Israeli Artists Around the World
- The Cultural Connection -

The impact of Israeli culture keeps expanding. Every year, our scholarship recipients are winning seats in the most prestigious orchestras, earning top prizes at international film festivals, showing in respected galleries, and performing on Broadway. All over the world, AICF artists are sharing their passion with the world. For this reason, we are creating an international cultural calendar and database to connect artists, donors, and audiences.

The Artist Network

Tel Aviv

For many of our artists, their first steps are in Tel Aviv. There’s a reason for this—Richard Florida’s *The Rise of the Creative Class* ranks Tel Aviv among the top twenty cities in the world for global creativity. Artists are drawn to the city by its tolerant, tech-friendly, and arts-oriented reputation. Better still, studies have consistently shown that there is a direct link between vibrant culture and economic growth.
Berlin

With hundreds of galleries, an abundance of music venues, numerous festivals, shows, work spaces, and opportunities for international exposure, it isn’t surprising that Israeli artists find themselves drawn to Berlin as a vibrant cultural center. A growing community of artists of all fields and backgrounds have flocked to the city for the opportunity to develop and share their work in a unique and exceptionally liberal atmosphere of experimentation and creativity. Almost every art gallery in Tel Aviv today has representatives living and working in Berlin.

"Berlin, being such a dynamic, cosmopolitan and young-spirited city, attracts us Israelis even more strongly, since we all grew up in an extremely dynamic, ever changing, ever growing country that we all love so much.”
- Gad Kadosh, Conductor and Pianist

"As a composer, Berlin offers me good perspectives while dealing with the past, living the present and striving for a fulfilling future in my creative work.”
- Gilad Hochman, Composer

Jerusalem

While Tel Aviv stands as a beacon for Israeli artists, one of our goals at AICF is to highlight flourishing Israeli culture in Jerusalem and other major cities throughout the world. Western and Mediterranean cultures collide in Jerusalem. Last year, thousands saw the premiere concert of the New Jerusalem Orchestra, just one example of an artistic group that explores all the different facets of the city’s life.

"Some of Jerusalem’s unique treasures have not been fully explored by its residents or its visitors. The most recent and perennial flowering of artists and arts activity has yet to be discovered. Once revealed, this burgeoning artistic activity will lend fresh perspectives and experiences that will animate the city, creating a different narrative and understanding of what Jerusalem is about.”
- Ruth Cummings, Nathan Cummings Foundation
Tell me about your first teacher

I started with Alice Fenyves when I was eight. She was not only my teacher, but also became my second mother. She was of Hungarian origin, and she was one of the major teachers in Israel. She was wonderful. Basically, she was the one who taught me how to play the violin. Towards the end of my studies, I played with her. I traveled with her and her husband to Europe. It was a relationship that became a friendship as well.

Her school was very music-centered instead of technique-centered. You could describe my education as somewhat unorthodox. We played a lot of very serious music repertoire before playing the standard child/student fare. So I played, for example, a recital that included Beethoven and Brahms, but I hadn't learned the Bruch Concerto until I was in my thirties. It probably formed me in a fundamental way and influenced how I think about teaching, and the relationship between technique and music, throughout my life.

An Interview with Miriam Fried

One of the world's preeminent violinists, Miriam Fried has played with nearly every major orchestra in the U.S. and Europe. A member of the Mendelssohn String Quartet, Fried has collaborated with artists including Isaac Stern, Pinchas Zukerman, and, of course, her husband, the violinist/violist Paul Biss.

Born in Romania, Miriam Fried immigrated to Israel when she was two. She took early childhood lessons with Alice Fenyves and came to the U.S. as a protégée of Isaac Stern. Miriam Fried and her son, pianist Jonathan Biss, will perform this year at the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Gala.
What do you remember about Isaac Stern?

I met Stern when I was twelve. In those days, it was phenomenal that all the great artists came to the Conservatory, and we got to play for them and meet them. It was really an incredibly important part of our development. I knew him for the rest of his life. I was in touch with him all of those years.

Certainly, I can say that his example of being not only a great artist and violinist, but also a great advocate for a variety of causes, influenced me. He became a role model, not only for his playing, but for his profound and ongoing care. I’ve tried to model the way that I act after what I learned from him.

What do you try to impart on your students?

I think there are different ways of approaching performances. We live in a world of great personality cult where the actual point of interest is more the personality of the performer than the music they play. I don’t think it’s particularly interesting to make people play like yourself. My goal is to teach my students how to think about music: what is important, what’s not important, what’s central, what’s peripheral. Then they do with it what they want. You spend the first half of your life gathering information, the second half getting rid of it—and you end up with your own distilled truth.

What’s it like to be an Israeli musician living abroad?

I go to Israel twice a year. I work with young violinists, so I feel Israeli not only because I have an Israeli passport. I care about what happens to Israelis in the world of music, and I try, to the best of my ability, to contribute as much as I can for someone who doesn’t live there every day. I continue to have a very strong relationship [with Israel]—a relationship that’s more than just a visit.

What’s it like performing with your son?

It’s absolutely fabulous. I don’t know if there’s a genetic connection, musically. Somehow, we seem to have musical personalities that really are wonderfully matched. It’s wonderful to be able to share something with your own son that’s so meaningful.

