

America-Israel Cultural Foundation

# FOCUS

Summer 2005

## AICF's 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA

### *You're Invited!*

AMERICA-ISRAEL  
CULTURAL FOUNDATION  
is celebrating its 66th anniversary!



Annual Gala Concert  
at  
Frederick P. Rose Hall  
Home of Jazz at Lincoln Center  
Broadway @ 60<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York City



Sunday November 20, 2005  
3:00 p.m.



Master of Ceremonies  
Jonathan Light

### **Aviv Award**



~ Amos Gitai ~

*Israeli Filmmaker*



## *Rachel and Dov Gottesman to Receive King Solomon Award*

Rachel and Dov Gottesman are dedicated citizens of Israel, and patrons of Israeli arts and culture, whose interests extend worldwide from Tel Aviv, to Geneva, to London and to New York. Emigrating with his family from Vienna to Palestine in 1932, Dov fought for Israel in the Palmach and the War of Independence and served in the Israeli Defense Forces until 1955. His wife of over 50 years, Rachel, was born in Israel and trained as a teacher. Together, they have become highly respected leaders in Israeli cultural life. Astute collectors of Israeli and international art, Rachel and Dov have been in the vanguard of philanthropic support for the creative arts in Israel, devoting themselves to the encouragement of Israeli artists.

Since June 2001, Dov has served as president of the Israel Museum. Both in the museum and in many other cultural endeavors in Israel, Dov's efforts are enhanced immeasurably by Rachel's graciousness, quiet elegance, and keen aesthetic sense.

Rachel and Dov became closely involved with the America-Israel Cultural Foundation at the 2003 Aviv Competitions for young Israeli musicians. Since then, they have become loyal followers and supporters of the competitions and the competitors. Their devotion to the activities of AICF is exemplary.

In recognition of their outstanding efforts on behalf of Israeli art and Israeli artists, and their role in elevating the international status of Israeli art, and their generous support of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, the America-Israel Cultural Foundation has selected Rachel and Dov Gottesman to receive its King Solomon Award.

# AMERICA-ISRAEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION, INC.

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Cultural Foundation



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT



*Bill  
Schwartz*

How would you like an opportunity to touch a life? What can be more satisfying than helping Israel perpetuate the arts from generation to generation. The abundance of gifted young people in this wonderful country is impressive. More than two thousand musicians, dancers, artists, filmmakers and architects are competing this year for AICF scholarships. Each applicant is given an opportunity to present his or her work before a panel of qualified jurors. The excitement and intensity of these students is palpable.

For many years AICF has helped Israel maintain its standing as a world leader in the performing and visual arts. I invite you to participate in this project. By providing scholarships for study in Israel and abroad, each one of AICF's supporters has the opportunity to nourish a great talent.

The Aviv Competition, which furthers young performing musicians who are ready for a professional career, will be held in Tel Aviv from December 24, 2005 until January 5, 2006. This contest showcases the finest talent that Israel has to offer. I urge all of you to visit Israel, and to join me at any or all of the Aviv events. Tickets will be made available to those who would like to attend as guests of AICF. Please contact our office for details.

