

# HIGHLIGHTS



Special Edition Marking the International Board of Governors Meeting | June 7 – 9, 2009

## New Building of the Academy

Construction has begun on the first building of the Academy's new campus. Most of you are familiar with the Academy and know that its present building is badly overcrowded. It was originally built for 300 students but now serves a student body of 800! This is clearly an impossible situation. The new building – with classrooms, lecture halls, a modern dance studio, an advanced recording studio and more – is being built with Israeli government support. We will need major additional support in order to complete the project.



Computer rendering of the new Academy building

## JAMD and the Israel Camerata

On 8 June 2009, the Academy and the Israel Camerata Orchestra will hold a festive Beethoven concert in the Tel-Aviv Performing Arts Center. This concert is the first practical result in a developing partnership between these two premier Jerusalem cultural institutions.

The partnership is a direct outcome of a relationship between Avner Biron, the Music Director of the Camerata, and President of the Academy for nine years (1994 – 2003) and Ilan Schul, our present President and the Music Director of the Academy Orchestra. The two institutions have been in contact for months. An additional joint project is an educational initiative with the Jerusalem Municipality. Members of the two orchestras perform in classrooms throughout Jerusalem as part of a program of music education for youth. 120 concerts have taken place so far.

## Vision and Aspirations

We present to the Board of Governors this proposal framing the vision and aspirations of the Academy. The proposal is the result of a challenging and fascinating process, in which all branches of the Academy participated, including a task force appointed by the Academy's leadership.

The task force was headed by Dr. Aviam Sela and Yishai Dror of the Sibam Company (a division of Matrix, one of Israel's leading Information Technology companies) on a pro-bono basis. The key sentence that will guide the vision of the Academy in the coming years is: **"Our mission is to be a world-class Academy in the areas of music and dance, and to make a significant contribution to artistic creation and research."**

A brief summary of the other elements of the vision are:

***We are a unique institution that aspires to the nurturing of music and dance and to making a significant contribution to artistic creation and research in Israel. By way of our three branches – the Conservatory, the High School and the Academy for Higher Education – we are the leading institution in the field in Israel, helping young people realize their potentials and their dreams. Our location enables us to fulfill a unique function in society by fostering the connection between Israel's capital and the myriad cultures in it.***

## A New Image and Logo

The newsletter you're now holding presents a new and fresh image of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance.

The new design is a gift of Glickman-Netler-Samsonov Advertising Ltd. one of the leading publicity agencies in Israel. The design process took many months during which members of the academic and administrative staff, together with the Academy heads and external consultants took part.

The Academy thanks Glickman-Netler-Samsonov Ltd. for its friendship, cooperative thinking and especially the stunning results.

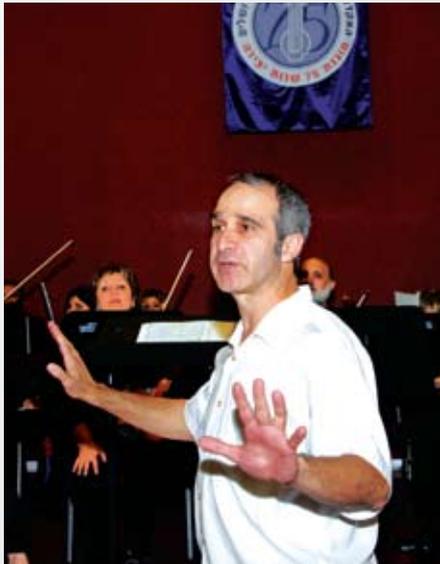


## JAMD Receives Four ACUM Awards

The JAMD is very proud of an extraordinary achievement: 4 associates recently received ACUM (The Composers, Authors and Publishers Society of Israel) awards. Dr. Michael Wolpe, Head of the Faculty Of Composition, Conducting And Music Education- Life Achievement award.

Mr. Karel Volniansky, a teacher in the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education - award for the Composition of an Anonymous Work. The award was for his "Symphony No. 1".

In addition, two of our graduates won prizes: Gilad Cohen received a prize for his new composition, Quintet for Guitar, Bass and Strings; and to Ofer Felz who received the Menachem Avidom Award for an Outstanding Musical Event for his Concerto for Cello, Chamber Ensemble and Electronic Music. The Academy wishes all the winners continuing fertile creativity.



Dr. Michael Wolpe

## The Future Generation of Opera in Israel presents: Die Fledermaus

Students of the Academy's Opera Workshop recently performed "Die Fledermaus" the most famous of the operettas of Johann Strauss II.

The students performed in the German original under the direction of David Zeba (who also prepared them musically), with string and piano accompaniment.

These students are the future opera singers of Israel. Many graduates have become Israel's leading opera stars and include Ira Bertman, Noah Briger and Denis Sedov.



Johann Strauss "Die Fledermaus"

## Richard Wernick at the Academy

Richard Wernick, the American composer and winner of the 1977 Pulitzer Prize for Composition, was our guest for "Project Week 2009", held by the Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education and the Jazz and Cross-Disciplinary Department of the Academy.

