Classical Music DJ In Israel

May 30, 2019

This week I had a very interesting trip to Jerusalem to deliver my programs. On Sunday I went to Café Europa for the first time. Café Europa is a special program for Holocaust survivors, providing them with a variety of services. Click on the link for a detailed document on what <u>Cafe Europa</u> is all about or check out the <u>home page</u>. What I learned from my visit there was who is considered a Holocaust survivor. I had always thought it meant only those who survived the concentration camps. That is true, but it also includes many others who survived the war outside the camps, or as children were separated from their families and sent to safe havens mostly in Britain. The "Kindertransport" rescue effort saved some 10,000 children as an example. Many of these survivors also make use of the services of Café Europa. I found out that they are quite a sophisticated and knowledgeable group. My presentation topic in English was "Jewish Themes In Classical Music By Non-Jewish Composers" (that seems to be a big hit here) and they all thoroughly enjoyed it and had some interesting questions and comments at the end. See the picture below.

Monday was a bit of a difficult day for me. May 27 was the wedding anniversary date for Fern and me, so I had that in the back of my mind throughout the day. I did my second program, "Jewish All Stars – Starting Lineup", in English at Melabev. It was also successful, and the co-ordinator wanted me to come on Wednesdays as well but it would a bit be too much for me. I then took that afternoon to wander around Jerusalem. It was pleasant to stroll around the Ben Yehuda street promenade and the Mahane Yehuda market, but still with some reservations. That evening I was in a little restaurant making a salad from a salad bar when I got a phone call from the Skilled Volunteers For Israel program. She informed me that 2 people from the Café Europa audience said to her that I gave the best program they had ever attended. These were not just any 2 people; one was a former Israeli diplomat and his wife was the administrative assistant to the former head of Hebrew University. Well that certainly lifted my spirits! I look forward to going back there on June 23. I spent a delightful day Tuesday, wandering around Jerusalem again - Jaffa Road, Mea Shearim, the Western Wall. Most interesting!

Back in Tel Aviv I am still sorting out my schedule which is quite busy from next week on. Many of you will probably want to know what is happening with the new elections scheduled for September. Frankly, I don't care and try to avoid politics at all costs. What is important is that the Raptors are playing the Warriors in the NBA finals. I will try to catch some of the updates starting at 4 AM Friday morning. See the headline page from the Israeli newspaper below. Go Raptors!!