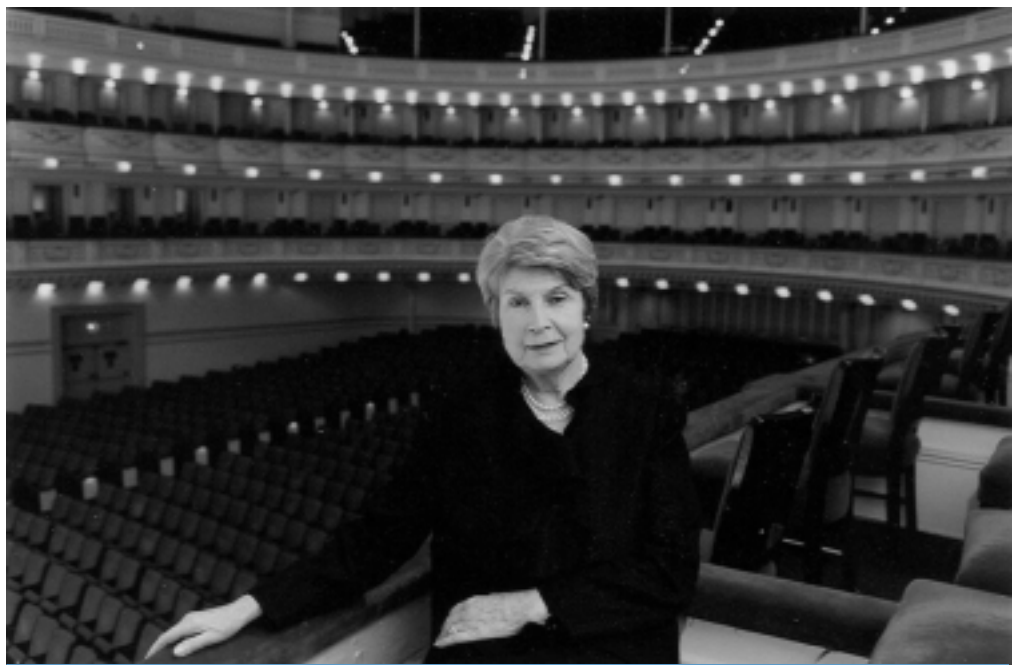
Come to Israel this winter. Don't just go to see the country. Feel it, touch it with your mind and soul, and understand the vitality and inspirational force that is Israel.

# *AICF's History of Artistic Encouragement*

AICF was established in 1939 by Edward Norman of Chicago, its original mandate being the rescue and resettlement of musicians from Germany in what was then Palestine (among these musicians were many early members of the Palestine Symphony, which is today the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra). In the years immediately before and after Israel's statehood, AICF was providing seed money for the burgeoning cultural institutions of this new country — the art museums, dance schools, art academies and music conservatories that flourish today.

In the 1950's, AICF began its Sharett Scholarship Program, now the "jewel in the crown" of our activities. In 2001 alone, we awarded over 800 scholarships to talented young people in art, dance, film, music and theater. Many of our past winners have gone onto distinguished careers in the arts, among them the violinists **Itzhak Perlman**, **Pinchas Zukerman**, **Shlomo Mintz** and **Gil Shaham**; the pianists **Yefim Bronfman** and **Joseph Kalichstein**; pianist/conductor **Daniel Barenboim**, Pulitzer Prize-winning composer **Shulamit Ran** and visual artist **Menashe Kadishman**.

But these are just the world-famous names. Countless others are teaching in the educational institutions of Israel, helping to guide the next generation; performing nightly on the stages of Israel's theaters; winning international distinctions at film festivals; exhib-



## FROM THE CHAIR

Dear AICF Friends:

It has become an annual tradition to welcome you at our Gala concerts—The 2005 one being planned and I hope that you will join us again—I strongly believe to go back to the source, Israel, where all our talented students have and still are studying — The Aviv Competition that takes place from December 24<sup>th</sup> to January 5<sup>th</sup> will give us a chance to hear and appreciate the tremendous wealth of talent. You can spend as little or as much time during that period. This visit will also give you the opportunity to make this trip a personal one, arrive earlier and leave later—I look forward to sharing with you exciting concerts, meeting artists members of Israel's cultural circles —

With best wishes,

Vera Stern  
Chair of the Board

iting their artwork in galleries and museums around the world, gaining recognition for Israel as an important center for visual and plastic arts. AICF scholarship winners form the nucleus of Israel's many symphony and chamber orchestras—among the 100 members of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra

are 55 former scholarship recipients of our Foundation. Others are at the threshold of important careers in the arts: a retrospective of photographer **Michal Rovner** is in the planning stages at the Whitney Museum, film-maker **Dover Kosahvilli** (Late Wedding)—are among some the names to watch.

