden Book but for the fact that I was given my life by the Academy, and I have never forgotten that. I thank you for that!"



Teacher and educationalist of the Dance Faculty **Dafna Jones-Jaglom** was inscribed in the Academy's Golden Book for the fact that in 1978, when she joined the Academy, she initiated and founded the program for the teaching of dance, awarding its graduates a teaching diploma in addition to the bachelor's degree. Through her extensive work, she has created tens of work opportunities for Academy graduates and has contributed to the integrating of teaching dance at schools. Ms. Jones has formed contacts; she has initiated and organized student and teacher exchange between the Academy and prestigious overseas institutions. In addition to teaching, she has served as faculty representative on the governing council, has been a member of the Dance Faculty's academic council and chairwoman of the academic faculty organizational committee.



Guitar artist **Haim Asulin** has been inscribed in the Academy's Golden Book. In 1974 he was hired to teach at the Academy; in addition to teaching guitar, he taught methodology and literature of the instrument. As chairman of the Academy's group of tenured faculty members, he has devoted his time to the benefit of his colleagues. He initiated and organized the Academy's Joaquin Rodrigo Festival and developed a unique method of playing that he has demonstrated at international conferences and prestigious schools overseas. Haim Asulin has taught generations of students, now active musicians in Israel and overseas.

The Academy Bows its Head to the Memory of Michal Smoira-Cohn

Mrs. Michal Smoira-Cohn, who was head of the Academy, chair of the board of governors and a member of the Board of Directors passed away in January 2015. Below are words from the eulogy president of the Academy Prof. Yinam Leef spoke at her funeral.

It seems impossible to be parting from Michal. There is something perpetual in this woman. Therefore, I have chosen to speak in the present tense.

Last Tuesday Micha Tal and I visited her. We are talking and she, although weak, is as focused as usual, going into the depth of detail. She gives me her latest book.

In the opening of this book she has titled "A Musical Journey with Schopenhauer", and, at its very beginning, this perpetual woman writes a sentence which is seemingly naïve and simple. She writes thus:

"From the day, as a naïve young girl, I made my acquaintance and fell in love with music, my naivety as to its wonder has never ceased: what does it have, I pondered, that is so addictive to us? What makes it so moving and exciting?" This book is a journey of questioning, of the seeking of connections, a mosaic of subjects that have not ceased occupying her for years.

Michal Smoira-Cohn is not only an example of excellence in the love of music but also perhaps, in particular, of unquenchable curiosity. It is enough to peruse the book's bibliographical list and her other books to observe the huge range of her curiosity, her ability to include meaningful material and how she applies it to her own world.

There is something everlasting about Michal, for she symbolizes everlasting values, and, indeed in these, society, loyalty to human beings and loyalty to one's own convictions, the love of humanity, her integrity and intellectual honesty. She knows what is important and it is sometimes even more important to her that things that are unimportant to her may be important to other people. And this superb and finely balanced combination of knowledgeable opinion and openness has characterized Michal throughout the years, throughout the many decades of her activity in the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. At the Academy she taught History of Music, also serving as head of the Academy for five and a half years, these years being a time of development and expansion. There was a rise in the number of students, study programs were extended and the building on Smolenskin St. is becoming too small to accommodate them all. Michal negotiates for the purchase of the building in Giv'at Ram, then putting it into the hands of her colleagues, strengthening them in the course of her years of leadership.

Following the end of her term as head, Michal continues to be involved in the Academy, being a member of the international board of governors, heading it for almost ten years. She forms contacts and brings in new friends from Israel and overseas, strengthening the status of the institution which is so close to her heart. Throughout her many active years, she continues to be a member of the Academy's Board of Directors until in recent months, when her health weakens, Michal is an important partner in mapping the institution's direction and in the taking of decisions, being familiar with all necessary details and asking relevant questions, not cutting corners as she works and driven by belief and love. Her profound belief is in the importance and meaning of the arts in general and



in music in particular, also in human life and the love she has for all those contributing to it, whether they are on the concert stage or in classrooms. She believes in the new generation, seeking the new as mirrored by the old and the old as mirrored in the new. She attends every concert. Many composers, veteran and young, are honored to see Michal at concerts. She listens to a new work with great attentiveness, always addressing its essence, enumerating its positive aspects and raising reservations.

Michal is a mirror. Anyone conversing with her is carried to the place in which he, sooner or later, is observing his very own work. It is thus also in the Dostrovsky Forum of Music and Dance Education, which she has headed from the day of its inception. This forum is where we observe ourselves and ask questions. The forum was founded as the result of a decision of the Academy's Board of Directors, and some three years ago, we moved it to the sponsorship of the Van Leer Institute, Michal remains its initiator and it exists exclusively because of her, thanks to her leadership and her profound moral directive, these being the banner that Michal carries, with all following after it.

This is really not rhetoric. Some tens of people from the most prominent of artistic and educational streams of Israeli academic institutions and outside of them, for whom music and dance education are of top priority, have been meeting consistently a number of times per year for some years, listening to each other and discussing essential matters and principles. An email from Michal always calls everyone to order, resuming brainstorming on some matter, with her always preparing a lead into discussion for the upcoming meeting. Meetings at her home always generate more ideas for planning and the implementation of future meetings. Michal is a catalyser of thought process and a mover when it comes to getting things done. And when she says to us "I am already 86, leave me ...I am already 88", we look at her with a sense of surprise and say "Michal, how is that... for we cannot do this without you"

But it seems that Michal is preparing her departure. With her sense of responsibility and great concern for the forum, she hands the reins over to others a few months ago. And now it is up to us to continue Michal's ethical directive, whether in artistic achievement or organization: research, ask, be honest with yourselves and others, deliberate on issues, involve others, know how to include other opinions, make decisions and be active. Do not wait for your work to be done by others.

This is Michal and this is her legacy; we will continue and fulfill it.