

Dr. Amit Weiner

Artistic Experience – Composer, Pianist, Musical Producer

From Carnegie Hall in New York to the halls of Macao and Hong Kong, from writing music for the great music libraries in London for television and films, to fringe venues in Israel and overseas – Amit Weiner's music transcends boundaries of genres, both artistic – and commercial, reaching many audiences in Israel and overseas.

Composer

Amit Weiner is active both in the field of concert music and of popular music. His works and arrangements are consistently performed in major Israeli – and overseas concert venues, among them the Galaxy Theater (Macao, China), the Cyberport Complex (Hong Kong), Carnegie Hall (New York), and more. In Israel, his works have been performed at the Jerusalem Theatre as part of the Israeli Music Festival, at the Desert Sounds Festival, in the Aviv Competitions (Tel Aviv Museum of Art), the Jerusalem Music Centre, Haifa University, at Bar Ilan University, the Hebrew University (Jerusalem) the Beer Sheva Performing Arts Center, the Jerusalem Cinematheque in the 2011 Jerusalem International Film Festival and in the 2013 Jerusalem Jewish Film Festival, the Tel Aviv Cinematheque, the Jerusalem Theatre and the Wise Auditorium (Jerusalem). Music written and arranged by him has consistently been performed both in halls and in popular music venues, such as the “Yellow Submarine” (Jerusalem), Levontin 7 (Tel Aviv), Beit Avi Chai (Jerusalem), the Simta Theatre (Jaffa), the Avram Bar (Jerusalem) and the Uganda Club (Jerusalem).

Ensembles that have played his works and arrangements include the Israel Camerata Jerusalem, the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, the Kaprisma Ensemble, the Ariel Quartet, the Nitzan Choir, the Ankor Choir, and also orchestras and ensembles of the following conservatories: The Jerusalem “Sadna”, The Israel Conservatory (Tel Aviv) and the Netanya Conservatory. Among leading Israeli musicians who have performed his works are conductors Yaniv Dinur, Omer Welber and Doron Salomon. He frequently writes symphonic arrangements of Israeli song repertoire and arrangements for concert series of the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva and many other ensembles. His arrangements of the music from the film “Schindler's List” were played in the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva's concert tour of China in 2012.

His oeuvre includes over 30 chamber and orchestral works, among them two concertos for piano and orchestra, a number of orchestral works, songs, chamber music and works for piano. In addition, he has written the music for two full-length silent films – “Breaking Home Ties” (1922) and “Life of the Jews in the

Land of Israel" (1913). He is also highly active as an arranger in the field of popular music and the Hebrew song repertoire, with over 50 Hebrew song arrangements for a variety of ensembles, among them orchestral arrangements.

His works are published by the Israeli Music Institute and the Israeli Composers' League.

In November 2012, Amit Weiner received a commission from the National Center for Jewish Film to write the soundtrack of the film "Breaking Home Ties" for the Hong Kong Jewish Film Festival (HKJFF). In November 2012, he was invited to appear as pianist and composer in two live concert performances of the soundtrack he had composed; two performances took place, the first in the opening of the Jewish Film Festival in Hong Kong, with another in one of the large cinema halls in Macau, where, together with a Hong Kong ensemble of players, he played the piano part of music he had composed.

In 2013, he was commissioned by the 2013 International Festival of Jewish Film (Jerusalem) to write music for another silent film "Lives of the Jews in the Land of Israel". The music he composed was performed live by the composer (piano) and Noam Arad (accordion).

A CD of the soundtrack of "Breaking Home Ties" has recently been issued, a project realized through the generous support of the ACUM Fund for the Encouraging of Artists. The CD is performed by Amit Weiner and the "Metropolis" Ensemble, which he established.

In 2014, he received a commission to write a new work for the Hong Kong Holocaust and Tolerance Center (HKHTC) to be performed in Hong Kong in 2015 on International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

In 2012, Amit Weiner was elected to be a member of the council of the Israeli Composers' League.

Amit Weiner: Pianist

As soloist and chamber music artist, Amit Weiner has appeared in major Israeli concert venues, among them the Abu Gosh Vocal Music Festival, several appearances at the "Sounds in the Desert" Festival, the "Room Dance" Festival, at the Tel Aviv Museum of Art, the Eden-Tamir Music Center (Jerusalem), the Henry Crown Auditorium and Rebecca Crown Hall (Jerusalem Theatre), "Ha'teiva" Hall (Tel Aviv), the Suzanne Dellal Center for Dance and Theater (Tel Aviv), the

Gerard Behar Performance Center (Jerusalem), at the 2011 Jerusalem Film Festival, at official events of the Israeli Knesset; also as a regular accompanist for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra (Israel Broadcasting Authority) and for various choirs. He has appeared as pianist with the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance Orchestra and the “Etnachta” concert series (Henry Crown Hall, Jerusalem Theatre).

