

## Classical Music DJ In Israel

May 18, 2019

Shalom from Israel. I have spent the past week in the Tel Aviv area and am starting to get my schedule set for this project. I had meetings in Jerusalem and Tel Aviv and things are starting to come together, albeit a little slowly. I suppose I will have to get used to this pace. There are two other facilities where I have yet to have a first meeting.

First, some comments about Israel and Tel Aviv in particular. It seems that every time I have come to Israel there have been major changes since the previous visit. That is certainly true today. I can't believe how many large, multi-story residential and commercial buildings have sprung up all over the place, in every city in the country. I suppose that is a sign of progress. See the pictures below from the Tel Aviv beach.

Israel is hosting the Eurovision contest for popular music in Tel Aviv this week. Not exactly my kind of music but the whole country is wrapped up in it. It is a competition where a leading pop star from each of 40 European countries and Australia (is Australia really part of Europe?) performs a song that is judged to determine which one is the best. Last year the Israeli singer, Netta Barzilai, won the competition so that is why it is being held in Israel this year. This whole week all of Tel Aviv is like a combination of the glitz and glitter of the Hollywood Academy Awards, the Canadian National Exhibition and a beach party combined. The semi-finals were held earlier this week and the finals are tonight. Madonna is here and everyone is looking forward to her presence at the competition this evening.

As far as my work is concerned I had initial meetings at 2 facilities in Jerusalem. One is a day program drop in center for retirees and the other is a special program that provides activities and services to holocaust survivors. I have some initial dates lined up for them and start with the day program on Monday. The good news is that I can do these presentations in English. This should reduce the anguish of having to deliver my programs and trying to figure out the bus routes in the city of Jerusalem at the same time.

At a rehabilitation hospital facility in the Bat Yam suburb, south of Tel Aviv, I have scheduled an initial day for some presentations. In addition the manager of occupational therapy is very interested in research and activities related to music therapy to the elderly. He wants me to participate in a one day seminar with various professionals to discuss my experience with the Classical Music DJ concept. I am really looking forward to that. The challenge will certainly be there as all the work in Tel Aviv will be in Hebrew. But I am up for the challenge.

