

Israeli Section Report 2008

The Israel Composer's League, (ICL), acts as the Israeli ISCM section as well as ACL section.

Last September a new board was elected for a two years term: Mr. Dan Yuhas, chairman, and Mr. Ron Weidberg, treasurer, were reelected. The third member of the board is Mr. Josef Bardanashvili, secretary.

One of the ICL's major objectives is to bring closer, to open the door for young players and their teachers into the world of contemporary music. We believe that willingness and curiosity starts early, and depends on the teachers and their readiness. As we foresee the future, we want those children to become fine broad-minded artists, or potentially interested audience;

We cooperated with inner-city conservatoires and developed a program in which few original pieces for solo, duos, trios and even small chambers were written- especially for children. The idea is to write original artistic pieces, not didactic, but, adapted to children's abilities. The composers worked together with the teachers (who got a small grant) and the young players. First concert of this initiative was very successful, and we hope to continue and expand to the suburbs.

The "**Samuel Lieberman competition**", is held every 2 years and is open for ICL members only. Each time, composers are invited to write for a different orchestration. Last year (2008) it was for the Percussion Duo: **Percadu**. Works were submitted anonymously, and selected by an independent jury. The winning piece by Assaf Noy was chosen by the audience during a concert of the 3 finalists.

"**Klon**", held by ICL, is another contest for young composers under 30 years old. Anna Stirov-Korvman is the prize winner (for a scholarship) of 2008.

In the recent years, small ensembles who devote themselves to contemporary music flourish in Israel. As a result, we thought that we should think of other ways to help composers, ways that doesn't require us to select pieces and choose composers, which, by definition- at the moment they are accepted, they are good composers.

Thus, through another ICL project we offer all of our members an opportunity to record a piece of their choice from 1-6 instruments. So far we recorded professionally 19 pieces with Meitar Ensemble. In the next 2 years we hope to record 29 pieces more. We found that it is a good way to support and help composers to promote their music.

This year we put our main efforts towards the **Tel-Aviv International Festival of Contemporary Music and Video Art**. This festival, produced by Mr. Dan Yuhas, is held in 2 years round, but this time celebrating 100 years of Tel-Aviv, it was a big festive over 3 weeks. Among the ensembles who participated were **Mozaik ensemble** from Germany, **Stuttgart New Vocal Soloists**, The Israel Contemporary Players, **Meitar, Nickel**, Kamerata Orchestra, **Musica Nova** and more. A tribute to Berio, The Remarkable Opera by Romitelli: "An Index of Metals", works by Betsi Jules (France), Yerach Fishman (England) and Israeli composers such as Dan Yuhas, Reuben Serioussy, Ron Weidberg, Erel Paz, Hilat Ben-Kennaz, Sivan Cohen-Elias, Ethan Steinberg and more were performed during the festival.

Another 100 years celebration was A special concert produced by ICL, mentioning 100 years of birth of the composer **Alexander Uria Boskovitc**, a pioneer of Israeli classical music.(in our short history of serious music life). Besides playing his pieces we hosted 4 musicologists and composers who presented this period (the beginning of the last century) politically, artistically and socially and raised some doubts or questions as nowadays composers. Now we are planning to continue this special evenings focusing on different periods, stages through main composers.

ICL has its own publishing house: **Israel Music Center** (IMC). During 2008 year 50 new pieces were published. We also improved our binding.

As for our music scene in Israel:

One of our best ensembles, in the contemporary music scene is the **Israel Contemporary Players**. This wonderful group of professional musicians, run by Mr. Dan Yuhas performs regularly during each year. The series of concerts they presents includes 5 different and rich programs, fully devoted to contemporary music, directed by first class of Israeli and European conductors. This year they won the Landau Prize for excellence.

Meitar ensemble is another excellent ensemble performing new Israeli music.

More than 50 Israeli Pieces were written especially for them during their 4 years of existence, and were being played in Israel and Europe. In 2008, beside their series of 5 concerts, being held in Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, they presented Israeli composers and works within 2 concerts in Paris. The concerts were being held with the cooperation of Radio France. Their guest performer was the famous Bassoon player Pascal Gallois. Another tour of the ensemble was In Stuttgart and Heidelberg, Germany.

Last year 'Meitar ensemble' published their first commercial CD including works by Ari Ben-Shabtai, Arik Shapira, Dan Yuhas, Hilat Ben-Kennaz and Ayal Adler.

More ensembles, specialize in new repertoire of contemporary music that currently work and perform in Israel on different stages are the **Kaprizma** ensemble, the **String Quartet for Contemporary** and the **Israeli Chamber Club**.

The Israeli Electronic Music Studio, "Hateiva" located at the city of Tel-Aviv-Jaffa is a new hall, built in 2004 and gradually turned to be the center of new-art activities. Special concerts and events, combined with multi-media, electronics and live music, are regularly performed in this beautiful studio which has also high quality facilities for recording.

A concerto for cello and ensemble, by Erel Paz was performed during **ISCM 2008**, A piece for piano solo by Amos Elkana will be performed in **ISCM 2009**.

Our annual "**Israeli Music Festival**", runs directly by the ministry of science and culture was a 3 days festival representing more than 30 Israeli works and composers.

And finally, the ACL festival is always a big musical (and social) event to look forward to.

With the best wishes

Hilat Ben-Kennaz,

Israel Composers' League