

Classical Music DJ In Israel

June 29, 2019

As I indicated before, I have now started a very busy home stretch for my venture here in Israel. I have spent most of the past week in Jerusalem and have had continued success with my programs at some new facilities and at some return visits to others. I was also able to do the tourist thing and walk around the city a bit as you can see in the pictures below from the Haas Promenade and the Western Wall.

The most significant Jerusalem program was a return visit to Café Europa, the social club for holocaust survivors. I did my “Jewish All-Star Team Composers” program. What is important to note about Café Europa is that they put some postings of me and my programs on their Facebook page. Click [here](#) to see one. Also, just before I was about to start my presentation, one of the members approached me to tell me briefly about her interest in music and the fact that she was until recently, a resident of Toronto. She then gave me a copy of her book which is her autobiography describing her life, how she survived the second world war, how she lived through Communism in Czechoslovakia, then fled to Toronto in 1968 along with many other Czechs after the Russians invaded, to set up a new life again. That evening I started to read the first few pages, which were simply a general overview of events describing what happened in Czechoslovakia leading up to the war and its aftermath. It then made me wonder why I should be so honored to receive something like this from this woman who has experienced some of the worst that life has to offer, yet still felt that I should receive this gift from her. I am having difficulty understanding this because from my perspective, all I am doing is having great fun developing and delivering these programs on classical music. Sometimes it is hard to reconcile this.

While we are on the topic of fun, I was able to deliver two of my more “off beat” topics in Jerusalem. I first did the “Around The World With Flash Mobs” to several different groups at the Hebrew speaking Melavev. With one of the groups a number of the people were singing along and were almost dancing to some well known favourites like the “Toreador Song” from Bizet’s opera Carmen, Beethoven’s “Ode To Joy”, the Brindisi drinking song from Verdi’s opera “La Traviata” and the “Rondo A La Turca” by Mozart. At the English speaking Melavev I did one of my favourite topics, “Operatic Drinking Songs”. What better way to finish off my Jerusalem week than with the greatest drinking song of all, from “Fiddler On The Roof” – L’Chaim!

After returning from Jerusalem I traveled up north to do a Friday night program at Kibbutz Sarid. Before coming to Israel, I established some interesting connections to Kibbutz Sarid. The connections were based on Fern’s old high school friend who had married a Sarid kibbutznik, and whose older brother happens to be married to my son, Danny’s, girlfriend’s aunt. On top of this, several months ago, my son, Avi, met another Sarid kibbutznik because both of them had children in the same competitive swim program in Toronto. As a result of these connections I became part of the Friday evening program at Sarid. In setting up for my program I had my first computer hardware malfunction when I could not use the external speaker connection on my computer. We were able to scramble around to find another computer to use and I was able to carry on with my “Jewish Themes By Non-Jewish Composers” program. Fortunately, all went well, and I received a beautiful tribute and thanks from the kibbutzniks. But I will now have to carry on with some kind of work-around when I have to use external speakers for future presentations. I suppose I will have to develop some of this famous Israeli ingenuity that is the key to keeping this country, and now me, going.

