

JERUSALEM DUO

Hila Ofek & Andre Tsirlin
www.jerusalemduo.com
info@jerusalemduo.com
instagram : @jerusalem.duo
facebook: @jerusalemduo

RAINBOW

Since the beginning of time, people have always drawn inner strength and hope from the rainbow phenomena. In various cultures, the powerful spectacle of color in the sky awakens deep spiritual feelings. Different ancient tribes saw the mysterious arc of light touching both the ground and sky as a bridge between the gods and humans. According to the Bible, the rainbow symbolizes the covenant between man and God. Thus, after the great flood, the Lord gives a sign of his faithfulness and reconciliation with his created beings for all time to come.

Sometimes the rainbow seems almost within reach and yet so far away, at times powerful, and at others just delicate color arcs which disappear after a few moments. Seeing a rainbow creates happiness and joy right away.

Hanging in windows, painted on the curb with chalk or sprayed on walls as graffiti - after the outbreak of the corona virus in 2020, every walk through nearly every major city around the globe was accompanied by rainbow drawings in all shapes and forms.

The campaign, which originally aimed to provide children with an outdoor activity during the lockdown by walking through neighborhoods in search of rainbow drawings, quickly became a worldwide movement thanks to social media, and encouraging greetings with words like "Everything will be okay," "Stay healthy," and "We are staying home" were added to the images.

2020 should have been a very significant milestone in the professional career of the Jerusalem Duo, as a whole series of major projects were about to take place. Like a collapsing house of cards, all the planned

performances and travels were canceled at once and quick adjustments had to be made accordingly.

Inspired by the rainbow artworks on the streets, Jerusalem Duo developed their original concept of the "Staircase Concerts" - corona-compliant performances in the hallways of apartment buildings in Germany. This allowed them to perform the works recorded on this album, which musically portray this both historic and turbulent time.

This album offers a broad palette of musical works and styles which Jerusalem Duo crosses elegantly, quite naturally, very virtuously and highly professionally.

The personal way in which the texts to each piece on the album are written is intended to give the listener an experience which comes as close as possible to that of a live concert by Jerusalem Duo. In addition, just like in the fairy tale of the treasure at the end of a rainbow - those who will listen to this album to its very end will find an exclusive hidden bonus track.

1. SOF SOF - CORNELIO BUSER

The Hebrew translation for the word Sof is "end". However, when this word is repeated twice Sof Sof, it means "Finally" , used to express a feeling of relief after a great time of having waited for a certain something to happen. Despite the fact that this song might sound like a traditional Klezmer melody, it was in fact composed by the Swiss musician and composer Cornelius Buser and first recorded in Giora Feidman's CD: "Journey". It seems to us that "Sof sof" - will probably be the most frequently used phrase in the world once life returns to normal again.

2. PEQUENA CZARDA - PEDRO ITURRALDE

"What kind of instrument is this"? - is one of the most frequent questions which we are asked when the audience sees the soprano saxophone. In order to clarify the difference between the soprano and alto saxophones, we always play this piece written for alto saxophone by the Spanish saxophonist and composer Pedro Iturralde. Sadly, a few days before we recorded this piece, the composer passed away suddenly at the age of 71. We would like to dedicate this interpretation to his memory.

3. WHILE MY GUITAR GENTLY WEEPS - GEORGE HARRISON

Undeniably, the Beatles were one of the first musical groups which influenced several generations, which inspires to this day and whose songs and legacy will most likely live forever. This very famous song by George Harrison makes us feel the true meaning of music and its great power. It is no secret that music is an international language that builds a bridge and connects people all over the world. As musicians, it is our privilege to use it in order to share our feelings and awaken the deepest emotions in the hearts of our listeners, regardless of their origin and the country in which we play.

"...I look at you all, see the love there that's sleeping; While my guitar gently weeps..."

4. SOMETHING - GEORGE HARRISON

If music is an international form of communication, then musical genres such as classical, jazz, pop, and rock and roll should be considered simply as different dialects of the same language. However, these definitions are sometimes used to mark certain borders in music. Crossing them and mixing them until they make a new delicious cocktail is one of our greatest passions. Listen carefully and try to find out if you can recognize all the ingredients we used in this track.

5. LA FOLLIA - ANTONIO VIVALDI

La Follia has a long origin. Its characteristic harmonies come from the folk music of the late 15th century in Portugal, where it was found at folk festivals. Its name - "foolishness" or "madness" - refers to the wild way in which people danced to this music. Like modern hits, it was first spread by hear-say, and quite a few composers wrote their own versions to this melody. The "La Follia" written by Antonio Vivaldi is composed of a main theme and several variations, each with its own character and spirit.

Emotions such as love, sadness, joy, anger, pity, sadness, fear and relief are only a part of the emotions that people have been experiencing strongly since the beginning of the pandemic and which we have tried to describe musically in our playing.

