

The POWER OF MUSIC

SPOTLIGHT: Scholar-in-Residence Seminar

QUESTION: What happens when an equal cohort of Israel's top Arab and Jewish teenaged classical musicians come together for two four-day immersion experiences?

ANSWER: Magical performances, onstage and offstage.

This year forty students, instructors and lecturers participated in our Scholar-in-Residence program. Together, they built a shared ensemble fostered by genuine relationship-building and a sense of belonging in the greater Israeli and global cultural community.

ONSTAGE

Top professionals of the Israeli and Berlin Philharmonic Orchestras ran intensive sectional rehearsals of two works by Ludwig van Beethoven and one by Edvard Grieg, which culminated in a public concert.

Our young people became exceptionally skilled at listening to each other,



looking at each other and building their unified sound.

OFFSTAGE

Leading intellectuals led discussions that encouraged our young people to explore how a particular piece of music speaks to them as performers, and how it relates to them as maturing adolescents in a diverse and conflicted society.

During the first residency in Nazareth in April, Arab youth hosted Jewish youth on a city tour, with a stop at the best sweet shop (of course!). In October, they all bunked together at Kibbutz Keshet Eilon, creating an open and inviting environment for our young people to have genuine interactions and conversations.

Special thanks our to Seminar sponsors:

Charles H. Revson Foundation

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WHAT OUR 2016 SEMINAR PARTICIPANTS ARE SAYING:

84% expressed that they built new relationships with 'the other'

"I care more about others and want to explore each other's different points of view and community."

100% said they would like to continue with the program

"This seminar was educational to life."
"We are different in religion, but not different as people."





Craig and Deborah Cogut
Co-founders

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LETTER FROM LEADERSHIP

Dear Friends,

The activity of making music as an ensemble carries people beyond politics, beyond boundaries.

It brings musicians, instructors and audience members together in ways that make it possible to see ‘the other’ and build new relationships.

As we write this letter to you, the U.S. Presidential election has just upended predictability. As the chasm of divide appears to grow larger, we must seek new tools and approaches for moving forward together.

At Polyphony, our young people have been breaking down the barriers of the Arab and Jewish communities in Israel since 2011. It is this long term, day-in and day-out work of creating new kinds of conversations that is building a new social fabric from the ground up. One graduate recently summed it up like this: “Polyphony brought the Arab community into my life.”

Indeed, our parents share that without Polyphony they would have never developed friendships with families of a different religion. Young Arab musicians speak to the experience of being equal while performing alongside their Jewish peers. Jewish teens lead their peers away from hatred and distrust. School children go out of their comfort zones together to learn to appreciate classical music.

In creating joint music opportunities for over 10,000 young people a year, Polyphony’s holistic multi-tiered programming has become a vehicle for social transformation. Ours is a place where people can express hope by showing and sharing the power of music to build a new kind of community.

We thank you for everything you have given to invest in the lives of our young people and our innovative model for change. These times demand innovation and Polyphony is proud to be leading the way in helping people see new possibilities for themselves, their communities and for Israel.

Please give generously today to ensure that our programs continue to impact and grow.

Happy holidays **חג המנוחה שמח** **ريخ فلأب متناً و ماع لك**

Craig Cogut
Co-founder

Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar
Co-founder

Carrie Sackett
Executive Director

See our NEW website at polyphonyfoundation.org

Mission:

Polyphony builds hope for a shared future in Israel by bringing together Arab and Jewish youth through the power of classical music-making.

Visit us in Nazareth:

We regularly welcome donors and friends to our community. Experience firsthand the transformational power of music. Email inquiry@polyphonyfoundation.org for more information.

Polyphony Champions



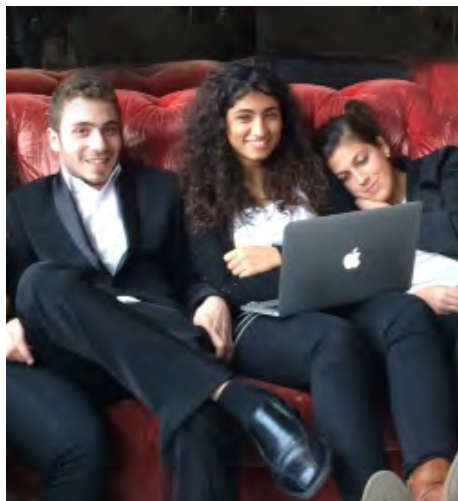
Ir Nabeel Abboud-Ashkar, Carrie Sackett, David Myers

Plans are in the works for a series of benefit concerts in 2017. We want to thank the burgeoning **Los Angeles** committee led by **David Myers**, **Abby Sher** and **Terry Tamminen**. In **San Francisco**, **Anne Germanacos** is networking with Bay Area Jewish organizations to participate. **Rabbi Clifford Kulwin** of **Temple Bnai Abraham** of **Livingston, NJ** is looking to lock in a performance date. **Jack Hidary** is taking a lead role in establishing our first-ever New York benefit. Artistic partner **Renée**

Fleming is inviting her network to attend concerts in all of these cities.

These efforts have been inspired by the groundbreaking leadership of the **Dallas** committee, led by **David** and **Betty Jo Bell**, **Rabbi Nancy Kasten** and **Rachelle Weiss Crane**. And of course, none of this would be possible without the concert performances in the U.S. and Europe that have been sponsored by co-founders **Craig** and **Deborah Cogut**.

Your efforts are so appreciated. Thank you!



For more information on our programs, visit our NEW website at polyphonyfoundation.org

“Polyphony shows in a practical and beautiful way that Arab and Jewish youth are building an inclusive civic society in Israel.”

— **Zubin Mehta**, Music Director,
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

Upcoming Concerts

December 19, 2016

Nazareth, Israel

With special guest

Sir Andras Schiff

February 12, 2017

Dallas, Texas

With special guest

David Broza

2016 Concert Highlights

Jerusalem Music Center, Israel

Polyphony musicians with the Northern Ensemble

La Foce in Tuscany, Italy

Youth Orchestra Quartet*

Industrial Park, Israel

Galilee Orchestra conducted by Saleem Abboud Ashkar

The Buchmann-Mehta School of Music, Israel

Youth Orchestra with Radek Baborak

Elma Arts Center, Israel

Israeli Philharmonic and Polyphony musicians conducted by Zubin Mehta.

*Special thanks to Steve and Pilar Robert for underwriting this performance

YES, I want to give the gift of music and hope to Arab and Jewish youth in Israel.

"I would say to the Americans, 'Thank you.' You are doing a great job helping young people who are trying to change the culture in Israel."

—Patrice, father of Polyphony violinist Ron

\$10,000 \$5,000 \$1,000 \$720 \$360 Other _____

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A Year in Review:
Polyphony plays on new and bigger stages



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