**Many Thanks to the AICF 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Committee!**

***Margalit & Moshe Meidar (chairs) • Ronnie & Larry Ackman • David Oestreich  
Paula Sarnoff Oreck • Linda & Myron Schonfeld***

## *Israeli Filmmaker Amos Gitai to Receive Aviv Award*

Amos Gitai was born in Israel in 1950, just two years after the establishment of the modern state of Israel. After military service Gitai, following in his father's footsteps, studied architecture at the Technion in Haifa, and then at the University of California-Berkeley. His studies were disrupted by the 1973 Yom Kippur War, an event that profoundly shaped his life and work.

A helicopter, in which he was serving on a search and rescue mission, was shot down, killing people who were very close to him and nearly ending his own life. After this, Gitai gradually turned toward filmmaking, using a Super 8 camera his mother had given him for his birthday. Gitai brought the camera with him on several helicopter missions, but not on the fateful one that ended in a crash. Intrigued by the immediacy that filmmaking offered, as opposed to the long-term commitments of architecture, he began making short abstract films on Super 8 and 16mm which featured landscapes and political rallies.

In the late 1970's and early 1980's, Gitai directed numerous documentaries, some of them for Israeli television. Many, including "House" (1980) and "Field Diary" (1982), were censored. During that same period Gitai received his PhD from the University of California-Berkeley, and directed several documentaries about the United States, such as "In Search of Identity" (1981) and "American Mythologies" (1981).

Following the controversial reception of his film "Field Diary," Gitai moved to Paris, where he was

based for most of the following decade. There, he continued directing documentaries. Some of those documentaries focused on international journeys, such as "Pineapple," a humorous odyssey about the growing and marketing of pineapples. Other of his documentaries dealt with the resurgence of fascism in Europe, including "In the Valley of the Wupper," set around a Neo-Nazi incident in Germany.

While in Paris, Gitai also began directing fiction/history features about the experience of exile. Among these films were: a stunning adaptation of the Biblical Book of "Esther," which was presented in the Cannes Film Festival's Critics' Week; "Berlin-Jerusalem," a powerful historic epic about the emigration of European Jews to British Mandate era Pales-



tine, which won the critic's prize at the Venice Film Festival; as well as three films related to the Jewish legend of the Golem, including "Birth of a Golem," "Golem: The Spirit of Exile," and "Golem: The Petrified Garden."

In the mid 90's following the election of Yitzhak Rabin, Gitai



Hiam Abbass, Natalie Portman, and Hanna Laslo in *Free Zone*. Amos Gitai's film about three women on a journey blah blah blah

moved back to his hometown of Haifa. There he continued directing films at an astonishing rate.

Among his recent films have been the trilogy: "Devarim," (1995) "Yom Yom," (1998) and "Kadosh," (1999) "The Arena of Murder," a 1996 documentary about the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin, "Kippur," (2000) about the Yom Kippur War, "Kedma," (2002) about the 1948 War of Independence, "Alila," (2003) "Promised Land," (2004) and "Free Zone" (2005).

Amos Gitai's work has been the subject of numerous retrospectives, world-wide. Major retrospectives have taken place at the Jerusalem Cinematheque, the National Film Theatre (London), the Cinematheque Francaise (Paris), and the Filmoteca Espanola (Madrid.) The next major retrospective will be offered by the Lincoln Center Film Society from November 30<sup>th</sup> through December 8<sup>th</sup> of this year.

It is with great pleasure that the America-Israel Cultural Foundation awards its Aviv Award to Israeli filmmaker Amos Gitai.

