

Saturday, November 13, 2021 The Henry Crown Hall at 7 PM

The Complete Cycle of Mozart's Piano Concertos - Concert no. 8

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra Conductor: **Nir Cohen-Shalit**

- Concerto for piano and orchestra no. 22 in E-flat Major, K. 482 (c. 35 min.) Allegro / Andante / Allegro Cadenzas by Tal Samnon / Embelishments after improvisations by Robert Levin Soloist: Michal Tal
- Concerto for piano and orchestra No. 24 in C minor, K. 491 (c. 30 min.) Allegro / Larghetto / Allegretto Soloist: Asaf Zohar

Program notes on Mozart's works can be found in the festival's full brochure

Maestro Nir Cohen-Shalit is a multidisciplinary conductor with a repertoire ranging from the early Baroque to Sondheim musicals and a musicologist interested in theory, analysis, and historical approaches. Nir has won accolades for his work in both fields of activity. Described as "one of the most interesting and vital figures in Israeli musical life," he is a sought-after lecturer. Nir Cohen-Shalit has worked as a conductor with various musical bodies, including the Israeli Opera, where he served as a conducting assistant in numerous productions. He is currently completing his doctorate at New York University on a historical approach to the performance of orchestral music in the 19th century.

The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra in its 83rd season, was founded as an orchestra of the Mandatory Broadcasting Service in Palestine. It has served for many decades as the orchestra of Kol Yisrael (The Voice of Israel). The current music director is maestro Steven Sloane. Former music directors were Mendi Rodan, Lukas Foss, Gary Bertini, Lawrence Foster, David Shallon, Leon Botstein, and Frédéric Chaslin. The orchestra has performed in prominent music venues and is one of the leading orchestras in Israel. It is supported by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Jerusalem Municipality. **Michal Tal** as pianist and pedagogue spans three continents and includes performances and recordings as a soloist and a chamber musician. Winner of numerous awards, including the Minister of Education Award, she is invited to play at music festivals, give masterclasses, and judge international competitions. She co-founded the "Israeli Chamber Club," which performed about 80 works by Israeli composers, and PIANOWEBFEST, a global online piano festival. In addition, Michal Tal is a member of the "Alexander Trio" and teaches at the Buchman-Mehta School of Music.

Asaf Zohar one of the leading pianists and pedagogues in Israel, holds a Ph.D. in music from Indiana University, where he served as a guest lecturer. He has won numerous scholarships from the America-Israel Cultural Foundation, Claremont Educational Foundation, the Gerard Behar Prize, and international awards. He performs in Israel and abroad, in recitals and as a soloist, and teaches master classes in Israel and worldwide. In recent years, he has been playing masterpieces accompanied by explanations and anecdotes. Prof. Zohar served as Head of the Piano Department and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at the Jerusalem Academy of Music and Dance. He is currently Head of the Keyboard Department at the Buchman-Mehta School of Music at Tel Aviv University.