

## **Music in Israel**

Dr. Inbal Guter

### **Course Description:**

In this course, we shall survey the history of art music in Israel since the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the context of the historical circumstances in the region and the cultural and political climate in which Israeli composers created throughout the generations. In particular, we shall explore the roots of Israeli music in Jewish and regional folklore and the emergence of the popular Israeli song. We shall also locate the local compositional practices within the broader frame of contemporary developments, innovations and historical processes in Western music in general.

### **Goals:**

The course's goals are to facilitate an initial acquaintance, both theoretical and experiential, with art music in Israel, its cultural background and history of style.

### **Course Requirements:**

- Students must attend classes.
- Students must become familiar with the reading material for the course as well as with the musical works presented.
- Students must submit a short midterm paper and take a final exam.

### **Final Grade:**

- 20% midterm paper
- 80% final exam

### **Topics:**

- Global musical trends at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Music in Palestine 1880-1900
- West meets East: Before 1948
- The generation of founders
- The origins of the Israeli song
- Global musical trends: Before 1945
- The second generation of Israeli composers
- Global musical trends: After 1945
- The third generation of Israeli composers
- Contemporary trends: Cultural pluralism and postmodernism

**Preliminary bibliography:**

- Peter Gradenwitz, *The Music of Israel: From the Biblical Era to Modern Times* (Portland, OR: Amadeus Press, 1996)
- Edwin Seroussi, *Popular Music in Israel: The First Fifty Years* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard College Library, 1996)
- Jehoash Hirshberg, *Music in the Jewish Community of Palestine 1880-1948: A Social History* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995)
- Robert Jay Fleisher, *Twenty Israeli Composers: Voices of Culture* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 1997)
- Robert Morgan, *Twentieth-Century Music: A History of Musical Style in Modern Europe and America* (New York: Norton, 1991)
- Paul Griffiths, *Modern Music: A Concise History*, revised edition (New York: Thames & Hudson, 1994)
- Paul Griffiths, *Modern Music and After: Directions Since 1945* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995)

\*\* This syllabus is tentative and subject to change.