Prof. Wernick lectured at the Academy, gave master classes and held a series of seminars on The Aesthetics, Theory and Practice of Composition. At a festive concert held in honor of his birthday, two of his recent works received their premiers in Israel. Prof. Wernick's trip was supported by the United States - Israel Educational Foundation, The Fulbright Program, and the U.S. Embassy in Israel.

## The Academy's Activities Abroad London | USA | Leipzig | Japan | Delhi and Katmandu

### Musical Dialogue in London

A musical project of the Israel Forum of the Music Institute of the University of London resulted in a festival in which composers from England and Israel took part. Representing the Academy were Prof. Zvi Avni; Dr. Michael Wolpe, who also served as Artistic Advisor; and Dr. Taiseer Elias, playing the Oud.

During the festival, seven works of Prof. Avni were performed as well as the Oud Concerto of Dr. Michael Wolpe. The festival ended with a Gala Concert conducted by Daniel Cohen at the Queen Elizabeth Hall where two British and three Israeli works were played.

### The Chamber Choir Tour to the U.S.

As part of the celebrations of Israel's 60 years of independence, our Chamber Choir went on a tour of Jewish communities on the east coast of the U.S. Under Stanley Sperber's direction, the Choir performed to full houses in Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore and New York, and was greeted with extended applause.

### Concert in Leipzig

At the initiative of Mr. Amiram Zmani, a member of the Board of Governors, an agreement of cooperation was reached between the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and the Hochschule für Musik und Theater "Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy", Leipzig, with concerts in both Jerusalem and Leipzig. In Leipzig the concert marked both Shoah Remembrance Day

as well as Felix Mendelssohn's 200th birthday. Mr. Dan Golan, Israel's Cultural Consul in Berlin, was present and helped fund the event.

### Concerts in New Delhi and in Katmandu

The recorder players Prof. Michael Melzer, vice-president of the Academy, Yael Shimshoni, teacher in the Academy and the Conservatory, Adam Cohen, student of percussion at the Academy, and Shani Cohen (Adam's wife) a master's degree graduate from the Vocal department, appeared at the Independence Day 61 celebrations in New Delhi, India and Katmandu, Nepal, organized by the Israeli Embassy in New Delhi.

The program was called "Paradise Lost and Found in Jerusalem", and was specially designed by Prof. Melzer. The program reflected the importance of multi-cultural integration and especially the need to listen to the other and to the different. The events were initiated and organized by Mrs. Sara Sofer, wife of the Israeli Ambassador in New Delhi, and was sponsored by the Foreign Ministry.

### The Academy Goes to Japan

The Ankor Choir has been invited to Japan by "Beit Shalom - Japan" for the second time. They will give a series of concert performances in the capital Tokyo, Kyoto, Hiroshima, and other cities.

The Ankor Choir was established in 1983 and, under its conductor Dafna Ben-Yochanan, now

numbers 50 singers ages 11-18. The members of the "Beit Shalom Association" (House of Peace) - officially known as the Israel-Japan Friendship Society - visit Israel regularly and pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Centers of "Beit Shalom" are found all over Japan. They host Israeli visitors and have established a Holocaust Education Center near Hiroshima for the teaching of the Shoah.



Academy representatives at a performance in India



The Chamber Choir at a concert in Manhattan

## Appointments and Best Wishes

To Ms. Leah Agmon on her appointment as Director of the Conservatory.

To Yair Vardi upon receiving a knighthood of the French Chevalier des Arts et Lettres.

To the composer Prof. Yinam Leef upon his appointment as Dean of The Faculty of Composition, Conducting and Music Education.

A special congratulations to Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. Younes Nazarian, upon receiving the honor of lighting a torch at the Torch Lighting Ceremony on Mt. Herzl marking Israel's 61-st Independence Day.

## Resource Development

We've dramatically expanded our Resource Development activities. Here are some of the events:

We held a promotional evening dedicated to the highly talented students of our high school. Thanks to Ruthi and Miki Bavli at whose home the benefit took place, and to Tzili and Dani Naveh, the heads of the Friends of the Academy Association, who were joined by high school staff and students.

Another benefit evening for the Academy was held at the home of Bosmat and Yoav Chelouche in Ramat Hasharon. Many thanks to all of them.

### Events in Los Angeles and New York

Two events, geared toward building the Academy's image, brought together impressive crowds of people. Heartfelt thanks to Soraya and Younes Nazarian of Los Angeles who graciously opened their doors and to Shula Nazarian who organized the evening.

A special thanks goes to Nancy Spielberg and Shimon Katz who organized the wonderful evening in New York attended by more than 300 people, as well as Israel's Consul General and Prof. Gabriela Shalev, Israel Ambassador the United Nations.



Certificates of Gratitude are given to Ms. Nancy Spielberg and Mr. Shimon Katz by Advocate Yair Green

### Scholarship Program for the Periphery

Over the past year we placed a particular emphasis on a scholarship program for students from peripheral areas of Israel. We collected over a quarter of a million shekalim for this program alone. Some of the individuals and institutions supporting the program – such as the Nachi Danker's IDB Fund and Bezeq – have already announced their commitments for an additional year.