## GALA CONCERT PERFORMERS

*Featuring prize-winning Israeli Artists, all AICF scholarship recipients*

### THE JERUSALEM QUARTET

Alexander Pavlovsky, *violin*

Sergei Bressler, *violin*

Amichai Grosz, *viola*

Kyрил Zlotnikov, *cello*

Rinat Shaham, *mezzo-soprano*

Alexander Fiterstein, *clarinet*

Amit Peled, *cello*

Alon Goldstein, *piano*

## AICF's 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GALA

### *Jerusalem Quartet to Give Gala Concert Performance*

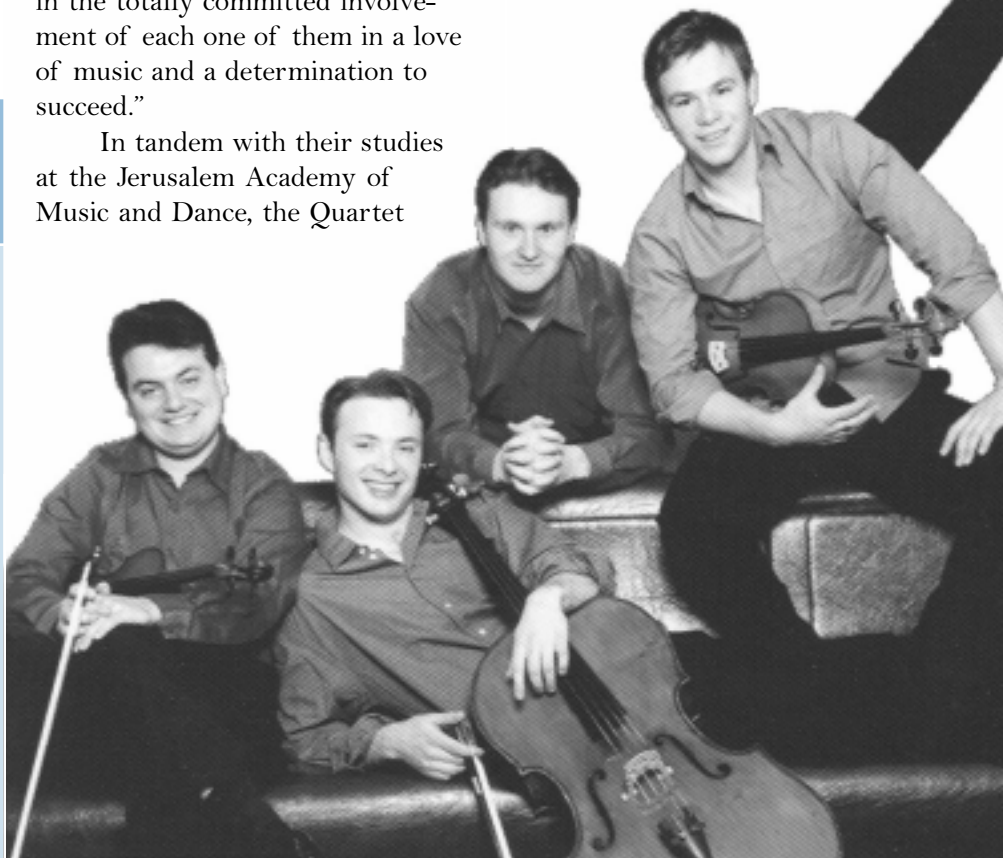
In August 1995, the Jerusalem Quartet took audiences by storm at the Kfar Blum Chamber Music Festival. Today, after more than a decade of performing chamber music together, this quartet, considered amongst the greatest chamber music performers in Israel, has established itself internationally as an exceptional and dynamic ensemble.

The Jerusalem Quartet was "born" in the Conservatory of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. Starting life as a student ensemble, it soon crystallized into a superb string quartet, guided by its teacher, last year's AICF "Master Teacher" prize-winner, violinist Avi Abramovich, who noted: "After one rehearsal, it was already evident that we had something very special before us...something in the sound, in the totally committed involvement of each one of them in a love of music and a determination to succeed."

In tandem with their studies at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance, the Quartet

participated in numerous master classes with well-known artists such as Isaac Stern (AICF's Chairman Emeritus), Michael Tree, Henry Meyer, Gyorgy Kurtag, Tabea Zimmerman and members of the Amadeus and Alban Berg Quartets. Prior to the formation of the Quartet, its members had been awarded soloist scholarships by AICF. After its formation the Quartet received support from AICF as a quartet, including support in the form of loaning its members first-rate musical instruments.

