

## \$60,000 Presented as Scholarships for Excellence

This year the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance will distribute \$60,000 to students in scholarships for excellence. The scholarships will be awarded to musical performing groups in the areas of chamber music, opera, jazz and dance. In addition, twenty scholarships will be given in teaching from the **Philip and Jacob Green Foundation**. Many of these scholarships come from the generous contribution of the **Ima Foundation** established by **Soraya** and **Younes Nazarian**, **Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Academy**.

In addition, and as part of its continuing efforts to foster excellence, this year the Academy will host a series of master classes, as well as workshops and lessons by renowned performing artists. In the area of string instruments: **Vadim Gluzman**, the violinist, will visit the Academy as a "Chais Visiting Artist" during this year, which is a tradition that the Academy is preserving to show its appreciation to the Chais family. The renowned violinist will give master classes and individual lessons to students. An additional guest will be the renowned violist **Yuri Gandelsman**, who will also give master classes, a solo performance in a concert and will also conduct the Academy Chamber Orchestra.

The well-known bassist **Gary Karr** will be named an Honorary Fellow of the Academy and will provide a week of master classes. In addition ten outstanding students of the string division will be chosen to participate in a special program given by **Itzhak Perlman**. In the field of jazz the Academy will host this year the famous Israeli jazz bassist **Avishai Cohen**, who will provide master classes and workshops. Joining the faculty this year is an outstanding graduate of the Academy **Sasha Pavlovsky**, the first violinist of the Jerusalem Quartet. Prof. Ilan Schul, President of the Academy, said: "Above all else the Academy is devoted to excellence in training a cadre of leaders, who will be the artists and teachers of tomorrow."

## Scholarships for Jerusalem Youth in Classical Music

The Academy recently received official notification that it will be able to provide special scholarships from the estate of the late Ms. Batsheva Cohen, who devoted a considerable amount of her assets to the children of Jerusalem who study classical music.

The Academy thanked the administrator of the estate, Adv. Neide Gilinsky, and announced that it will distribute these special scholarships in the most appropriate way, to needy students and pupils. The Academy will also hold a special event to commemorate the late Ms. Batsheva Cohen.

## HIGHLIGHTS

New Academic Year Opens - October 2009



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## Conservatory Opens First Branch in Ben Shemen

This year the Conservatory will open its first branch outside of Jerusalem, at the Ben Shemen Youth Village. The goal of this ambitious, cooperative project is to turn Ben Shemen into a "musical village".

This project is being made possible through a generous grant of the Rashi Foundation and the cooperation of the local authority of Modi'in. There are many students at the youth village and in the region that have proven talent in the area of music, but without the proper teaching framework are not able to develop their talents.

The Conservatory headed by Ms. Leah Agmon will operate this innovative project at Ben Shemen and will provide its excellent teaching staff, as well as Academy students to implement the project.

This is the first undertaking of Ms. Agmon, the newly appointed Director of the Conservatory, who began her term of office within the past month. We wish her great success in this project and in the development of the Conservatory.

## Activity in the Periphery Gets a Boost



Dr. Michael Klinghoffer

A prize of the Council for Higher Education in Israel for activity in the periphery was awarded this year to the coordinator of this activity at the Academy, Anna Shapira. This prize, which includes a substantial sum of money, was awarded for the Academy's outreach activity in the peripheral areas of Israel. In recent years the Academy has greatly expanded its activities in these areas and now conducts programs in more than 10 different locations where Academy students teach music to youth and children.

Dean of Students Dr. Michael Klinghoffer, who heads this program, has successfully expanded it over the past several years. Last year more than 10 percent of the student body took part in this activity and also received scholarships for their own studies. This year the number of students participating in the project is expected to expand substantially.

### Project Cellcom Volume

A new project that is being instituted in the periphery is the result of unique cooperation between the Academy and the cellular phone company Cellcom, which operates Cellcom Volume Centers for youth in outlying areas throughout Israel.

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance will be enhancing the activity of these centers by providing teachers and students who will teach and create music with the young participants. The program, which was begun last year as a pilot, was enthusiastically received by the staff of the Cellcom Volume Centers and as a result it is being expanded during this academic year. This unique program was initiated by Mr. Rami Mardor, Managing Director of the IDB Foundation for the Community, which belongs to businessman Nochi Dankner.

