

פסטיבל הפסנתר הבינלאומי בערד

27/7-3/8/23

מתנ"ס ערד אולם דולב
אולם הקונסרבטוריון

מנהלת אמנותית: ד"ר מיכל סל



דבר

המייסדת

והמנהלת

האמנותית

ד"ר מיכל טל

אורחות ואורחים נכבדים, קהל יקר,

פסטיבל הפסנתר הבינלאומי בערד הוא הגשמה של חלום וחגיגה של אוהבות ואוהבי הפסנתר. אני שמחה וגאה לפתוח את אירועי הפסטיבל השני שלנו, עם אמניות ואמנים מעוררי השראה ותלמידים מכל קצוות הארץ ומחוצה לה. נפתח את הפסטיבל ברסיטל של הפסנתרנית היפנית הצעירה נאגינו מארוייאמה כלת הפרס הראשון בתחרות מאיין בצרפת ובהמשך נוכל להנות גם מרסיטל מיוחד של קווין צ'ן, חתן הפרס הראשון בתחרות הבינלאומית ע"ש ארתור רובינשטיין. בפסטיבל נוכל ליהנות מרסיטלים רבגוניים ביחד עם עמיתי אריאל הלוי, קלאודיוס טנסקי, רון טרכטמן, שיר זמל ועפרה יצחקי. כל אלה לצד שיעורים, כיתות אמן, הרצאות ורב שיח הפתוחים לקהל הרחב ללא תשלום. נחתום את הפסטיבל בשני קונצרטי גאלה: הסינפונייטה הישראלית באר שבע בניצוחה של סליה אילן תארח את זוכי תחרות הקונצ'רטו שתתקיים בתחילת הפסטיבל.

תודתי מעומק הלב לצוות הנפלא ורב ההשראה שמוכיל איתי את הפסטיבל לכל אורך הדרך: מר און כהן, הגב' ורדה בדט והגב' אביגיל ארנהיים. תודות לעדן בן גיגי וצוות ההפקה על עבודה מסורה ומקצועית מהשורה הראשונה. תודות גדולות לסינפונייטה הישראלית באר שבע, עמותת ארתור רובינשטיין וכמובן מתנ"ס ערד, עיריית ערד וכל ידידינו ותומכינו. הפסטיבל מעניק לנו את הרגעים הקסומים של הקשבה, שיחוף, שייכות, עשייה ושיח. תודה על האפשרות לרגעים אלה.

אני מאחלת לכולנו הנאה צרופה מלאת חדווה ואתגר.

ד"ר מיכל טל

מייסדת ומנהלת אמנותית

Greetings from the artistic director

Dr. Michal Tal

Distinguished guests, dear audience,

I am most happy and proud to inaugurate the events of our second festival, hosting inspiring artists and students from all over the country and abroad.

We will open the festival with a recital by the young Japanese pianist Nagino Maruyama, the first prize winner at the Mayenne Competition in France. We will also enjoy a special recital by Kevin Chen, winner of the first prize at the Arthur Rubinstein International Competition.

Among our various activities we'll listen to recitals by my colleagues Ariel Halevi, Claudius Tanski, Ofra Yitzhaki, Ron Trachtman and Shir Semmel. All lessons and masterclasses are free. The festival activities will end with two Gala concerts with the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva with Maestra Talia Ilan.

I wish to express my gratitude to the wonderful and inspiring team that leads the festival with me all the way: Mr. Ohn Cohen, Mrs. Varda Badet and Mrs. Avigail Arnheim. Many thanks to Eden Benguigui and the production team for a dedicated and professional work, as well as to the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, the Arthur Rubinstein International Society, the Arad Community Center, the Municipality of Arad and all our friends and supporters. The festival grants us magical moments of listening, sharing, belonging, and exchange of views. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you all these moments.

