Sharing Israeli Culture with the World

Supporting future generations of Israeli artists and art

“A table, a chair, a bowl of fruit and a violin; what else does a man need to be happy?”

— Albert Einstein

Photos from our 2010 dance auditions taken by Nitzan Pri-Har
IN THE SHOP OF AMNON WEINSTEIN, cellos, violins, and other instruments are preserved and repaired, waiting for the next generation of promising young Israeli musicians to make them their own. Perhaps the robust sounds of a cello being played during AICF’s famed Aviv Competitions once had its home in Weinstein’s shop; that hauntingly beautiful violin resonating through sold-out performances at Carnegie Hall may have been lovingly used by previous generations of Israeli musicians. Through the Instrument Bank, an instrument from Weinstein’s shop might someday find its way into the hands of a student who could not otherwise afford to own one.

As one of AICF’s many programs, the Instrument Bank is ensuring the rich traditions of Israeli musicians sharing their gifts with the world. With the overwhelming, generous support of our donors, AICF provides scholarships for these young artists both at home and abroad, to study music, theatre, painting, photography, ballet, modern dance, and all the art forms we know and love. Wherever an Israeli artist practices his or her craft, AICF is not far behind. Though 2009 was a difficult time for many organizations, we can proudly report that the America-Israel Cultural Foundation continues its vital role in sharing Israeli artists and their art with the world.

“Before I applied for the AICF scholarship for the first time at the age of 12, I was seriously considering abandoning my violin studies. Receiving the scholarship has been a major turning point in my life—it helped me regain my confidence and gave me the motivation to work much harder…The America-Israel Cultural Foundation is a vital factor in promoting musical education and excellence in Israel, and it is your donation that makes the existence of the foundation and its essential activities possible.”

—Elad Bogomolny, Violinist

Elad Bogomolny
Our Programs Continue

Undeterred by crisis, AICF is still supporting the cultural education of our artists

ANY ARTIST WILL TELL YOU that, to develop and promote one’s craft, the most valuable gift is time. But time does not come without costs. While other organizations have, unfortunately, had to close their doors due to economic challenges, AICF’s doors are still open; and within you can hear the crisp melody of a violin playing Bach, the flutter of steps from Israeli dancers, or see a masterpiece made by a young Israeli sculptor. Our programs – especially such programs as our Periphery Encouragement and Enrichment Program – aid these artists who might put down their paint brush or let their violin gather dust without financial assistance.

Thanks to the generous support of the Arison family, who pledged $2.5 million to support this program as well as many others, we are well on our way to helping rebuild arts education where it’s most needed.

"We are proud to be the lead sponsor of AICF, whose work in Israel is invaluable in inspiring and encouraging young Israeli artists to achieve excellence.
— Jason Arison, Chairman and CEO, Ted Arison Family Foundation, Inc.

The America-Israel Cultural Foundation gives a feeling to me that people from both sides of the world really care about art and creation. I, myself, (the second generation in my family to be helped by the foundation) have been greatly aided by the support I will receive. And for that I am very thankful.
— Max Oleartchik, Contrabass
The Foundation’s Strength

Our proud traditions and vitality endures

IN TIMES OF CRISIS, AICF, remarkably, still found ways to flourish. During a period of tremendous challenge and uncertainty, our donors revealed their profound generosity at a time when we needed it the most. Demonstrating their support and appreciation of our tradition of excellence in cultivating Israeli talent, in 2009, we met every scholarship commitment. This year, $3 million is our goal so that we can work towards helping thousands more. Our vitality has always been ensured through your enthusiasm. For that, the America-Israel Cultural Foundation is enormously grateful.

I would like to thank you for your decision to donate funds for young musicians’ scholarships even in this very difficult time, when the Bernard Madoff scam and the general world economic crisis have threatened to put an end to AICF’s activities. Thus not only severing a years-long chain of glorious achievements in encouraging great artists who had a considerable contribution to Israeli and World Culture at large, but would have created a Black Hole in the state of art in Israel that no other institution in the country is currently in a position to fill.

— Inbar Paz-Michaeli, Double-Bass

“...I am going to be a professional musician after my military service in the Tzahal Orchestra. Your support will help me to continue my music education even during my years in the army, thus letting me keep my musical skills at the highest level.”

— Eitan Gofman, Saxophone
We rely heavily on the support and patronage given to us in order to advance in the difficult reality of the musical world. This is especially true in the current economic climate. Your resolve does not go unnoticed. As much as the monetary assistance enables our progress, so does the moral support and encouragement we draw from your recognition of our talent.

— Zohar Agmon, Mezzo-Soprano

Dear donors,
My name is Coral and I am 16 years old.
At my relatively young age I have already discovered my own inner flame which drives me and inspires me towards my goal. My calling demands total commitment, concentration and even the sacrifice of things that most 16 year olds take for granted. Dance involves maturity, ambition and the knowledge that success is rewarded only to a chosen few. There are many obstacles along the way, some physical, some emotional and some material over which one has no control.

The foundation’s contribution and support is extremely essential for me in fulfilling my destiny in becoming a professional dancer. I am “hungry” to keep on learning, acquiring skills and information wherever I can. I thank you sincerely and am forever grateful to you for granting the scholarship.