### Voice of the Children

This is a special project that was begun last year at the initiative of businessman Mr. Ran Adoni. The project combines PERAH "Big Brother" activities with music lessons by students for needy children. In its first year the project was quite successful and it will be significantly expanded this year.



### Narrated Concerts

This project is led by Dr. Veronika Cohen, a member of the Board of Directors of the Academy. It has been ongoing for the past 15 years and attracted this year close to 10,000 children throughout Jerusalem. Additional concerts will be held in the North of Israel for both Jewish and Arab children.



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## Prize Awarded to Dr. Taiseer Elias, Head of Middle Eastern Music Department

The prestigious Frank Peleg Prize of Israel's Ministry of Culture and Science was awarded this year to the head of the Academy's Middle Eastern Music Department, Dr. Taiseer Elias. The prize was awarded to Dr. Elias for his many years of activities in bringing Jews and Arabs closer together through music, and especially through the unique department in the Academy which he heads. Each year dozens of students, both Arabs and Jews, study in the Middle Eastern Music Department and together create Middle Eastern music, often with Western influences.

Dr. Taiseer Elias is an accomplished composer and performer on the oud and violin, as well as a valued lecturer and teacher. In the workshops and master classes he gives around the world, Dr. Elias stresses not only his ties to Middle Eastern music but also his appreciation of Western music and creates a very special combination of these genres.

In granting the prize to Dr. Elias the judges wrote: "Throughout his years of activity Taiseer Elias has contributed to bringing Middle Eastern music to the forefront of Israeli culture. As a teacher, Elias has trained generations of performers and musicians, many of whom are engaged in research and creation of Middle Eastern music in the academic world and in concert halls worldwide."

Dr. Elias thanked the Minister of Culture for the prize and said: "The prize is an historic turning

point in Israeli culture. It expresses the official appreciation of the Israeli musical establishment for Arab music and musicians. Israel is a rich ethno-musical laboratory within a complex multi-cultural society. This means that we must preserve what is unique to each culture and at the same time to develop what is common to all of these cultures. If we want a society of true coexistence, we need first to preserve and to nurture Arab culture and music! A meaningful expression of this is found in the Middle Eastern Music Department

which I head within the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance," said Dr. Elias.

In addition, a prestigious prize, the Wuerth Prize of Germany, was presented to the Jewish-Arab Orchestra of the Academy, which is also an important offshoot of the Middle Eastern Music Department.



Dr. Taiseer Elias at prize ceremony

## Coming Soon:

### Gala Evening with Sara Netanyahu

A special dinner will be held under the auspices of Ms. Sara Netanyahu, wife of the Prime Minister of Israel. This gala event, which the Academy hopes to continue as a tradition, will take place in early December in Jerusalem. The goal is to raise funds for the Academy, which will be devoted to enhancing excellence. The event will be attended by leading figures in Israel and will include a variety of performances by outstanding students of the Academy. The event will be emceed by Israeli singer-entertainer Moti Giladi. The event is being organized by Academy Vice President for Special Projects, Ms. Elizabeth Berkowitz, telephone number: 972-543102104.

### Richard Goode: First Ever Visit to Jerusalem

The internationally renowned pianist Richard Goode will be visiting Israel in March for the first time. Goode will be a guest of the Edward Aldwell Center for Piano Performance and Musicianship at the Conservatory of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Goode is considered by many to be the most outstanding pianist in the world today. He will hold master classes for outstanding students. In addition, the Conservatory of the Academy will hold a special evening featuring Richard Goode, which will be a fundraising event for scholarships to foster excellence at the Aldwell Center.



### Joint Conference with Bezalel

An upcoming scientific conference entitled "Seeing the Voices" will be jointly held by the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design, with the support of the National Academy of Science. The conference is a continuation of the dialogue that was begun by Prof. Michael Melzer, Vice President of the Academy for Academic Affairs and Dr. Yaara Bar-On, Deputy President for Academic Affairs at Bezalel. The conference will be headed by the senior researcher Prof. Menachem Zur, and will be the first of its kind to examine the connections between music and the visual arts.

## Board of Governors 2009

The meetings of the Board of Governors of the Academy, headed by Mr. Younes Nazarian, were especially meaningful due to several important decisions that were passed and appointments confirmed.

