

Classical Music DJ In Israel

May 9, 2019

I completed my first program in Israel, in Hebrew. It was presented to the members of the social club at Shavei Zion, where my cousin is on the committee. Shavei Zion is in the north part of Israel, on the coast just south of Nahariya. There were 36 people in attendance. The topic was "Classical Music In The Holy Land - The Founding Of The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra".

Needless to say, I was quite nervous. I have done this program in English several times but now I had to do all the talking in Hebrew! It did come off quite well and I got a good response. My Hebrew wasn't perfect but I did get through the whole program. I presented YouTube clips of the same musical selections as were played at the inaugural concert of the Israel Philharmonic on December 26, 1936. They enjoyed it so much that they asked me to return later during my stay and give them another program.

I have also spent two important days in the Israeli calendar. Yesterday was Yom Hazikaron, the remembrance day for fallen soldiers. It was very moving, especially at the end of a small memorial service I attended when they sang the national anthem, Hatikvah. This is one of the features I discuss in my presentation "Jewish Themes By Non-Jewish Composers", as it is based on part of Bedrich Smetana's symphonic work, "Ma Vlast". Today, Yom Ha'atzmaut or Israel's independence day is nearing its completion. It is clearly the most important day on the Jewish calendar. It is a holiday where everyone goes out and has fun, and takes great pride in what this country has done.

Tomorrow, it is on to Tel Aviv and I will start organizing my volunteer work for the remainder of my stay.