Dr. Michal Tal

Founder and artistic director

לוח אירועים יומי

יום חמישי, 27 ביולי | Thursday, July 27th

21:00

רסיטל פתיחת הפסטיבל "פרלודים ופעמונים" - נאגינזו מארוייאמה
הפסנתרנית הצעירה כלת הפרס הראשון בתחרות "מאיין" בצרפת
(מתנ"ס ערד, אולם דולב)

The festival's opening recital: "Preludes and Sonorities"
Featuring the young pianist- Nagino Maruyama, 1st
place winner of the "Mayenne" competition (France)
(The Arad community center, Dolev Hall)

F. Liszt (1811-1886) La Campanella
F. Chopin (1910-1849) 24 Preludes op.28

יום שישי, 28 ביולי | Friday, July 28th

16:00

הרצאה - פסקל נמירובסקי (אולם הקונסרבטוריון)

Lecture- Pascal Nemirovski (The Conservatory hall)

"Conversation on Practice, Competition, and Concert Preparation"

18:30

קונצרט בניצוח משתתפי הפסטיבל (אולם הקונסרבטוריון)

Festival's participants concert (The Conservatory hall)

21:00

רסיטל: "מעבר לצלילים ולמילים" מיצירות שומן וברהמס
(מתנ"ס ערד, אולם דולב)

Recital: "Beyond the words and sounds" - Schumann and Brahms
(The Arad community center, Dolev Hall)

Ariel Halevy **אריאל הלוי**

Ron Trachtman

רון טרכטמן

J. Brahms (1833-1897)
4 Ballades op. 10
7 Fantasien op.116

R. Schumann (1810-1856)
Kreisleriana op. 16

Saturday, July 29th

יום שבת, 29 ביולי

קונצרט בניצוח משתתפי הפסטיבל (אולם הקונסרבטוריון) 18:30

Festival's participants concert (The Conservatory hall)

רסימל: "משוברט ועד ליסט" ז (מתנ"ס ערד, אולם דולב) 21:00

Recital: From Schubert to Liszt (The Arad community center, Dolev Hall)

Claudius TANSKI קלאודיוס מנסקי

F. Chopin (1910-1849) Nocturne c# minor op. posth
W.A Mozart (1756-1791) Adagio from KV 457
F. Liszt (1811-1886) Petrarca-Sonett No 104
F. Liszt (1811-1886) Rigoletto Paraphrase
Petrarca-Sonett No 104
Paraphrase on Verdi's "Rigoletto S.434

Michal Tal מיכל טל

D. Scarlatti (1685-1757)
Sonata in G major k.146
Sonata in B minor k. 27
F. Schubert (1797-1828)
3 Klavierstücke, D.946
Allegro Assai
Allegretto
Allegro

Sunday, July 30th

יום ראשון, 30 ביולי

Lecture Claudius Tanski
"On the Liszt Sonata"
(The Conservatory hall)

הרצאה - קלאודיוס מנסקי
(אולם הקונסרבטוריון)

16:00

קונצרט בניצוח משתתפי הפסטיבל (אולם הקונסרבטוריון)

Festival's participants concert (The Conservatory hall)

רסימל: "תפילות, הרהורים, ריקודים" (מתנ"ס ערד, אולם דולב)

18:30

Recital: "Prayers, Ruminations, Dances"
(The Arad community center, Dolev Hall)

21:00

Ofra Yitzhaki

עפרה יצחקי

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
Chorale Prelude BWV 639
Cantata BWV 22 "קדש אותנו בטוב" (Piano arrangement: W. Kempf)
Cantata BWV 140 "zion hört die wächter singen" (Piano arrangement: W. Kempf)
2 Chorale Prelude op. 122 (Piano arrangement: P. Busoni)
Overture in French style, BWV 831
Emma Shifrin (B. 1967)
'סוג של הרהור'
J. Bardanashvili (B. 1948)
Shir Ha'ma'alot (2022)

Monday, July 31st

יום שני, 31 ביולי

Michal Tal **קונצרט שיחה: מיכל טל (אולם הקונסרבטוריון)**

16:00

Concert-lecture: "Women composers and the piano" (The Conservatory hall)

קונצרט בניצוח משתתפי הפסטיבל (אולם הקונסרבטוריון)

18:30

Festival's participants concert (The Conservatory hall)

Recital "Liszt and Chopin" **רסיטל: "ליסט ושופן"**

21:00

קווין צ'ן, חתן הפרס הראשון בתחרות ארתור רוברטסון (מתנ"ס ערד, אולם דולב)

Kevin Chen, 1st prize winner of the Arthur Rubinstein competition
(The Arad community center, Dolev Hall)