During its years working together, The Jerusalem Quartet has garnered numerous prizes. In 1996, the Quartet received First Prize at the Jerusalem Academy Chamber Music Competition. The following year the ensemble won



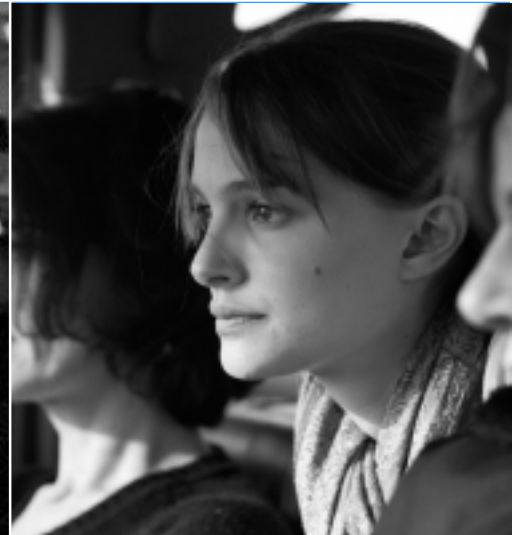
## SCENES FROM THE 65TH ANNUAL GALA



AICF Life Achievement Award  
Meira Geyra



Honoring "The Art of Teaching in  
Israel"  
Avi Abramovich



Aviv Award Jim Dine, Master  
Artist and Teacher Chaim Topol,  
Actor and Writer

### *How AICF's Programs Support the Arts in Israel*

The America-Israel Cultural Foundation's mission is to raise funds to foster the arts and culture in Israel. AICF supports the study and the teaching of the arts, with special emphasis on the development of young Israeli artists, in order to sustain and continue Israel's rich cultural legacy.

Since its creation in 1939, the organization has supported almost every cultural institution in Israel. AICF is now devoting major funding to granting of over 1,000 scholarships annually to students of the arts, both in Israel and abroad, and to the support of programs for teaching of the arts and the development of Israel's art schools.

Building and sustaining Israel's cultural life is our mission – for this generation and those to follow.

Support for the arts in Israel takes the form of our **Sharett Scholarship Program**.

Some of our more well known scholarship recipients are musi-

cians: Itzhak Perlman, Pinchas Zukerman, Yefim Bronfman, Gil Shaham, Shlomo Mintz, Daniel Barenboim, Joseph Kalichstein, composer Shulamit Ran, choreographer Ohad Naharin, visual artist Menashe Kadishman, artist Michal Rovner, and filmmaker Dover Koshashvili.

A) Scholarships for study in Israel. Scholarships are granted in the following categories:

Music-all of the orchestral instruments, voice, piano, chamber music, instruments of old music, plucked string instruments, instruments of Arabic music, conducting, composition, and jazz.

Visual Arts- painting, sculpture, photography, multimedia, video, design of all kinds and architecture.

Dance – ballet, modern dance and choreography

Film & Television – scriptwriting, directing, editing, photography and general studies.

Theatre – acting, directing and playwrighting.

B) Scholarships for study abroad. Scholarships are granted for all of the above-mentioned categories for graduate students or those who have exhausted their study possibilities in Israel.

C) Fellowships for artists and teachers – This program grants support for short term professional study. These grants are designed to assist advanced students, professional artists and teachers of the arts to participate in training programs and conferences, advanced courses and seminars in Israel and abroad, as well as trips abroad to broaden their professional horizons.

D) Travel grants for scholarship students to attend competitions and workshops abroad – The purpose of this program is to meet the needs of AICF scholarship recipients who are invited to participate in international workshops, competitions, festivals, etc., because in most cases, the travel costs are not provided by the organizers of these events.