We've also launched a unique pilot program this year of music education in the periphery together with Cellcom in their "Cellcom Volume" centers. If successful, the program will be ongoing in the coming years.

### Jewish Music Special Evening

In working toward our dream of creating a unique center for Jewish music. Heartfelt thanks to Louise and Nisan Khakshouri who opened their doors to a wonderful evening.

# 2008 – 2009 Events

**Britten's War Requiem** – Without a doubt was the year's high point. Before a sellout crowd of 1500 in the Tel-Aviv Performing Arts Center, our students, together with dozens of students from leading European Academies, performed the War Requiem of Benjamin Britten.

The performance was broadcast by French television's "Mezzo" bringing this message of peace to all of Europe. The event allowed us to raise considerable scholarship support for students from peripheral areas. The late Maestro Mendi Rodan conducted the orchestra and Prof. Ilan Schul conducted the Academy Chamber Orchestra. Stanley Sperber and Dafna Ben-Yohanan prepared the Chamber and Ankor Children's Choirs.



Britten's "War Requiem" conducted by Maestro Prof. Mendi Rodan, Z'L.

**Tribute to Dani Gottfried** – An emotion filled Farewell Tribute to Dani Gottfried took place that included Israel's top musicians. In a packed auditorium, JAMD again showed its uniqueness as an institution supporting a wide variety of musical styles, and the event was widely praised.

**Saxophone Festival** – We organized the First Saxophone Festival in Israel during Chol Ha'Moed Sukkot (the intermediate days of the Festival of Tabernacles) to a large crowd in Zion Square in Jerusalem. The Festival was the realization of Prof. Gersh Geller's personal vision and it also brought great credit to the Academy.

**Dedication of the Aldwell Center at the Conservatory** – This was an exceptional and emotion-laden event. It was attended by four distinguished guests: Ms. Jean May Aldwell, Prof. Carl Schachter of the Julliard and Mannes Schools of Music, Maestro Murray Perahia, who was awarded the Honorary Presidency of the Center and his wife Naomi. A special thank you must be given to Leah Agmon who, in a very short time and with high quality results, is transforming the Center into an important and prestigious institution.



Advocate Yair Green, Chairman of the Board of Directors (on the right), and Mr. Younes Nazarian, Chairman of the Board of Governors (left) present an Honorary Fellows Award to the Pianist, Maestro Murray Perahia

# The Academy Mourns the Passing of Two Former Presidents

**Prof. Mendi Rodan** passed away late Friday night, 8 May 2009.

Prof. Rodan headed the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance from 1985 – 1994. After heading the Academy, Prof. Rodan continued his mission to teach regularly ... until he was hospitalized. During his years at the Academy, Prof. Rodan mentored many exceptional students, most prominently Maestros Uri Segal, Yoel Levi and Asher Fisch.

Prof. Ilan Schul, President of the Academy:

*"Israel's music community and the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance has lost an esteemed leader, musician and conductor who, during half-a-century and, with both humility and unending zeal, nurtured generations of conductors, soloists and young instrumentalists".*



**Mrs. Yocheved Dostrovsky-Kopernik** passed away last summer.

She directed the Academy for 32 years. Under her reign, the Academy achieved the status of a recognized institution of higher learning and the High school opened its doors. She was the first head to introduce the institutional developments that have become the firm foundations of today's Academy.

The Academy will perpetuate her memory by means of a permanent Forum that will review a wide variety of issues that touch upon music education. The Forum will meet a number of times each year, during which there will be discussions as well as guest lectures by international experts. The Forum will also organize Conferences dealing with Music education. Mrs. Michal Smoira-Cohn, the former president of the Academy, will chair the Forum.



## The Chais Excellence Program

Instead of being able to tell you of the wonderful connection of the Academy with the Chais Family, a connection that had only begun, we need to report the Chais Foundation's closing as a result of the great Madoff scam in New York. The Academy was a major grantee of the Foundation and its collapse caused major damage to three of our programs.

The Chais Program for Excellence in Music opened this year and promised to be a long-term project with ongoing support. The program nurtures exceptional young musicians with a full tuition scholarship and living grant and brings world famous musicians each semester to work with the students in master

classes. Only one other program like this exists, in Spain, and I fear that we will not be able to sustain it without finding another funder.

The Chais Competition for Creative Performing Musicians – This was designed as a first of its kind competition for performers who also create music and for which we had just received a commitment of \$100,000 a year for five years from the Chais Family Foundation. The competition itself was to be scheduled with daily concerts broadcast over a full week.

First steps toward a Performing Arts Center for the Academy - The Chais Family Foundation

had committed a substantial initial sum in order to support a feasibility study and preliminary architectural sketches for a new Performing Arts Center for the Academy, to be built between the Academy and high school buildings.

The Foundation also expressed deep interest in supporting the building itself after the study was complete. In order to develop and renew itself, the Academy needs a state of the art facility for different sorts of productions. While this is certainly an ambitious project, we will make every effort to find a new benefactor so that this facility can be built.



Chais Foundation scholars pose with Avraham Infeld, President of the Foundation, and Prof. Ilan Schul, President of the Academy

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האקדמיה

למוסיקה ולמחול בירושלים

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