F. Liszt (1811-1886)

Bagatelle sans tonalité, S. 216a

Années de pèlerinage, Third year, Les jeux d'eaux

à la Villa d'Este, S. 163 no. 4

Étude d'exécution transcendante, S. 139 no. 11 ("Harmonies du soir")

Années de pèlerinage, First year, Les cloches de Genève, S. 160 no. 9

Réminiscences de Norma, S. 394

F. Chopin (1910-1849)

Scherzo no. 4 in E major, op. 54

Sonata no. 3 in b minor, op. 58

Tuesday, August 1st

יום שלישי, 1 באוגוסט

פאנל: שיחה עם צוות אמני הפסטיבל (אולם הקונסרבטוריון)

16:00

Panel - A conversation with the Festival's artist faculty
(The Conservatory hall)

קונצרט בניצוח משתתפי הפסטיבל (אולם הקונסרבטוריון)

18:30

Festival's participants concert (The Conservatory hall)

רסיטל: "נשמות תאומות" (מתנ"ס ערד, אולם דולב)

21:00

Recital: "Kindred Spirits" (The Arad community center, Dolev Hall)

Shir Semmel

שיר זמל

L. Janáček - Sonata 1.X.1905 (From the Street), JW 8/19

The presentiment

The death

R. Schumann - Davidsbündlertänze, Op. 6

Lebhaft-Innig-Etwas hahnbüchen-Ungeduldig-Einfach-Sehr

rasch und in sich hinein-Nicht schnell mit äußerst starker Empfindung-Frisch-

Balladenmäßig sehr rasch-Einfach-Mit Humor-Wild und lustig-Zart und singend

-Frisch-Mit gutem Humor-Wie aus der Ferne- Nicht schnell

יום רביעי, 2 באוגוסט | Wednesday, August 2nd

קונצרטי גאלה - דור העתיד עם הסינפונייטה הישראלית באר שבע (מתנ"ס ערד, אולם דולב)
זוג קונצרטים מיוחדים עם המנצחת טליה אילן, הסינפונייטה הישראלית באר שבע,
וזוכי תחרות הקונצ'רטו בפסטיבל

Gala concerts - The future generations with the Israeli Sinfonietta Be'er Sheva
(The Arad community center, Dolev Hall)

special concerts with conductor: Talia Ila, The Israeli Sinfonietta Be'er Sheva
and the Concerto Competition winners:

קונצרט גאלה: בהשתתפות הפסנתרנים הזוכים בקטגורייה A

18:00

Gala concert - featuring the winning pianists of category A

קונצרט גאלה: בהשתתפות הפסנתרנים הזוכים בקטגורייה B

20:00

Gala concert - featuring the winning pianists of category B



Artists

Michal Tal



The preeminent Israeli pianist Michal Tal enjoys a busy and versatile international career, performing throughout to great acclaim. She presents at her concerts "A breathtaking performance" (Tel Aviv) and "Imaginative fingers" (London). Her numerous performances include recitals, performances with orchestra and chamber music as well as lecture concerts. She is also invited frequently to teach and give masterclasses as well as invitations to judge in national and international piano competitions, such as

The Tchaikovsky conservatory (Moscow) and the Beijing Conservatory. She performed at Carnegie Hall, The Tanglewood Festival, the Israel Festival, and The Kefar Blum Chamber Music Festival. Michal Tal was born in Tel Aviv and started her piano lessons when she was five years old. At the age of sixteen she performed as a soloist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. Since then she has performed with all the leading orchestras in Israel, Europe and the U.S. such as the Virginia and Dallas Symphonies, the Strasbourg Philharmonic, and the Dutch Radio Orchestra. She played under the baton of Leonard Slatkin, Eduardo Mata and Luciano Berio. Among Tal's discography are "Great Short Masterpieces for Piano" (ROMEO) "Erwin Schulhoff Music for Piano Solo" (CENTAUR) and the new album GEMS.

Michal Tal is the prize winner of many competitions such as the first prize at the international competition in Dallas, and the prestigious Rosenblum Prize for the performing arts.

Tal studied at The Tel Aviv Academy of music, Indiana University, The Juilliard School and SUNY in Stony Brook. She studied with Arie Vardi, Richard Goode, and Gilbert Kalish. She received her PHD at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem under the supervision of Prof. Jehoshua Hershberg. Dr. Michal Tal is on the faculty of the Buchmann-Mehta School of music and was the artistic director of The Outstanding Young Piano program at the Jerusalem Music Centre. Her outstanding students are winners of national and international competitions. Founder of EPTA Israel and the founder and Artistic director of PianoFest Arad.