He has appeared as guest artist with the Tel Aviv Soloists Ensemble, the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva and with the JAMD Orchestra. He has also appeared as pianist in Hong Kong and Macau (China). As pianist and composer, has made many recordings for the Voice of Music (Israeli radio), also on a CD collection of music of Moshe Wilensky for the NMC label.

In September 2007, he performed as soloist with the Israel Camerata Jerusalem in his work “The Lights of Jerusalem” - a concerto for piano, clarinet and orchestra.

He frequently performs his own piano works, also premiering works of other composers, among them Odeya Nini, Aviya Kopelman, Nuri Yaacobi and Shaul Bustan.

Amit Weiner: Musical Director

Amit Weiner regularly takes on directing concerts of both classical- and popular music. The ensembles he founded and directed at the JAMD as of 2007 have remained a permanent and successful practice of music-making, breaking through barriers and reaching out to a wide range of audiences, promoting the Academy of Music in the eyes of the general public. In addition, they have been productive in encouraging collaboration with organizations of varied disciplines, among them the Nisan Nativ School of Acting, “Hasadna” Conservatory (Jerusalem), the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, Mazia House (Jerusalem), the Elem Foundation for Youth in Distress, and more. The ensembles have devoted each session to a different composer of Israeli song: the Sasha Argov Ensemble, the Naomi Shemer Ensemble, the Ma’apilim (illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine during the British mandate) Ensemble, those performing early Israeli songs and the Yohanan Zarai Ensemble, the Yona Wallach Ensemble and the Berthold Brecht Ensemble.

In 2010, the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance issued the promotion CD “Multi-Cultured Taste” featuring his arrangements for the Naomi Shemer Ensemble, with Amit Weiner on piano.

In June 2013 a completely staged performance of Hanoch Levin's play "Queen of the Bath" took place, a collaboration of the Jerusalem Academy of Music and the Nisan Nativ Acting Studio, with musical production by Amit Weiner; the performance was sponsored by the Jerusalem Foundation.

The ensembles he established have given many successful performances in major venues

throughout Israel, those including the "Yellow Submarine", Beit Avi Chai and the Eden-Tamir Music Center; they performed in a special fundraising concert for the ELEM Foundation for Youth in Distress, at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the JAMD in the presence of the mayor of Jerusalem, at the Simta Theatre, appearing in "Jazz on the Avenue" (Tel Aviv), "Hasadna" Conservatory (Jerusalem), the Wise Auditorium (Hebrew University of Jerusalem), at the Beer Sheva Performing Arts Center in a performance together with the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, in "Zemershet" at Zionist Organization of America House (Tel Aviv) and Levontin 7.

They also performed in the "transparent studio" of Music Channel 24 in a day of broadcasts commemorating songwriter Naomi Shemer. Performances of the ensembles have been broadcast, receiving much comment on major Israeli radio stations – among them Radio Station 2 (IBA), the Voice of Music (IBA) Army Radio 88fm and regional radio stations, also on "A Star is Born 8" on Radio Station 2.

Amit Weiner undertakes productions on a regular basis and appears as the pianist in the annual Holocaust Day Memorial concert at Yad Vashem – "Music of Holocaust Composers" – a concert perpetuating the works of Jewish composers who perished in the Holocaust.

Scholarships and Prizes

2013 ACUM grant – Advancement Scholarship from the ACUM support fund for the encouragement and support of the **Israeli composer**, for the recording of an album of music written by Amit Weiner for the silent Jewish film "Breaking Home Ties".

2005 The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance: **Scholarship for Excellence** in M.Mus. studies.

2000-2006 **America-Israel Cultural Foundation Scholarships** for

excellence in Composition.

- 2004** The Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance: **first prize for piano performance of an Israeli work** (Amit Weiner: “The Rain” for piano and alto voice)

Articles and Publications

- 2012** “**The Time Component in Arvo Pärt’s ‘New Simplicity’, or ‘What is the Meaning of a Rest Whose Length is Zero Half-Notes?’**” an article in the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance’s biennial publication “Music and Dance in Time”.
- 2011** “**Serial Components in Arvo Pärt’s ‘New Simplicity’**”, doctoral dissertation (Ph.D.) , Bar Ilan University, 2011