The Vision of the Academy – the Board of Governors received a comprehensive overview by Dr. Aviem Sella and approved the vision of the Academy that was created by a special taskforce. The vision emphasizes the Academy's pursuit of excellence, its important contribution to research and musical creativity in Israel, and the rich cultural variety it represents. The Board unanimously approved the appointment of Prof. Ilan Schul as President of the Academy for a third term of office. Prof. Schul thanked the Board for its vote of confidence and said, "There is no other institu-

tion as creative and exciting as the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. I thank you for the confidence you have shown me as well as for the opportunity to continue in our creative endeavors."

In addition, the Board of Governors approved the President's recommendation and the decision of the Board of Directors to appoint Prof. Michael Melzer as Vice President for



From right: Ilan Schul, Yair Green, Younes Nazarian, Rashi Levaot

Academic Affairs for an additional term. The Board also approved the appointment of Dr. Asaf Zohar for a second term as Dean of the Faculty of the Performing Arts. Mr. Micha Tal, Managing Director of the Academy was appointed upon the President's recommendation and the Board of Directors' decision to be Vice President and Managing Director. Mr. Yotam Yakir was appointed Vice President for Resource Development.

Dr. Sarah Hershkowitz, a member of the Board of Governors and a warm supporter of the Academy, was elected to the Board of Directors.

New members of the Board of Governors were also appointed:

Adv. Dov Weisglass, Mr. Matti Golan, Mr. Rashi Levaot, and Mr. Herzl Inbar. Mr. Younes Nazarian, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Adv. Yair Green, Chairman of the Board of Directors, presented certificates of inscription in the Golden Book of the Academy to Mr. Rashi Levaot, director of the Conservatory for the past 13 years who has retired, and to Ms. Pamela Jones.

## New Building, New Dance Facility

The Academy is in the process of building a new facility which will improve the current shortage of classroom space and studios. The new building will upgrade the facilities of the music and dance faculties, and will provide auditorium space as well as individual studios. The building is expected to be completed by next summer.

The Academy is seeking a donor who will provide the additional funds required to complete the facility, which is only partially funded by the Israeli government. The new building will be named for the donor.

### New Dance Hall

Adjacent to the Academy a new and modern dance facility is being completed. This building will greatly upgrade the dance training facilities which also suffer from a lack of space. A donor is being sought here as well, and the building will be named for the donor. In the next stages additional buildings will be added to the Academy, including a new auditorium, student dormitories and other facilities.

## The Dostrovsky Forum for Musical Education



The Dostrovsky Forum for Musical Education, which was established in memory of the late Ms. Yocheved Dostrovsky-Kupernik, who headed the Academy for many years, met for the first time.

The Board of Directors chose this very respectful way to honor the memory of Ms. Dostrovsky who headed the Academy for 32 years (from 1947 to 1979), and previously founded the first conservatory in 1932, from which the Academy developed. Ms. Dostrovsky placed musical education as the highest value and invested great efforts in cultivating it.

The first session of the forum was attended by 40 leading figures in musical education, members of the Jerusalem Academy and heads of musical education departments throughout Israel. The forum enjoys the cooperation of the Director of Musical Education in the Israel Ministry of

Education, Dr. Yael Shay, and is directed by a team of musical and other public figures led by Ms. Michal Zamora-Cohen, former head of the Academy.

The forum met after the Sukkot holiday at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Its participants expressed concern about the place of musical education within the educational system of Israel, which has declined over the years. In addition, figures were presented that point to a decline in excellence in the field of musical education in recent years. However, forum participants expressed satisfaction for the cooperation of the Academy and the government bodies responsible for this field.

The forum also discussed various issues concerning musical education including: engagement (presented by Dr. Michael Klinghoffer), multi-culturalism (presented by Dr. Dan Ronen), the pursuit of excellence (presented by Prof. Michael Melzer) and ethics and aesthetics (presented by Ms. Michal Zamora-Cohen.)

## The Academy Opens a Continuing Education Unit

This year the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance has opened a Continuing Education Unit. This unit will serve as a bridge between the Academy and the community, and will enable the general public to benefit from courses, special lessons and talks by leading teachers and lecturers.

President of the Academy Ilan Schul said that the Academy sees this unit as an important strategic step, which will open up the Academy's important work to new groups within the community. "We believe that this unit will contribute greatly to the cultural and musical life of Jerusalem," he said.

The unit will be headed by Ms. Sorina Dinur, who holds an MA in Musical Education from New York University, a BA in Musicology and who has worked for many years at the Jerusalem Academy.

## Recent Events

### Ankor Choir Tours Japan

The Ankor Choir, a part of the Conservatory of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, returned from a two week series of performances in Japan. The choir, which consists of 21 female singers and is conducted by Dafna Ben-Yohanan, gave seven concerts, to an audience of over 2,500 in Tokyo, Kyoto, Osaka, Hiroshima and other cities.

The highlights of the tour were the Choir's performances in Hiroshima, together with a local choir at the Holocaust Museum, and the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

The performances were conducted under the auspices of "Beit Shalom", an organization of Japanese Protestant supporters of Israel. This organization is represented in Israel as well, where it is headed by Former President Yitzhak Navon.

"This was a very moving experience for both the Israelis and the Japanese," said Vice President and Managing Director of the Academy Micha Tal, who joined the tour. "It was both an outstanding musical event, as well as a very emotional and meaningful experience. We met people who showed us their true love of Israel. We felt that we provided them, through the highly praised performances of the Ankor Choir, an experience of musical and personal enjoyment of the highest order."



Ankor Choir on the stage in Japan

### Piano in 60 Fingers

An extraordinary international event of piano four hands, an unusual and exciting musical format, was held in September at the Tel Aviv Museum to an enthusiastic audience that filled the concert hall.

This unique event – which featured famous pianists from Poland (the Lutoslawski Duo), China, Japan and Israel – appeared on the same stage in an event which was dedicated to the establishment of a piano four hands chair, in honor of the late Ms. Bracha Eden and Prof. Alex Tamir, who played piano four hands concerts for many years and were devoted "ambassadors" of this musical format.

The chair will work to develop excellence in the area of piano four hands and will provide special scholarships to students. The major sponsors of the event were Martin and Michele Yoshpe of Hong Kong, and the Polish Cultural Institute.



Asaf Zohar and Ron Regev with duo Chau from China

### Beethoven at the Tel Aviv Opera

As part of the events of the Board of Governors Meetings, a special salute to Beethoven was held at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center, with a performance of the Israel Camerata Orchestra, together with the Academy Chamber Orchestra and the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Choir. The musical director of the Israel Camerata and former head of the Academy, Prof. Avner Biron, conducted the concert. This was an important expression of the special relationship between the Academy and the Camerata. Friends of the Academy and Mr. Younes Nazarian, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and his family attended the event, which included 900 participants, including former Minister of Defense Shaul Mofaz, and former Israel Army Chief of Staff Dan Halutz.



Soraya and Younes Nazarian with Shaul Mofaz and Dan Halutz

### Memorial Evening for Mendi Rodan

The final evening of the Board of Governors Meetings was devoted to a tribute to the late maestro Mendi Rodan. Rodan was a former head of the Academy and a winner of the Israel Prize. He was renowned internationally as a conductor and was a highly respected and beloved musical figure to generations of music students.

During the evening current head of the Academy Prof. Ilan Schul spoke, as did former heads of the Academy, Michal Zamora-Cohen, and Prof. Avner Biron. Performing at the event were Zvi Plessner, Gabriela Talroza, Asaf Zohar, internationally renowned clarinetist Giora Feldman, Hila Ofek, Ilan Schul, Michael Klinghoffer, and the "Jerusalem Trio". "We held

this special evening out of great respect and tremendous appreciation for Mendi Rodan," said Prof. Ilan Schul, President of the Academy. "He was an outstanding conductor, musician and musical leader, who with great enthusiasm and modesty nurtured generations of conductors, soloists and young performers for over 50 years."

### Music in the Valley Celebrates Bar Mitzvah

The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance recently held the international seminar entitled "Music in the Valley" for the 13th year. The seminar, which has become a high point on Israel's musical calendar, included over 60 young musicians aged 14 – 25, from the United

States, Spain, Sweden, England, Serbia, as well as the future generation of string performers of Israel. The seminar displayed a high level of musical performance and excellence on the part of the young artists who took part in the event. The final concert of the seminar was held

as a benefit to raise funds for scholarships for the course participants, who this year, due to the economic crisis, were not able to receive funding from foundations as in previous years.