Elisaveta Blumina



The artistic director of the Hamburg Chamber Music Festival is considered an outstanding representative of an entire generation of pianists, and a recipient of the Echo Prize. Blumina is a multi-talent: As a child, she aspired to a career as a prima ballerina, learned to play the piano in the tradition of the great Heinrich Neuhaus and learned to paint. She has taught at the Hamburg Academy of Music and Theatre and regularly gives master classes, at the Weikersheim Academy, Tel Aviv University, Jerusalem Academy, and the St. Petersburg

Conservator. 36 CD's have consolidated her reputation as an exceptional interpreter of the music of the 20th and 21st centuries. Her internationally acclaimed recordings of works by composers such as Nikolai Kapustin, Galina Ustvolskaya, Giya Kancheli, Valentin Silvestrov, Grigori Frid and the Polish-Jewish composer Mieczyslaw Weinberg. Blumina is a welcome guest at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Elbphilharmonie and the Berlin Philharmonie, St. Petersburg Philharmonie, Konzerthaus Berlin, National Concert Hall Dublin as well as at festivals such as Verbier, Colmar, Lockenhaus or the Schleswig-Holstein Festival. She regularly plays with the Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra, the Hamburg Philharmonic State Orchestra, St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as the Moscow Virtuosi. In 2022 she received an invitation from Chemnitz to conduct a project with the Robert Schumann Philharmonic Orchestra, which will soon be released on CD.

Kevin Chen



Born in March 2005, Kevin Chen started his piano studies at age five. Since then, his successes in competitive performance have gained significant international appreciation, including first prize in the Arthur Rubinstein Piano Master Competition in Tel Aviv, Israel (March 2023); first prize in the Concours de Genève (November 2022); first prize in the Franz Liszt International Piano Competition in Budapest, Hungary (September 2021); first prize in the Hilton Head International Piano Competition in Hilton Head, United States (March 2020); and first prize in

the International Piano-e-Competition in Minneapolis, United States (July 2019). Kevin has been performing with orchestras since his debut with the Abbotsford Youth Orchestra at the age of seven. These include the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, Minnesota Orchestra, Hilton Head Symphony Orchestra, Hungarian National Orchestra, Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Israel Camerata, Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and others. Kevin currently studies privately with Professor Marilyn Engle. As a composer in his spare time, Kevin's accomplishments in this regard are reflected in commissions and acclaimed public performances. Five of his works have been published. Outside of music, he enjoys computer programming and solving Rubik's cubes.

Pavlina Dokovska



First Prize winner of the Claude Debussy International Piano Competition in France and Italy's International Piano Competition of Senigalia, Bulgarian pianist, Pavlina Dokovska has gained worldwide recognition and enthusiastic critical acclaim as a soloist, chamber musician, and soloist with orchestra. She has performed at major venues including Avery Fisher Hall, Carnegie Hall's Weill Hall, Merkin Hall, Berlin Radio Hall, Wigmore Hall, Salle Gaveau, La Scala, Taipei's National Opera Hall, and Beijing's National Center for the Performing Arts.

Important festivals include Salzburg Festival, Spoleto Festival, Prague Autumn

Festival, Beijing International Music Festival and many more. She has recorded for GegaNew, RCA, Koch International, Naxos, Arcadia, Elan, Labor Records. Ms. Dokovska has adjudicated many competitions including Cleveland International Piano Competition, Dublin Piano Competition, Hilton Head Piano Competition, William Kapell International Competition, and others. Pavlina Dokovska acquired her initial music education in Bulgaria and was a student of Lydia Kuteva at the Music High School in Sofia. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the National Academy of Music, working with Julia and Konstantin Ganev (students of the legendary Heinrich Neuhaus) and Master's Degree from the Juilliard School, as a Fulbright Scholar and a student of Beveridge Webster. As a recipient of the French Government scholarship, she spent summers studying with Yvonne Lefebure in Paris. Ms. Dokovska is a full-time professor and the Chair of the Piano Department at Mannes School of Music in New York City. She is the Founder and Artistic Director of Mannes Sounds Festival and Southwest Virginia Festival for the Arts.