6. OKTOBERFEST KARUSELL - MARIO KORUNIC

Can you imagine that post-carousel ride moment when the whole world is spinning around you and no matter what you do, you can't find a focal point to stay safe and stable? Well, more than usual, these confusing times of the Corona pandemic can resemble that weird dizzy feeling. "Oktoberfest Karussell", which is dedicated to us, is the second of three carousel songs composed by our dear friend and one of our inspiration sources, the violin virtuoso Mario Korunic.

7. OVER THE RAINBOW - HAROLD ARLEN

Watching all the beautiful rainbow artwork that decorated every major city during the first lockdown and following the various rainbow campaigns on Instagram inspired us to create a new concert program in which we will use a wide palette of tones and vivid sound colors to musically describe this very special time. This beautiful ballad from the famous movie "The Wizard of Oz" with the lyrics written by Yip Harburg and the melody composed by Harold Arlen, puts a smile on our lips every single time we hear it and a comforting feeling full of hope spreads through our bodies. So it was only natural that this iconic work would serve as the source of inspiration for our new program and album.

"...Someday I'll wish upon a star; And wake up where the clouds are far behind me; Where troubles melt like lemon drops; Away above the chimney tops; That's where you'll find me..."

8 – 9. ANCIENTECHOS FROM PSALMS – AMIT WEINER

“What excited me most when Jerusalem Duo asked me to compose a work for them was the very unusual combination of their instruments. The harp, which is mentioned already in the Bible, and the saxophone, invented only 180 years ago. The compositional process was an intensive dialogue between Hila, Andre and me, with a constant exchange of ideas and artistic proposals. I was deeply inspired by the Book of Psalms, attributed to King David himself, who was not only the first biblical king, but is probably world's most famous harp player. I wanted the piece to echo some specific psalms which tell the story of the spiritual power of music during the ancient eras of Jewish culture. And so "Ancient Echoes of Psalms" was born. I thank the Jerusalem Duo very much for their acceptance of my vision for this work, and at the same time for contributing much of their own unique creativity and performance skills to the final result.”

10. BALADA PARA UN LOCO – ASTOR PIAZZOLLA

In 1992, American music critic Stephen Holden described Astor Piazzolla as "the world's most significant tango music composer." However, conservative tangueros reject his writing style to this day. At the premiere of "Balada para un Loco" at Luna Park in Buenos Aires, the audience threw coins at the singer in protest. Nevertheless, four days later, about 200,000 copies of the album had been sold.

To our great delight, Giora Feidman reads the unusual text of Horacio Ferrer's poem on this track in his unique and impressive voice. Born in

Buenos Aires, Giora Feidman spent time with us and translated every single word in a poem which speaks about the freedom of being a bit crazy. More than anything, the corona virus pandemic will be remembered as very unstable and hard times, but sometimes, just sometimes fooling around can make things a bit easier.

11. HERE IS NICE - SERGEY RACHMANINOW

At some point on the way home after one of our last concerts in March 2020, we decided to turn off the radio in the car as it was broadcasting constant news about the worldwide spread of the new virus. Amusingly, instead of hitting the off button, we changed the radio station and stumbled upon this beautiful song by Sergey Rachmaninoff. The melancholic and unfolding emotional melody and the lyrics of Galina's song, talking about the deep relationship between man and nature, immediately captivated us and deeply inspired us. It was one of those moments when we looked at each other and immediately knew that we would start working on it the very next day.

"Here is nice... look, in the distance the river burns with fire; The meadows lay carpeted in color; The clouds gleam white; There's no one here; It's very quiet; Here's only God and me; The flowers, an old pine tree, and you; My dream"



BIOGRAPHY

Being referred to as one of the most exciting and unique ensembles in the world of chamber music, Jerusalem Duo was founded in 2012 by the harpist Hila Ofek and saxophonist Andre Tsirlin.

Since their first performance together, Jerusalem Duo has been invited to appear at major festivals throughout Europe and Israel and has performed concerts in prestige stages such as the Berlin Philharmonic hall and the Laeiszhalle in Hamburg.

"In the encounter of one of the oldest and one of the youngest instruments in the history of music, a previously seldom heard musical experience unfolds, for in the combination presented by the two musicians, harp and saxophone resound in the most magnificent harmony." - SWR 2.

"Frankfurter Neue
Presse" wrote:

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**... it's seems like one of the biggest
inspiration of the duo is the unique connec-
tion between them and their audience...
Jerusalem Duo creates an unforgettable
experience in which music becomes a
universal language and a form of
expression that opens up a path directly to
every listener's heart...**

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Jerusalem Duo has won first prizes in prestige competitions such as the 6th Iberian contest of chamber music with harp in Madrid (2019), the 6th international competition for Israeli music in London (2012), and the 3rd international TEREM-CROSSOVER competition in Saint Petersburg, Russia (2013).

On October 3, 2017, the Jerusalem Duo was invited to perform at the main service on German Unity Day at Mainz Cathedral, where they played in front of German Chancellor Angela Merkel, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and millions of television spectators.





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