



**Thursday, November 11, 2021**  
**The Henry Crown Hall at 9:00 PM**

### **Multidisciplinary Performance no. 2 – Mozart in the Fertile Crescent**

The Jerusalem East-West Orchestra | Conductor: **Matan Yona**

Soloists and composers: **Michael Wolpe, Nizar Elkhater, and Guy Mintus**

Three Mozart-inspired works, commissioned by the Jerusalem East-West Orchestra, and a newly discovered composition by Mozart: Allegro in D Major K. 626b/16. (c. 70 minutes)

**The Jerusalem East-West** orchestra consciously combines artistic quality with good entertainment. Arrangements by music director Tom Cohen amalgamize Eastern and Western idioms into an organic language. Maqamat meet Western scales, and Western rhythms converse with Arabo-Islamic rhythmic patterns. The orchestra consists of classical oriental instruments such as darbuka, qanun, oud, and ney, sometimes replenished by kamanjā, banjo, or flamenco guitar. The string section is particularly agile in moving between Eastern and Western styles. The brass section, à la Broadway-trumpet, saxophone, and trombone – are supported by a varied rhythm section: bass and electric guitars, drums, darbuka, bendir, frame drums, cajón, bongos, bells, and rattling devices. This plethora enables the orchestra to perform materials from the East in a Western arrangement and vice versa, thus honoring the original creation while striving to enrich it and make it palatable to new tasters.

**Matan Yona** | the house conductor of the Jerusalem East-West Orchestra, has been a regular orchestral member since 2013, starting as a trombone player. Following the conducting debut with his home orchestra in 2016, he conducted the Haifa Symphony Orchestra and Raanana Symphonette. His compositions and arrangements have been performed by the J-m East-West Orchestra, the Israel Camerata J-m, the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, Meitar Ensemble, and Tremolo Ensemble. In addition, he orchestrated the musical “This Is Me” at the Cameri Theater. Matan has won scholarships and conducting awards. He is a graduate of the Petah Tikva Municipal Conservatory and the J-m Academy of Music and Dance, where he won the Outstanding Dean Award.

**Continues on the next page**

**Michael Wolpe** | one of Israel's outstanding composers, music producers, and educators, has won many awards, including the Prime Minister's Award, the Rosenblum Award of the Tel Aviv Municipality, the Minister of Culture Award for a singular contribution to Jewish and Israeli culture, and the ACUM Award for Lifetime Achievement. A member of Kibbutz Sde Boker in the Negev, Michael founded and directed the Sounds in the Desert Festival and the Israeli Music Festival. Also, he was the art director of the Ashdod Andalusian Orchestra. Today, he is the art director of this Piano Festival, which he co-founded. He studied composition at the Academy of Music and Dance in Jerusalem and Cambridge University and completed his doctorate at the Hebrew U Musicology Department. Professor Wolpe officiates as Dean of the Multidisciplinary Music Faculty at the J-m Academy of Music and Dance. His oeuvre, performed by first-rate performers and comprising various styles, includes light music and Hebrew songs. Michael is intent on connecting community activism with concert music.

**Nizar Elkhater** | is an Israeli pianist, composer, arranger, and conductor. In addition to his frequent appearances as a soloist and chamber music musician, he devotes much of his time to educational work with children and youth orchestras in the periphery. He is also the artistic director of the Arab-Jewish Orchestra. Nizar is an award-winning honorary graduate of the Israel Conservatory of Music and the J-m Academy of Music and Dance. He teaches at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance and broadcasts on various "Kan" stations.

**Guy Mintus** | a gifted pianist and composer, has performed in over 20 countries. Guy's family, rooted in Iraqi, Moroccan, and Polish traditions, may be the reason why he feels equally at home performing with Western classical orchestras, jazz giants, and masters of non-European music. Guy collaborated with the J-m Symphonic Orchestra, the Bavarian Philharmonic Orchestra, and the J-m Orchestra East-West. He won the Leonard Bernstein Award from ASCAP and the Prix du Public of the Montreux Jazz Festival Piano Competition. Guy is the leader of The Guy Mintus Trio. As of late, he is sponsored by Yamaha Pianos.