Ariel Halevy



Born in Jerusalem, Ariel studied with Ilana Gutman, Victor Derevianko, Hanna Shalgi and Jonathan Zak in Israel and with Nina Svetlanova, Diane Walsh and Madeline Bruser in New York. Ariel is a graduate of the Israel Arts and Science Academy(IASA) in Jerusalem and received both his B.M and M.M degrees from the Mannes School where he was a full scholarship student. Growing up in Israel he participated in numerous masterclasses and chamber music courses at the Jerusalem Music Centre(JMC)and was awarded scholarships by the America-Israel Cultural Foundation(AICF). Ariel performs as soloist and in

chamber music, and was featured as soloist with several orchestras in Israel. His chamber music engagements have included concerts with cellist Hillel Zori, violinist Guy Braunstein and pianist Misha Zartsek. He participated in many festivals including Aspen, Music Academy of the West, IKI(New York), Fontainebleau, Kfar Blum, Keshet Eilon, Psanterim(Jerusalem theatre), Tslilim Bamidbar(Kibbutz Sde Boker), and Tel Hai. Ariel performed the complete cycle of Mozart's piano sonatas in a series of 10 different recitals named "Mozart Plus" where alongside the 18 sonatas were also featured works of other composers from Bach to Brahms. His CD of the late opuses of Brahms was published by Romeo Records and received enthusiastic reviews. Beginning in the Fall of 2021, Ariel has been serving as the head of the Young Pianists' Program at the JMC.

Talia Ilan



Talia Ilan is an orchestra conductor and a Radio Music Editor at the IPBC Classical Music Radio Station. As guest conductor Ms. Ilan led major Israeli orchestras such as the Haifa Symphony Orchestra, Israel Chamber Orchestra, Israel Sinfonietta Be'er Sheva and Ra'anana Symphonette and the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. International guest conducting engagements include the Macao Orchestra, Qingdao Symphony Orchestra and the Guiyang Symphony Orchestra in China, the Ischia Music Festival in Italy, the Janáček Philharmonic and the Moravian

Philharmonic in the Czech Republic. For the last two decades she held positions of Music Director of the Israel Stage Orchestra and the Campus Symphony Orchestra. Ilan has a vast repertoire and she performs an extensive range of symphonic repertoire with emphasis on Classical and Romantic to 20th century. Born in Tel Aviv, Ms. Ilan studied piano and clarinet and attended the Thelma Yellin High School of the Arts. She obtained her degrees in Orchestral Conducting at The Jerusalem Rubin Academy (B.Mus., M.Mus. and Artist Diploma) as a student of Prof. Mendi Rodan. Her mentors include Maestro Daniel Barenboim and Maestro Michael Tilson Thomas.

Ofra Yitzhaki



Known for her emotive power, clarity of interpretations, and captivating programming, pianist Ofra Yitzhaki has performed for audiences at New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Taiwan National Concert Hall, Berlin's Museum of Musical Instruments, and at the Vilnius Palace of Arts. Her recital at the Klavierfestival Ruhr - playing Bach alongside European premieres of Israeli and American music - was described by the Westfaelische Rundschau as "an evening with soul, poetry, and glorious sounds." Yitzhaki has performed over thirty concerti - from Bartok and Haydn, to Ligeti and Messiaen with the Berlin

Symphony, the Romanian Radio Orchestra, as well as both the American and Jerusalem Symphony Orchestras. She has premiered more than 50 works for solo and chamber ensembles. Yitzhaki's dynamic programming often pairs old and new works to reveal how each can illuminate the other. She's programmed C.P.E. Bach's fantasies alongside Georg Friedrich Haas's music for piano and electronics, Scarlatti's miniature sonatas with Ives' enormous Sonata No.1, and French Impressionist composers opposite new music of her native Israel. One of the last pupils of Paul Badura-Skoda, Yitzhaki has recently focused on solo recitals of Bach's Well-Tempered Clavier. Additionally, she is now working on a premiere recording of the piano music of Josef Tal, co-produced by the Hessischer Rundfunk and the Culture Radio of Berlin. On faculty at Tel Aviv University's Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, Yitzhaki is also the artistic director of the "Voice of Music in the Upper Galilee," Israel's oldest and largest chamber music festival. She holds a Doctorate in Piano Performance from the Juilliard School.

Nagino Maruyama



Born in 1999 in Japan, Nagino Maruyama performed in public with an orchestra at the age of 6. Since then, she has been performing at prestigious concert halls and invited to festivals and concerts worldwide including; Konzerthaus, Vienna; Carnegie Hall, New York; Salle Gaveau, Paris; Izumi hall, Osaka; Château de Versailles, Paris, 36th Festival Chopin, Paris; Chopin Festival, Tokyo. She has performed with Grand Gala Orchestra OSAKA, NHK Symphonic Orchestra, and Paulownia Philharmonic Orchestra. Maruyama passed the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique et de Danse de Paris in 2016 entrance examination as the

top student of that year. She successfully obtained her Master degree in 2021 with honors, and she is currently attending the Artist Diploma curriculum. Nagino is a prize winner of many competitions, such as the 1st Prize at the 44th Concours Claude Kahn, the 4th International Piano Talents Competition and the 20th OSAKA International Music Competition, Concours international de piano de Mayenne. She won the 5th Prize of the 11th Darmstadt International Chopin Piano Competition and was 3rd at the Shigeru Kawai International Piano Competition. She adjudicated in several competitions and was invited by international competition to sit as a jury member in Japan in 2020. Her rich repertoire extends from the Baroque to the present. While her versatility led her to perform the soundtracks of the film, meanwhile she shares her knowledge and experiences in Europe with the Japanese public through articles in periodicals, which were praised both by music critics and the general readership.

Pascal Nemirovski



Pascal Nemirovski is recognized as one of the most sought-after piano pedagogues in the world with many of his students winning top international prizes (Leeds, Busoni, YCAT London,) and many are now successful recording artists represented by major Concert Artist Management companies (Columbia Artist Management). He studied at the Juilliard School with Nadia Reisenberg and Adele Marcus from 1981 to 1984 on a full scholarship (Steinway & Freundlich Fund). Then he continued his studies in Paris with France Clidat and Alexis Weissenberg and started to give concerts and masterclasses in Europe, the United States and Asia. At the age of 28,

his vocation for teaching was recognised by violinist Vladimir Spivakov who invited him to teach and supervise the Masterclasses of the International Festival of Colmar and was the youngest professor, among internationally renowned figures including Dmitri Bashkirov, Pascal Devoyon, Gary Graffman, Vladimir Krainev and Tatiana Zelikman. Since this experience, he started to be invited to give lectures, Masterclasses, workshops worldwide. He is in demand as a jury member at International Piano Competitions worldwide and has been appointed Artistic Director and Chairman of the Jury of the "Concours International de Piano Antoine de Saint-Exupéry" (Saint-Priest/Lyon, France) in 2017. For 10 years, he taught at the Royal Academy of Music in London and was awarded Honorary Associate of the Royal Academy of Music (Hon ARAM). He was responsible for the Subject Specialism "Piano Pedagogy" for LRAM (Licentiate of the Royal Academy of Music) and edited two books. During this period, he also taught at the Purcell School. In 2016, he joined the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, where he now holds the position of "International Chair" in Piano. His CD "Entre Ciel et Terre" devoted to Chopin, Prokofiev and Scriabin has been unanimously acclaimed by the press. Pascal Nemirovski is a Steinway Artist.

Shir Semmel



Hailed as a “wonderful pianist” with “absolute devotion to the music” and “admirable technique” (Globes), pianist Shir Semmel has performed in Europe, the United States, and her native Israel to critical acclaim. Praised for her “unstoppable energy and personality” (timesunionPLUS), her performances have been described as “gripping from beginning to end” (The Jerusalem Post). Semmel has performed extensively as a soloist with orchestras, recitalist and chamber musician at such prestigious halls as Carnegie Hall, Musikverein Vienna, Konzerthaus Berlin, Beethoven-haus Bonn, Merkin Hall, Lincoln Center, the Jerusalem Theater, Tel-Aviv Museum and many more. First prize winner of