E) Teacher's Coaching Project  
– This project, initiated in 2002 by violinist Miriam Fried and the Jerusalem Music Center, enables leading violin teachers of Israel's music academies to serve as mentors to music teachers in music conservatories throughout Israel. This pilot program has been extended to include piano and jazz studies through the MATAN project. MATAN is an organization whose purpose is to nurture arts and culture for Israeli youth.

F) Musical Instrument Bank – loan of musical instruments and acquisition grants  
Projects for Young Artists – the purpose of these projects is to provide young artists with opportunities for professional development.

Jerusalem Music Centre's Young Musician's Unit

Israeli Defense Forces Outstanding Musicians Program

The Aviv Competitions

Artic Exhibitions and Catalogues

Acquisition of Israeli Art by Israeli museums which has been created by young Israeli artists

Projects for young artists in theatre, dance and music.

Israeli Opera Studio

Support for Art Schools and Workshops

AICF provides seed money, which often serves as a trigger for other support. In general, we prefer to invest in people, rather than in equipment. We assist different schools in all fields of the arts, and don't necessarily support the same schools year after year.

## A LEGACY OF INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Among the major centers of culture around the world in which AICF scholarship alumni have been represented, past and present, are:

### *ART*

Metropolitan Museum of Art  
Museum of Modern Art, New York

The Jewish Museum

The Art Institute of Chicago  
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

Museum of Modern Art,  
San Francisco

Los Angeles County  
Museum of Art

The White House  
Sculpture Garden

Hakone Museum, Japan  
Musee de l'Elysee, Lausanne  
Bibliotheque Nationale, Paris  
Berlin Museum

The Israel Museum, Jerusalem  
Tel Aviv Museum of Art  
Haifa Museum

### *MUSIC*

New York Philharmonic  
Chicago Symphony Orchestra  
The Philadelphia Orchestra  
San Diego Symphony  
Houston Symphony Orchestra  
Santa Barbara Symphony  
Metropolitan Opera Orchestra  
Bavarian Radio Orchestra, Munich

Hong Kong Symphony  
Israel Philharmonic Orchestra  
Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra  
Haifa Symphony Orchestra  
Israel Camerata Rehovot  
Israel Chamber Orchestra  
IDF Chamber Orchestra

### *DANCE*

Martha Graham Dance Company  
Ballet Hispanico of New York  
Lar Lubovitch Dance Company  
Bejart 20th Century Ballet  
Batsheva Dance Company  
Bat-Dor Dance Company  
The Israel Ballet  
Inbal Dance Theatre

### *FILM*

New York Film Festival  
Israel Film Festivals/NY & LA  
Edinburgh International Festival  
Cineuropa Festival of Florence  
Rotterdam Film Festival  
Montpellier Festival, France  
Mexico City Film Festival  
Jerusalem International Festival

### *THEATER*

BAM Theater Festival  
Broadway Production of  
"Les Miserables"  
Sanford Meisner Theater,  
New York  
Cameri Theater  
Habimah National Theater  
Beer Sheva Municipal Theater  
New York State Theater  
Gesher

first prize at the “Franz Schubert and the Music of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Competition” in Graz, Austria.

Other awards include: the International Music Forum of Normandy’s Special Prize as guests of the Forum; and two awards from the Israel Minister of Education. The first of those awards was bestowed in 1998, for the Quartet’s contribution to the development of chamber music in Israel and the second award the Quartet received the Israel Minister of Education’s Prize for Israeli Music.

The Quartet has appeared with preeminent artists such as Daniel Barenboim (AICF Scholar), Tabea Zimmerman, Joseph Kalichstein (AICF Scholar), Richard Stolzman, Boris Pergamenschikow, Sharon Kam, Jessye Norman and the Vermeer and Prazak Quartets.

The Quartet’s varied repertoire ranges from Haydn to contemporary music. The Jerusalem Quartet is a frequent guest at important music centers throughout the world. Its members serve on the teaching staff of the Royal Academy of Music in London, where they give master classes in chamber music.

