

## Classical Music DJ In Israel

May 24, 2019

I have just completed my first week of programs as part of the Skilled Volunteers For Israel. I was really pleased with the results and so were the co-ordinators from SVFI. As a result I now have several more engagements through the month of June. Nothing better than to keep busy with this, although I do still have time to get around a bit as if I were on vacation.

My first program was done in Jerusalem at a place called Melabev which is a drop-in day program for English speaking seniors. I did the presentation in English which made it a little bit easier for me I still felt a great deal of energy when I did it. I think the audience did too as several of them told me that they enjoyed it very much. They even invited me to stay for lunch so I got to talk to some of them a little more.

Later that same day I did another program in English at this place called Enosh. It is a program for English speaking persons with psychological problems. This was a type of audience that I was unfamiliar with, and age-wise, it was the youngest group of people I had ever presented to. I arrived there early while they were in the middle of a group discussion on how to stay cool in the hot weather. They invited me to share my thoughts on this topic so I told them that back home, in hot weather I go up to my cottage that has no air conditioning and swim in the lake. They all thought that was kind of cool. One of the features that I offer as part of the Classical Music DJ program is what I call an "Early Bird Special" where I put on a long YouTube video of a classical music orchestral performance and let it play. For the Enosh group the next activity was to prepare then eat their lunch so they appreciated when I put on a long running YouTube during that time. I was able to talk to a few of them and found out that they were quite knowledgeable in the classical music world. I look forward to going back there again in a few weeks.

Later in the week I did a program in Hebrew at a drop-in day program for holocaust survivors. The location was one long bus ride to Bat Yam, a suburb just south of Tel Aviv. I have to be more wary of rush hour traffic here as it is unbelievable. I got there a little late, had to scramble to get set up. But then I went through the program speaking in simple, passable Hebrew. As I say, my objective is to say as little in Hebrew as possible but let George Frederich Handel or Giuseppe Verdi do the talking for me. It definitely worked. There were about 30 people in the audience and they were very engaged and quite knowledgeable about classical music. At the end a number of them came over to me and thanked and congratulated me on the program. The co-ordinator of the day program even gave me a big hug. Needless to say, I was overwhelmed.

One of the treats in going all the way to Bat Yam to do a program there is that I get to eat some great shawarma, an Israeli/Middle Eastern specialty street food.