several competitions, Semmel has been invited by Sir András Schiff to play recitals at central venues throughout Europe as part of his “Building Bridges” series. She has participated in international festivals such as Ravinia, Menuhin Festival, Mänttä Piano Festival, Finland and the IKIF NY. An avid chamber musician, Semmel cofounded the Jerusalem Piano Duo together with her brother, pianist Dror Semmel. She has collaborated with such artists as Gilbert Kalish, Colin Carr, Zvi Plessner, members of the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center and members of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra. As a former member of Carnegie Hall’s Ensemble ACJW, she performed regularly at Carnegie Hall among other venues, and worked to engage with the community and enhance music education throughout New York. Semmel is on the faculty of the ICM, Tel-Aviv, the Conservatory of the Jerusalem Music Academy, and the Ono Academic College. She has given master classes in Israel, Europe and the US, and led workshops at the Juilliard School, New York. She serves on the jury of Israel’s top competitions and collaborates frequently with the JMC as a faculty member of its programs for outstanding young musicians. Born in Jerusalem, Semmel studied with Lena Nemirovsky-Wiskind. She graduated summa cum laude from the Jerusalem Music Academy as a student of Alexander Tamir and Asaf Zohar. She completed her Master of Music degree with honors at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music where she studied with Emanuel Krasovsky. She spent four years at the Peabody Institute as a student of Leon Fleisher, and completed her DMA at SUNY Stony Brook under the tutelage of Gilbert Kalish. She has also worked with Sir András Schiff, Murray Perahia and Richard Goode.

Claudius TANSKI



Claudius Tanski was born in Essen/Germany in 1959. He studied in Essen, Salzburg, Vienna and London, where Alfred Brendel was his most important teacher for several years. Tanski won a lot of prizes and distinctions at international competitions and played as a soloist as well as a chamber-musician at important festivals. He played throughout Europe and also in USA, South America, Japan, South-East Asia and India. Tanski recorded some 20 CD`s for the German label MDG (www.mdg.de). His recordings were honoured with a lot of international prizes, among them “CD of the year” for US-magazine “Fanfare”, “Editor’s Choice” of “Gramophone”, five times the “Prize of German

Record Critics” and an “Echo-Klassik-Prize” 1997 in the division Chamber music. Claudius Tanski is Professor at the University Mozarteum in Salzburg. Jury-Member Seregno (Pozzoli Competition) 2001 and 2007, Pinerolo 2008, Taranto 2009, Genova 2010, Masserosa 2016 and 2018.

Ron Trachtman



regularly appears on concert stages in Israel and abroad, performing as a soloist and in chamber music ensembles. Beginning his studies with Mrs. Hanna Shalgi at the Givatayim Municipal Conservatory, he continued with Prof. Arie Vardi at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University where he completed his Bachelor's and Master's degrees with honors. He is a graduate of the Thelma Yellin High School of the Performing Arts. He was granted status as an "outstanding musician" by the military and did his service in that capacity. Throughout all his years of study, he was the recipient of scholarships for piano from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and received special scholarships for

the study of theory. He won first prize at the Arianne Katz Piano Competition and the Dina Turgeman Chamber Music Competition, second prize and prize for the best performance of a Chopin composition at the International Parnassos Piano Competition in Mexico; likewise, he won two consecutive prizes at the Buchmann-Mehta School of Music Chamber Music Competition, and many other prizes as well. He has studied in master classes with renowned pianists including Prof. György Sándor, Alexander Korsantia, Alexander Toradze, Murray Perahia, and András Schiff. He has recorded extensively for the "Kol HaMusica" radio station as a soloist and with various chamber music ensembles. He has appeared as a soloist with the Israel Camerata Jerusalem Orchestra, the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, the Israeli Chamber Orchestra, the Haifa Symphony Orchestra and with the Israel Philharmonic. He teaches piano at the Israel Conservatory of Music, the Givatayim Municipal Conservatory, and at the Kfar HaYarok School in the music specialization track. His students have been awarded many prizes and have won competitions.