Sincerely,
Coral Etzyoni, Dancer

The scholarship that I was granted gave me confidence in the field of dance. It strengthened my resolve to do better and to develop my potential. My dream is to be a professional dancer and perform around the world. I thank you for the opportunities that you have opened for me.

— Amit Barkat, Dancer
Help share Israeli culture through your generosity

THIS YEAR, AICF PLANS to broaden our global reach through the following ways:

• Expanding our auditions and fields of study
• Increasing the number of awards, nearly doubling the number of new scholarships granted in 2009
• Continuing to provide young musicians with the opportunity to play world-class violins and cellos wherever they may go through our Instrument Bank
• Providing travel scholarships to help young artists pursue their dreams
• Supporting over a dozen other key programs including our Periphery Encouragement Programs

See the future of Israeli culture and experience the enormous gifts of our artists by joining us at our Gala event on Sunday, October 17, 2010. The Gala will feature Israeli dance, music by the Israeli Roots group “Shorashim”, classical music, as well as a special performance by two of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation’s rising stars, immensely talented artists who at their young age can look forward to many more years of financial support. Despite setbacks, AICF’s foundation is once again strong, thanks to the dedication and support of so many who recognized that supporting the arts is invaluable, as is sharing Israeli culture with the world. Please come to our Gala so that you can experience, first-hand, the enormous impact your generosity has made in the lives of so many.

SAVE THE DATE!* Sunday October 17, 2010 3pm Jazz at Lincoln Center Frederick P. Rose Hall

America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Inc.
Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN IN MEMORIAM
Isaac Stern

CHAIR EMERITUS
Vera Stern

OFFICERS
William A. Schwartz, PRESIDENT
Sanford L. Batkin, VICE PRESIDENT
Linda Schonfeld, SECRETARY
Joseph E. Hollander, TREASURER
Jonathan E. Goldberg, ASSISTANT SECRETARY
Barbara Samuelson, ASSISTANT TREASURER

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Sanford L. Batkin
Diane Belfer
Ann Bialkin
Renée Cheniak*
Lonny Darwin
Debbie B. Edelson*
Jonathan E. Goldberg
David Goldman
Charlotte S. Hattenbach*
Joseph E. Hollander
Stephanie Katzovitz
Jane Stern Lebell
Bradley Lubin
Wendy Marks
Marguerite Perkins-Mautner*
Helen Sax Potaznik
Tamar Rudich
Barbara Samuelson
Linda Schonfeld
Renee Schreiber
William A. Schwartz
Romie Shapiro
Carol Starley*
Ralph Tomberg
* Chapter President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS
David Homan, USA
Ort Naot, Israel

ARTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Jacques d’Amboise
Milton Babbitt
Menashe Kadishman
Joseph Kalichstein
Wolfgang Laufer
Zubin Mehta
Itzhak Perlman
Dina Recanati
John Rubinstein
Robert Sherman
Joan Miklin Silver
Neil Simon
Stephen Sondheim
Frances Sternhagen
Eugenia Zukerman
Pinchas Zukerman

America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Inc.
is tax-exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (tax ID: 13-1664048)
DEAR READERS,
Several weeks ago, I attended the State of Israel Bonds Shabbaton event in Aventura, Florida, where I was pleased to find widespread support for Israel. Even during difficult economic times, people still contribute to our country and its cultural development, proving the strength of Zionism.

Everyone has a part in helping Israel, the Jewish democratic state that has created its own unique culture, which it presents daily to the world.

Although our government’s cultural budget was not cut this year, it is still minimal – only .2% of the overall budget. Our cultural institutions continually struggle; donations have declined because of the world economy and our own budgetary crisis.

Yet despite limited financial resources, our diverse culture retains its strong international reputation. For the last three years, an Israeli film has been an Oscar nominee for Best Language Film. Israel’s seven million population purchases five million theater tickets a year, giving us the world’s highest per capita theater attendance. Our theater companies appear everywhere: Beijing, Moscow, New York, Budapest . . . The world-class Batsheva Dance Company has introduced Israeli dance around the globe. The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, talented musicians, visual artists and designers, best-selling international authors – all are wonderful cultural ambassadors for Israel.

All this cultural flowering could not grow solely from a government budget, without additional assistance from other funds and agencies. The America-Israel Cultural Foundation leads in supporting many talented artists in Israel, enabling them to pursue their dreams and showcase our State worldwide.

Sincerely yours,
Limor Livnat
Minister of Culture and Sport
About the America-Israel Cultural Foundation

THE AMERICA-ISRAEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION (AICF) has been a pillar of Israeli culture since 1939, supporting promising young artists through over 14,000 scholarships, as well as over 600 of Israel’s leading arts institutions.

In 2010, AICF celebrates its 71st Anniversary serving the arts in Israel. Our scholarship recipients reach millions around the world, all those who enjoy and celebrate Israeli culture.

AICF is proud to be part of the fabric of Israel’s history, where the arts have nourished and sustained the soul of its people for generations.

VISIT WWW.AICF.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION