

MAY 14, 2024, 6:30PM
CITY PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

JEWISH VOICES IN MUSIC

CHARITABLE CONCERT



CONCERT PROGRAM

Founder & Artistic Director.....	Eyal Stopnicki
Logistics Manager.....	Avital Stopnicki
Community Outreach Manager.....	Danielle Perlon
Technical Manager.....	Eilat Assif
Co-Stage Manager.....	Romi Tzur
Co-Stage Manager.....	Carmel Tzur
Stage Runner.....	Siegal Small
Volunteer Supervisor.....	Ytai Udokang
Guest Speaker.....	Shira Litvack
Guest Speaker.....	Sharon Durst
Guest Speaker.....	Alexandra Smith
Guest Speaker.....	Jesse Primerano

About Our Founder

Eyal Stopnicki is a dedicated advocate for music and the Jewish community, driven by a deep passion to amplify Jewish voices in today's society. Inspired by a profound sense of responsibility following the tragic events of October 7th and the alarming rise of antisemitism, he embarked on a mission to make a difference.



Drawing upon his love for music and his unwavering commitment to support Israel and the Jewish people, he founded Jewish Voices In Music—a non-profit concert series devoted to showcasing the works of Jewish composers and musicians. Through this platform, he aims to raise awareness about contemporary issues facing Israel and the Jewish community while also providing support to Israeli and Jewish charities.

Eyal's journey is not just about music; it's about using his talents to uplift voices that are often marginalized or silenced. As a voice performance student at the University of Toronto, he channels his artistic abilities to bring attention to important causes and to inspire positive change. With determination and resilience, Eyal aims to make a significant impact, ensuring that Jewish voices are heard and celebrated on a local, national, and global stage.

A Note of Thanks to Our Sponsors

We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our esteemed sponsors for their generous support. Your commitment to our cause has made this concert possible and has helped us bring the joy of music to our community. Together, we are harmonizing to create lasting memories and meaningful experiences. Thank you for believing in our mission and for your invaluable partnership.

A special thanks to the opera school at the University of Toronto that has allowed to use their props for this concert

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Part I

Lavallée/Cohen.....	O Canada/Hatikvah.....	Eilat Assif
Wieniawski.....	Polonaise No.1 in D Major.....	Daniel & Olga
Helfman.....	Two Hannah Szenesh Poem....	Jessica Lyublinsky & Jonathan Alter
John Musto.....	Litnay.....	Eyal Stopnicki
Mahler.....	Ich Atmet Einen Linden Duft.....	Vikram Srinivas
Copland.....	Lauries Song.....	Elizabeth Gilerovitch
Glick.....	I am Dark But Lovely.....	Arushi Das
Glick.....	O, Let Him Kiss Me.....	May Sadan
Bloch.....	Baal Schem "Nigun".....	Katya Poplyansky

Part II

Jordan Abramson.....	Lullaby.....	Kelsey Zhong
Jordan Abramson.....	The Lost Mistress.....	Dasha Tereshchenko, Tia Jia, & Oleksandra Fedyshyn
Oskar Morawetz.....	Piping Down The Valley Wild.....	Lucas Kalechstein
Schoenberg.....	Waldsonne.....	Jessica Lyublinsky
Copland.....	Why Do They Shut Me Out of Heaven...	Megan O'Donnell
Mahler.....	Wo Die Schönen Trompeten Blasen....	Taline Yeremian
Schoenberg.....	Galathia	Alina Tigelman
Korngold.....	Mein Sehnen, Mein Wähnen.....	Kelsey Zhong
Noami Shemer.....	Yerushalayim Shel Zahav.....	Eilat Assif