Pierre Réach



Pierre Réach is an accomplished pianist known for his performances and contributions to classical music. He has performed across Europe, including countries like France, Spain, Italy, and Germany, as well as internationally in Japan, the United States, Israel, Russia, China, and South Korea. Réach has collaborated with renowned orchestras and performed at various recital and chamber music festivals alongside esteemed artists. He has recorded albums for prominent labels, featuring works by composers such as Bach, Mozart, Beethoven, and Messiaen. One of Réach's notable achievements is his interpretation of Bach's Goldberg Variations,

which he is considered one of the finest performers of. He has received guidance from renowned artists like Alexis Weissenberg and Arthur Rubinstein. In addition to his performing career, Réach is a professor of piano and chamber music at the Catalonia College of Music in Barcelona and an honorary professor at the Shanghai Conservatory of Music. He has conducted masterclasses and served as a jury member in international competitions. Apart from his musical endeavors, Réach has been involved in organizing and directing various music festivals and competitions. He co-founded the György Sebök International Academy, which takes place every summer and provides young musicians from around the world the opportunity to refine their skills. He created the Paul Badura-Skoda International Competition and subsequently established the Vilaseca Festival near Barcelona, Spain. He is the artistic director of the Piano Festival in Castelnaudary, the French classical music festival in Bailu near Chengdu (China) Réach has written a book on composer Charles-Valentin Alkan and made appearances on television. Réach has recently been nominated piano teacher at the Ecole Normale supérieure in Paris and will start teaching there on October.

Festival Team צוות הפסטיבל

גב' ורדה בדת - יועצת עסקית

Mrs. Varda Badet
Business consultant

מר און כהן - מנהל קונסרבטוריון ערד

Mr. Ohn Cohen
Director of the Arad conservatory

ד"ר מיכל טל - מייסדת ומנהלת אמנותית

Dr. Michal Tal
CEO, Artistic Director

מנהלת אגף תרבות - שני סניור שילוח

Director of Culture Department
Shani Senor Shiloh

מנהל מתנ"ס ערד - דודי שושטרי

Dudi Shushtri
Director of the Arad
community center

גב' אביגיל ארנהיים - מנכ"לית
עמותת פליציה בלומנסל למוסיקה

Mrs. Avigail Arnheim
Director, The FBMC Tel Aviv

ולרי זינקביץ' רדזיוויל - מנהל אחזקה
ומשק במתנ"ס ערד

Valery Zinkevich Radzivil -
maintenance manager, Arad
community center

מנהלת מדיה מתנ"ס ערד - מאי קרביץ

Media director, the Arad
community center
May Kravitz

עוזרת אדמיניסטרטיבית - עדן בנגוויגי

Administrative assistant
Eden Benguigui

גרפיקה ועיצוב אתר - סופיה הולמלונד

Graphics and website design
Sophia Holmlund

אחריות נוער - אביסל נוביקוב

Youth assistant
Avital Novikov

הפקה כללית - אריאל שפירא

General production
Ariel Shapira

השכרת פסנתרים: "רסיטל" פסנתרים (פ"ת)

Piano rentals- RECITAL piano

יחסי ציבור - ענת מרומי

PR - Anat Meromi

גרפיקה ועיצוב תכנייה - לייזה ניידיץ'

Graphics and content design
Liya Naidich

הקלטה - רפי אשל

Recording- Rafi Eshel

צילום - יואל לוי

Photography - Yoel Levy

כיוון פסנתרים - קיריל לסקון

Piano tuning- Kiril Laskon

צילום וידאו ולייב - דרור הלר

Video and livestream - Dror Heller

שותפינו Partners



תודה מיוחדת לקרן נס על תמיכתם המשמעותית בפסטיבל, על האמון ועל שיתוף פעולה יוצא דופן.
We would like to express a deep gratitude to the Mack Ness Fund, for the outstanding support, trust and collaboration.

תודתנו לידידי ויקירי הפסטיבל מיום הקמתו

- Varda Badet ורדה בדת
 - Nelly Zilberlicht נלי זילברליכט
 - Lior and Gili Shalgi ליאור וגילי שלגי
 - Dalia Horowitz דליה הורוביץ
 - Rebecca Brody Gold רבקה ברודי גולד
 - Mini Kopilov מיני קופילוב
 - Lin Zelnik Nimrodi לין זלניק נמרודי
 - Adi Chen Menaker עדי חן מנקר
 - Tami and Adi Livnat תמי ועדי ליבנת
 - Pnina Cohen פנינה כהן
 - Dafna Cohen - Mintz דפנה כהן מינץ
 - Ethan Hillman איתן הילמן
- לזכר פייגה ויחיאל טייבר ז"ל For the memory of Feiga and Yehiel Teiber