Miriam Fried was an AICF scholarship recipient from 1956-68.
"As an art student, I perceive the Foundation’s actions as a unique public voice, calling for the development of Israeli culture and promoting it as a national priority. I am honored to be one of those chosen to join the great family of artists who’ve received the scholarship in the past and are taking part in the art world today... I wish to be worthy of the honor I’ve received, to make art in a meaningful, fruitful and committed way that will reach as many people as possible.”

– Naama Hadany, Visual Artist

Fundraising Highlights

$3.2 Million
to Israel in the last two years

600 young artists funded
in 2010

Nearly

More than 100 arts teachers in the periphery received free training to improve the quality of Israel’s arts education.
This year, we’re pleased to present some of Israel’s most amazing artists, from world-renowned violinist Miriam Fried to twelve-year-old pianist Alon Kariv, who will be making his North American debut. There’s no better way to see how far the America-Israel Cultural Foundation has come, or where we’re going, than to attend our 2011 Gala.

Visit www.aicf.org and subscribe to our monthly email newsletter to receive news on the activities and achievements of all of our artists.
Collaborations

From shared early experiences such as serving as Outstanding Musicians in the Israel Defense Force and being Aviv Competition winners, our artists go on to perform with the leaders of their fields. Soon you’ll be able to find out about upcoming collaborations from our Artist Network.

More Notable Collaborations and Performances

Composer **Tomer Addadi** > Internationally acclaimed tenor Andrea Bocelli and legendary rock band The Scorpions • Trumpeter **Itamar Borochov** > Trombonist Curtis Fuller and Cuban percussionist Candido Camero • Composer **Oran Eldor** > Vocal greats Bette Midler and Kristin Chenoweth • Percussionist **Ronen Itzik** > Jazz leaders Joe Lovano, Vardan Ovsepian, and Bill Kennedy • Flutist **Itai Kriss** > Renowned saxophonist Arnie Lawrence • Flutist **Hadar Noiberg** > Latin Jazz artist Dave Valentin and Saxophonist Joel Frahm
Distinctions

From film festivals to music competitions, every year AICF artists are winning top prizes all over the world. We’re constantly amazed by the distinctions our recipients are awarded throughout their careers—here are just a few of the many honors our gala artists have received.

Inbal Abergil  Tel Aviv Department of Arts and Culture’s Rabinovich Prize  •  Noa Charuvi Participant in Elizabeth Foundation for Art’s prestigious Art Studio Program  •  Semion Gavrikov Claremont Competition and Aviv Award Winner  •  Israel Gliksberg 2011 Nathan Davis Prize  •  Moran Katz Freiberg International Clarinet Competition  •  Nadav Lev Andrés Segovia Award  •  Perry Tal Outstanding Musician Distinction Award from Maestro Zubin Mehta  •  Ronnie Reshef scored a film honored with Berlin International Film Festival Awards  •  Itamar Zorman Tchaikovsky Award winner  •  Shai Zurim  Eugen Kolb Prize for Israeli Graphic Art

Hani Furstenberg  Winner of the Israeli Oscar for Best Supporting Actress, Campfire.

Kobi Malkin  Recipient of the 2011 Aviv Award for violin performance.


Guy Ben-Ari  Received the Lauren and Mitchell Presser Award for Excellence in Painting.

Michael Katz and Itamar Zorman  Won the Coleman and Arriaga Competition as part of the Lysander Trio.
Israel’s artists constantly innovate, showcasing the strength of the nation’s culture in every corner of the world. Here are a few recent concerts, projects and exhibitions from our Gala performers. Once our Israeli Artist Network is up and running, you'll be able to find the latest shows and exhibits wherever you go!

**Re’ut Ben Ze’ev** – Artist-in-Residence at the Israeli consulates in Miami and Puerto Rico

**Rafael Skorka** – Cleveland Institute of Music, Ohio

**Haggai Cohen Milo** – Created an improvisation program for Alonso King Lines Dance Company in San Francisco

**Assa Bigger** – Work collected at Selia Sorbito in Veracruz, Mexico

**Itamar Jobani** – Julie M. Gallery, Toronto

**Zvi Gotheiner** – Alvin Ailey Dance Company in New York City

**Leor Grady** – Guggenheim and in the Smithsonian's National Portrait Gallery

**Maya Barkai** – Walking Men, Lower Manhattan

**Omer Shaish** – Broadway on Broadway concert, New York

**Tali Kravitz** – Steans Institute for Young Artists at the Ravinia Festival, Chicago

**Alon Nechushtan** – Brazil’s Sao Paolo Jewish Music Festival
The America-Israel Cultural Foundation (AICF) has been the touchstone of Israeli culture since 1939, supporting promising young artists with more than 15,000 scholarships and funding over 600 leading arts institutions. AICF is proud to be a part of the fabric of Israel, where the arts have nourished and sustained the soul of its people for generations.

Your support makes a difference by providing education and career development opportunities to promising young artists. Celebrate and foster the work of Israel's most accomplished artists by attending -

**AICF's 72nd Anniversary Gala • Sunday, December 4th, 2011**

For more information call (212) 557-1600
or visit www.aicf.org/gala/