Thank you to our amazing accompanists

Jessica Lui & Sharon Litvack

For bios of the Jewish composers, use the QR code

Bios

For full bios, please visit the Jewish Voices in Music Website

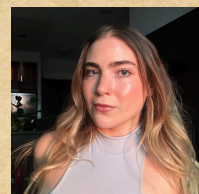


Jonathan Alter

Jonathan Alter, a first-year student at The Glenn Gould School under John O'Connor's tutelage, boasts significant achievements locally, nationally, and internationally. Notably, he clinched First Prize and the Judges Distinction Award at the American Protege International Piano Competition in New York, earning a return invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall's Isaac Stern Auditorium/Pearlman Stage. Following this success, he graced the Megaron Concert Hall in Athens after triumphing at the Muse International Music Competition. Jonathan's performances, including engagements with Steinway and Sons and Gala concerts, underscore his prowess. Notably, he made his orchestral debut in December 2022 with the North York Concert Orchestra, interpreting Mozart's 20th piano concerto under Maestro Rafael Luz. Further accolades include winning first place at the Canadian Music Competition for chamber music and securing 2nd place in The Glenn Gould School Chamber Competition alongside mezzo-soprano Jessica Lyublinsky. Recently named a semi-finalist in the Kauffman International Junior Piano Competition in New York, Jonathan continues to captivate audiences with his exceptional talent...

Eilat Assif

Eilat Assif is a multifaceted artist and aspiring therapist dedicated to fostering personal growth and well-being. She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Music with a voice specialization from Queen's University, where her passion for music and performance flourished. Eilat has graced numerous stages, showcasing her talent in iconic productions such as *Into the Woods*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*. Notably, she portrayed Witch 2 in Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*, captivating audiences with her powerful vocals and emotive performances.

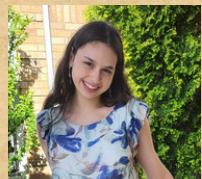


Arushi Das

Arushi Das is a Toronto-based mezzo-soprano in her second year of a Bachelor of Music in voice performance at the University of Toronto, studying under Frédérique Vézina. She started her studies in piano at 4, and voice lessons at 11. During the 2022-2023 season, Das was the soprano soloist in Mozart's *Requiem* with the York Chamber Ensemble. In a choral setting, she has sung with groups like the Ontario Youth Choir, Toronto Mendelssohn Choir, and University of Toronto MacMillan Singers. When she is not singing herself, she loves to teach music lessons!

Oleksandra Fedyshyn

Oleksandra Fedyshyn, a Toronto-based violinist, composer, and educator, holds a Master's degree from The Lviv National Music Academy, M. Lysenko. Her musical journey spans Europe, performing with renowned orchestras and ensembles like the INSO Lviv Orchestra and Leopold Orchestra. As a composer, she's garnered accolades from competitions like "Farbotony" and "Gradus ad Parnassum," with her works showcased at esteemed events including the Lviv International Contemporary Music Festival. In Toronto, Oleksandra continues to shine, gracing venues like Trinity-ST. Paul's United Church and Koerner Hall, while also composing for various ensembles, films, and projects...



Elizabeth Gilerovitch

Elizabeth Gilerovitch is a Classical vocalist and pianist. Elizabeth is currently pursuing her Bachelor degree at the University of Toronto, studying Classical Voice Performance, in the studio of Monica Whicher. Elizabeth graduated from The Phil and Eli Taylor Performance Academy for Young Artists, Senior Voice program and Etobicoke School of the Arts, Music Theatre program in 2022. She completed her RCM ARCT in piano performance, and she has numerous years of collaborative piano experience, performing with strings and voice musicians. She regularly takes part in music festivals, competitions, charity concerts, and recitals and been awarded on numerous occasions for her accomplishments in both piano and vocal performances.

Tina Jia

Tina Jia, a Canadian-raised Chinese flutist, pursues a Bachelor of Music in Flute Performance at the University of Toronto under Susan Hoepfner's mentorship. Notable wins at competitions like the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival, including prestigious awards such as the Kiwanis Club of Kingsway Humber Foundation and the Walter Sinclair Memorial, underscore her talent. Recognized with the Fairways Concert Scholarship, Tina's performances range from collaborative premieres to solo recitals, showcasing her versatility and dedication. Future engagements include collaborative concerts with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and exchanges with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra. Additionally, Tina actively contributes to the Chinese Music Club, serving as an accompanist for live performances....



Lucas Kalechstein

Lucas is a first year Vocal Performance major at U of T. He has competed for multiple years in the Canadian Music Competition, coming in first place in the national final in 2022. He is currently a member of the Concreamus and Pax Christi Chorale choirs. Lucas has performed professionally since the age of 10. In addition to his vocal studies he has been a voice actor on several animated series with the most current being Bakugan. Lucas is honoured to be performing in this concert honouring Jewish composers



Sharon Litvack

Sharon's musical journey began at the Greenwich School of Music in Manhattan, where she started studying piano at a young age. Accepted into the renowned High School of Performing Arts in New York City at 14, she continued her musical education at the Manhattan School of Music under the guidance of Dr. Marc Silverman. During her time in New York, Sharon showcased her talent in numerous concerts, including performances at Lincoln Center. In 1989, she moved to Israel and graduated from the Rubin Academy of Music at Tel Aviv University with a Bachelor of Music degree in piano performance and pedagogy. In Israel, Sharon both performed and taught piano, with her students regularly participating in recitals. After relocating to Toronto in 1999, she established herself as a private piano teacher and collaborated with various musical groups, including the Milton Youth Chorus. Sharon, a member of the Ontario Registered Music Teachers' Association and certified by the Royal Conservatory of Music, is dedicated to preparing her students for success in RCM exams. She resides in Thornhill with her husband Michael and their daughters Lior, Shira, and Lielle.



Jessica Lui

Canadian pianist Jessica Lui's musical journey commenced at age 6, later flourishing with a Bachelor of Music with Distinction in Piano Performance from the University of Calgary, mentored by Dr. Lana Henchell. Currently pursuing a Master of Music in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Toronto with Dr. Midori Koga, she's seasoned in collaborative performance, enriching her skills at the Orford Musique Academy and Artist Residency. Her accolades include the U of T Music Fellowship Award and various honors from the University of Calgary, including the Yvonne Johnston Award and the Carr Prize. With a passion for music education, Jessica runs a private studio in Toronto, drawing inspiration from her mentors. Outside music, she finds joy in hiking and crocheting....



Katya Poplyansky

Katya Poplyansky has studied at the Glenn Gould School, Guildhall School and Curtis Institute. She has participated in festivals in Canada, the USA and Europe and received prizes in numerous competitions, including the Award for Best Performance of a Commissioned Work at the Eckhardt-Gramatté Competition in 2018. In 2022, she was appointed Concertmaster of the Kingston Symphony Orchestra and is the first violinist of the Isabel String Quartet at Queen's University. She has also served as guest concertmaster with Les Violons du Roy. Katya is now pursuing her Doctorate of Musical Arts at the University of Toronto, studying with Jonathan Crow



Megan O'Donnell

Megan O'Donnell, currently in her second year of Voice Performance studies at the University of Toronto under Mark Daboll, has spent 15 years dedicated to music. From discovering her love for piano and classical voice at age 5 to winning the Senior Rose Bowl at the Barrie Music Festival in May 2019, Megan has embraced countless opportunities on stage. Credits include performances in numerous musicals and concerts, notably with the Canadian Opera Company Senior Youth Summer Ensemble. Awarded scholarships like the Arthur Redsell Scholarship and the DSEF Direct Sellers Education Foundation scholarship, Megan has also completed private studies in classical voice and piano. With a lifelong passion for music, Megan's journey from making music on baby pianos to Broadway-scale musicals reflects her deep commitment to storytelling through song...



Jessica Lyublinsky

Toronto-based mezzo-soprano Jessica Lyublinsky, a rising star at 21, showcases her remarkable talent and passion for music. Praised for her depth, timbre, and vocal range, she's earned acclaim in competitions, secured scholarships, and begun making international debuts. Currently pursuing her Bachelor of Music at The Glenn Gould School, under the mentorship of acclaimed artists like Adrienne Pieczonka, she's already left her mark at Koerner Hall and beyond. With training from prestigious institutes like The Dolores Zajick Institute, Jessica's versatility shines, whether performing in operas, festivals, or collaborative recitals. From her European debut to upcoming engagements, including performances with the Institute for Young Dramatic Voices, Jessica's journey is marked by talent, dedication, and a commitment to musical excellence...



Mariya Orlenko

Mariya Orlenko, a Ukrainian-Canadian pianist, is currently pursuing her Masters of Music in Piano Performance at the University of Toronto with Lydia Wong. Previously, she earned her Bachelor of Music Degree at the Glenn Gould School, studying under John Perry and David Louie, and receiving The Ihnatowycz Emerging Artist Scholarship. Hailing from Vancouver, Mariya honed her skills under the guidance of Marina Navrotsky, Donna Fishwick, and Ian Parker. Noteworthy achievements include winning the Grand Prize in the Canadian Music Competition and securing top prizes in prestigious competitions such as the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition and the OSM Manulife Competition. Mariya has graced stages across North America with various orchestras and has been recognized with provincial and national gold medals from the Royal Conservatory. She has had the privilege of performing for esteemed artists such as Yoheved Kaplinsky, Robert McDonald, and Leon Fleisher, among others...



May Sadan

Passionate soprano May Sadan, born in Rehovot, Israel, discovered her love for music early on, starting private singing lessons at 6 years old. After finding her passion for classical music at 15, she began studying voice and piano under Heather Faris. Achieving First Class Honours with Distinction in her Level 9 RCM Practical Voice Exam in 2021, May has since showcased her talent in various concerts and recitals, including performances at the University of Toronto and the SNATS Canadian Art Song Showcase. Notably, she portrayed 'Gretel' in Summer Opera Lyric Theatre's production of Hansel and Gretel in 2022. Recognized for her excellence, May was awarded the University of Toronto Pinchas Ziegel Memorial Scholarship in 2023 and claimed first place in the 2021 NATS Ontario Vocal Showcase. Currently studying with Frédérique Vézina at the University of Toronto, May continues to excel in her pursuit of a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance degree....



Vikram Srinivas

Vikram Srinivas, a student of the arts, began his vocal training at the age of 6. A member of the Gleesical program, he studied with Kyra Millan and Cathy Nosaty, developing the skills needed to sing, act, and perform. In addition to his musical education, Vikram has over 13 years of dance training in Kathak and Bollywood, under the tutelage of Srt. Puja Amin with Sanskriti Arts. In 2017, he began formal training in Classical Voice with Kyra Millan. A former member Canadian Children's Opera Company, Vikram had his first opportunity to perform in an opera as the Queen of hearts in Errol Gay's Alice In Wonderland. In addition, he is a graduate of the Claude Watson Secondary Arts Program, majoring in voice, and a student of Kelsey Taylor. Today, Vikram is a student at the University of Toronto in his first year of Voice Performance, a student of Dr. Darryl Edwards, pursuing a career as a professional Opera Singer.



Daniel Temnik

Daniel Temnik, an Israeli-Canadian violinist, is rapidly emerging as a leading figure in Canada's music scene. Renowned for his radiant tone and commanding technique, he has garnered praise as both a soloist and chamber musician across North America, Asia, and Europe. With accolades from prestigious competitions like the Canadian Music Competition and performances at esteemed venues including Carnegie Hall and Koerner Hall, Mr. Temnik's talent is widely recognized. Trained by distinguished violinists Barry Shiffman and Victor Danchenko at The Glenn Gould School of Music, he continues to enchant audiences with his performances on his 1770 Nicolò Gagliano violin. With his remarkable skill and dedication to music, Mr. Temnik is poised to leave a lasting impact on the Canadian music scene...





Dasha Tereshchenko

Dasha Tereshchenko is a Canadian Mezzo Soprano, studying for a Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Toronto under the tutelage of Soprano Nathalie Paulin. Dasha has been a member of the University of Toronto's opera ensemble since 2022, and has sung in numerous operas including Offenbach's Monsieur Choufleuri, Arthur Benjamin's A Tale of Two Cities, and most recently, Massenet's Cendrillon where she understudied the role of Madame de la Haltière. Dasha's solo opera performances include 3rd Lady in Die Zauberflöte (Opera by Request), Fanny Price in Mansfield Park (Opera Nuova), and 1st Witch in Dido and Aeneas (Theatre of Early Music).

Alina Tigelman

Alina Tigelman is a 22-year-old soprano, currently completing her Bachelor of Music in Voice Performance at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Music. Prior to post-secondary education, Tigelman was an integral part of the Vocal ARTS Mackenzie Program all throughout high school and played multiple lead characters in their yearly musical productions. She is currently studying with the wonderful Elizabeth McDonald, and for the past two years, has been apart of many of UofT's Opera productions as an undergraduate opera chorus member. Tigelman's dedication to her unique emotional performances makes her the "one-to-watch" in anything she participates in.



Taline Yeremian

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Kelsey Zhong

Kelsey Zhong, a pianist based in Toronto originally from Vancouver, has amassed a wealth of performance experience from intimate salons to prestigious concert halls. Pursuing a Master's in Piano Performance and Pedagogy at the University of Toronto after graduating from the University of British Columbia, her dedication to piano grows daily. Mentored by renowned pianists such as Rada Bukhman and Sara Davis Buechner, Kelsey continually seeks opportunities to enhance her skills, frequently performing at local and provincial events. Notably, she won first prize at the CapU Music Competition and has received scholarships like the Norah Mansell Music Scholarship. A passionate competitor, Kelsey has won awards at national and international competitions, including the Crescendo International Competition, where she performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall as a prize winner. Beyond piano, Kelsey is dedicated to music teaching, honing her skills under Mark Anderson and Midori Koga to develop innovative pedagogical approaches. She also enjoys playing guitar and cello in her spare time and exploring Toronto with friends or hiking in Vancouver with her family....



Jordan Abramson - Student Composer

Jordan is a Toronto based composer who recently completed his fourth year of a bachelor of music program at the University of Toronto with a major in composition and minor in biology. He currently studies composition with Gary Kulesha and has previously studied with other renowned composers, Kevin Lau and Larysa Kuzmenko. In the summer of 2022, Jordan was accepted into the EAMA summer music institute in Paris for the submission of his String Quartet no. 1: "To Fly Through Dark Clouds," and in the summer of 2023, was accepted into the Vienna Summer Music Festival where he studied composition this last July. He has had several world premieres including his composition, "Rondo for Chamber Orchestra: Russian," at the Schola Cantorum in Paris, and his "Sonata for Cello and Piano," by the PHACE ensemble at the Palais Ehrbar in Vienna. He has also worked with the internationally renowned soloist Irvin Arditti who premiered his "Idée Fixe" for solo violin at the Sal Brahms in Vienna. This fall, Jordan will begin a Master's degree in music composition at the Manhattan School of Music, and has received the conservatory's prestigious President's Award. Jordan has been awarded the Ben McPeck Scholarship, the France-Canada Cultural Exchange Experience France Award, the Glenn Gould Memorial Scholarship, and he is a two time recipient of the Arthur Plettnr Scholarship.

Info on the Jewish composers

Aaron Copland

Aaron Copland (1900-1990) was a New York-based American composer who had a significant hand in shaping a distinctly “American” sound in classical music. Copland was inspired by popular music genres, such as the swing music of Benny Goodman, as well as French art music from the group Les Six and the teachings of Nadia Boulanger, with whom Copland studied composition. Copland’s ballets *Rodeo* and *Appalachian Spring*, as well as his opera *The Tender Land* are key works in the American classical music canon. He was not particularly outspoken about his Jewishness, but did have interest in Zionism and was fairly left in his politics, at one point being investigated by the FBI under McCarthyism

Arnold Schoenberg

Arnold Schoenberg (1874-1951) was an Austrian-born composer who developed the twelve-tone technique. A key member of the “Second Viennese School,” Schoenberg was targeted during the Nazi regime as a “degenerate composer,” and emigrated to the United States in 1933, teaching at UCLA and USC. He converted to Lutheranism in 1898 but returned to Judaism in 1933. His unfinished opera *Moses und Aron* (1957) addresses themes of faith and Jewish struggle in its retelling of Exodus, and his 1947 work for orchestra, chorus and narrator, *A Survivor from Warsaw*, takes the perspective of the Jews who faced death in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and its aftermath

Erich Wolfgang Korngold

A child prodigy and later incredibly influential composer of Hollywood film scores, Erich Wolfgang Korngold was born in Brünn, Austro-Hungary (what is now Brno, Czech Republic) in 1897. His ballet, *Der Schneeman*, became popular in Vienna when Korngold was only 11, resulting in a performance for Emperor Franz Josef in 1910. Both Richard Strauss and Gustav Mahler watched Korngold play the piano when the latter was a child; Mahler described him as a “musical genius”. At the request of director Max Reinhardt, Korngold moved to Hollywood to compose film scores. Some of Korngold’s most notable scores include: *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938) starring Errol Flynn and winning Korngold an Oscar, *Juarez* (1939), and *The Sea Wolf* (1941). Korngold continued to compose film scores, concert works, and operas until his death in 1959; film composer John Williams cites Korngold as an inspiration.

Info on the Jewish composers

Ernest Bloch

Ernest Bloch (1880-1959) born in Switzerland, emigrated to the United States in 1916. Bloch taught composition at several institutions throughout the United States, including Mannes School of Music, Cleveland Institute of Music, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and University of California Berkeley, where he was named Professor Emeritus at his retirement in 1952. Bloch frequently used Judaism as a source of inspiration for his compositions, such as *Suite hébraïque* for viola and orchestra, *Baal Shem* for violin and piano, and *Schelomo* for cello and orchestra; he felt that expressing his Jewishness in music was the “only way in which [he could] produce music of any significance.”

Gustav Mahler

Gustav Mahler (1860-1911), Austro-Bohemian composer and conductor, had a complicated relationship with Jewishness and faced antisemitism throughout his career. Though best remembered for his symphonic works, during his lifetime, Mahler's conducting of operas was his primary focus. Though Mahler was agnostic in his religiosity, his music was critiqued for its supposedly inherent Jewishness; antisemitic caricatures of the composer appeared in newspapers; he converted to Catholicism to secure a job at the Vienna Court Opera and was eventually driven out of the position in part due to the antisemitic culture of the city. Even Mahler's wife, Alma Mahler née Schindler, favoured the couple's children less than the entirely Aryan child she had later.

John Musto

John Musto is a New York based composer who has written a large variety of works, from operas such as *Bastianello* (2008) and *The Inspector* (2011), to chamber music, to choral works, to piano concerti. Musto was born in Brooklyn in 1954 and studied at the Manhattan School of Music. His professional career includes associations with music festivals such as the New York Festival of Song and the Caramoor Festival, as well as institutions such as the Miller Theatre and Columbia University

Info on the Jewish composers

Max Helfman (1901-1963)

Max Helfman emigrated from Poland to New York City at the age of 8 in 1901. After studying at the Mannes School of Music, Helfman began his rich musical career as an organist and choir director in his early 20s, receiving a fellowship at the Curtis Institute for his early successes. Helfman worked as music director at a number of synagogues in New York and New Jersey, including the Park Avenue Synagogue. In 1952, he helped to found the School of Sacred Music at the Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion. Helfman's music was considered

Oskar Morawetz (1917 - 2007)

Canadian composer Oskar Morawetz was born in Czechoslovakia. In his youth, he studied piano and theory in Prague, where he was appointed to the position of assistant conductor of the Prague Opera at the age of 19. In 1938, he left to study in Paris and Vienna, but immigrated to Canada in 1940 to flee the Nazis. Morawetz taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music, and was a professor of composition at the University of Toronto from 1952 until his death in 2007. His pieces have received international acclaim and have been performed by the likes of Yo-Yo Ma, Itzhak Perlman, Glen Gould, Maureen Forrester and Ben Heppner. Some of his most widely known works are Memorial to Martin Luther King (1979) and From the Diary of Anne Frank (1971), which has been described as one of the "most important contribution[s] to Jewish culture and music in Canada."

Srul Irving Glick (1934-2002)

The musical development of Torontonion composer Srul Irving Glick was influenced by his father's work as a cantor in several Toronto synagogues. Glick studied composition at the University of Toronto, as well as in Europe with composers such as Darius Milhaud and Max Deutsch. During his work as a producer for CBC radio, Glick helped to premiere and produce over 150 recordings of Canadian compositions, including a Juno Award winner and several winners of the Canadian Music Council's Grand prix du disque. Glick taught at the Royal Conservatory of Music and York University, and also became the conductor of Beth Tikvah Synagogue's choir. Glick wrote many liturgical pieces and arranged Yiddish folk songs for the choir, with whom he toured Canada, Israel and the USA. One of his more well known works, ...i never saw another butterfly..., is a song cycle that sets the poems of Jewish children imprisoned in the Terezin concentration camp during the Holocaust.

Info on the Jewish composers

Wieniawski

Henryk Wieniawski (1835-1880), a Jewish-Polish violinist and composer, displayed his virtuosity at an early age. Accepted into the Paris Conservatoire at only 8 years old, Wieniawski began touring Europe with his brother Josef, a pianist, by the time he was 15 years old. After an invitation from Anton Rubinstein, a Russian Jewish conductor, Wieniawski moved to St. Petersburg from 1860-1872, where he taught violin. Rubinstein and Wieniawski toured the United States together from 1872 to 1874, and Wieniawski later taught as the violin professor at the Conservatoire Royal de Bruxelles. Posthumously, Wieniawski's legacy as a violin pedagogue lives on in his technique, known as the Russian bow hold.

Naomi Shemer

Naomi Shemer was a celebrated Israeli songwriter, composer, and poet, often referred to as the "first lady of Israeli song." Born on July 13, 1930, in Kvutzat Kinneret, Shemer's musical career profoundly influenced Israeli culture. She began composing songs at a young age and later studied music and art at the Rubin Academy of Music in Jerusalem. Shemer's iconic compositions, including "Yerushalayim Shel Zahav" (Jerusalem of Gold), became anthems of Israel, capturing the essence of the nation's spirit and heritage. Throughout her prolific career, she wrote over 1500 songs, many of which are beloved classics. Shemer's music often celebrated the beauty of the Israeli landscape and the longing for peace. Her contributions to Israeli music earned her numerous awards and accolades, cementing her legacy as one of the most influential figures in Israeli music history. Naomi Shemer passed away on June 26, 2004, but her music continues to inspire generations of Israelis and music lovers around the world.

Thank you for joining us at the inaugural Jewish Voices in Music concert. Your presence made this evening truly special, and we're deeply grateful for your support. We hope the music touched your hearts and enriched your souls. Join us for a reception in the lobby to connect with fellow music lovers and share your thoughts. Your enthusiasm means the world to us. Thank you for being part of this historic event. We look forward to welcoming you back for future concerts.

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